

consequent on the recent French Atomic tests in the Sahara; and

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to such measurements taken in Japan and published in the newspapers and in particular in the "Hindu" of 13th March, 1960?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes. Substantial increase in radioactivity was observed during the second circuit of the radio-active cloud around the globe. The increase has however been well below the permissible level.

(b) Yes.

Shri Narasimhan: In view of the fact that even though the sea-water strontium level is not dangerous, the fish living in the sea-water absorb a dangerous level of strontium and it may be dangerous to the consumers, may I know what steps are being taken to watch the level of absorption of strontium by marine creatures living in the coastal areas?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I have given a general answer to this question. In order to keep a close watch on the radioactive contamination of air, water, foodstuffs and soil, the Atomic Energy Commission of India has set up 30 sampling stations in India from which milk samples are collected for analysis of radioactive fission products such as cesium—137 and strontium—90. In addition, 7 permanent monitoring stations have been set up in Srinagar, Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur, Bombay, Bangalore and Ootacamund to cover the whole of India.

Shri Supakar: Just as Japan has set up her machinery to measure the intensity of radioactive fall-out, may I know whether we in India have set up any machinery to measure the intensity of the radioactive fall-out from the tests?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: That is exactly what I said; sampling stations and other machinery have been set up.

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Dr. Samantnihar: May I know whether the recent rains in some parts of the country have any bearing on the increased radioactivity?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: A detailed analysis of all data is being carried out at the atomic energy establishment at Trombay and I suppose the results will be known soon.

Shri Dinesh Singh: May I know whether the radioactive radiation from this bomb is greater than the radioactive radiation from previous bombs exploded in the Soviet Union and in the Pacific?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I cannot answer that question. I do not think it was as big a bomb as the other bombs. However, the radioactive cloud also caused substantial increase in radioactivity during its second circuit around the globe—the so-called second wave—and the increase was detected at different stations from March 3, to March 15, 1960.

Shri Narasimhan: Have Government considered the desirability of taking special measures about marine-living creatures and their absorbing radioactive fall-out?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, Sir; this can be taken into consideration.

Shri Narasimhan: Have Government any figures to show the effects of second bomb recently exploded?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I am afraid I have no figures at present with me.

Central Fertilizer Technological Institute

*1434. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what progress, if any, has taken place over the setting up of a Central Fertilizer Technological Institute;

(b) whether it is a fact that some time ago a report was submitted in this regard by a body of United Nations experts;

(c) whether a certain sum of money was offered for this purpose by United Nations agencies;

(d) if so, how much; and

(e) the reasons for delay in setting up the said Institute?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The development of the existing Research Laboratory at Sindri into a full fledged Central Technological Institute for the Fertilizer industry in India is progressing satisfactorily. The building for the Institute is expected to be completed by June—July, 1960 and most of the items of equipment required for the expansion have already arrived at site.

(b) Yes, Sir. A U.N. expert (Prof. Ivanovsky) who visited Sindri during October—December, 1958 has submitted a Report.

(c) and (d). The U.N. agencies have not offered any assistance in cash in regard to the expansion of this Institute.

(e) The development programme is progressing satisfactorily.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find from the statement that the development programme for the projected institute is progressing satisfactorily. I want to know when the institute will start as a full-fledged organisation, apart from the building which perhaps might be completed by July this year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: By the end of this year. Perhaps the building will be ready in June or July. The equipment has already arrived and four experts from India had been to Moscow and USSR. They have brought with them their experience. The Russian experts from USSR also will be coming. Perhaps by the end of this year, the full-fledged institute will start working.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know whether the USSR is the only foreign country which is assisting us tangibly in the setting up of this institute?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir; it is not so. The UNTA is an international organisation for supplying to all the under-developed countries technical assistance, research, machine-designing and various types of personnel training. It was as an allocation in the whole of the global aid that we got this particular institute from the USSR.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the USSR and other countries that are interested in setting up this institute are supplying us with materials also, free of foreign exchange?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They are giving us equipment also.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the reports submitted by Prof. Ivanovsky about the projected institute will be made available to the Members?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the report is concerned, there is no comprehensive report as such. But certainly as soon as the institute works, an annual report of the progress made will form a part of the activity of Sindri Fertilisers and will be made available to the Members.

Shri Tangamani rose—

Mr. Speaker: He knows what the hon. Member wanted. He says, there is no such report which can be placed on the Table.

Shri Tangamani: It is said in the statement that a U.N. expert visited Sindri and has submitted a report. On the basis of that report alone, this expansion work is taking place. I would like to know the nature of the report and whether the contents of the report will be made available to Members.

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no comprehensive fully integrated report as such. There have been recommen-

dations by different experts who visited, including the Soviet experts. Our four Indian experts went to USSR. All are being collated. The whole institute is for the purpose of fertiliser machinery manufacture, fertiliser machinery development and also science and technology of fertiliser production.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Sir, I have given notice of Q. 1450 on anti-pass riots in South Africa. It is a very important question and it may be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Raghunath Singh has written me a letter saying that I may call Question No. 1450 on anti-pass riots in South Africa. Is the House in favour? Let me apprise the hon. Members.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The House is not unanimous about it.

Withdrawals from Provident Fund

*1435. **Shri Anthony Pillai:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing Ministers' Conference made a recommendation that steps should be taken to permit workers to withdraw moneys from Provident Funds to encourage Industrial Housing Co-operatives;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance have been addressed by it, with a view to amend the Provident Fund Scheme or to accord sanction to exempt Provident Fund Schemes to enable workers to withdraw moneys lying to their credit for the construction of houses under the subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance have agreed to accord the sanction?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme has been amended to permit advances from the Employees' Provident Fund for this pur-

pose. As regards exempted provident funds, a suggestion has already been made to the Income-Tax authorities to approve changes analogous to the provisions in the Statutory Scheme, being made in their rules.

Shri Anthony Pillai: The Finance Ministry has been addressed. But I want to know what is the reply of the Finance Ministry and what is the action taken by the Income-tax Commissioner?

Shri Abid Ali: I have said that instructions have already been issued to income-tax authorities to accept these changes and to permit advances.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the workers will be allowed to draw from their provident fund this year wherever they have formed workers' co-operatives?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes; if otherwise eligible.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Are they treated as loans to be taken from the provident fund or withdrawals from the provident fund that need not be refunded?

Shri Abid Ali: Loans advanced for construction or purchase of a house will not be refundable; no refund will be asked for.

Shri K. N. Pandey: May I know whether Government propose to make relaxation in the provident fund rules, so that loans may be given for other purposes also?

Shri Abid Ali: For prolonged illness and for insurance premium they will be allowed.

Shri Tangamani: What is the minimum allowed for each worker to draw from the provident fund under this scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: Probably he means the maximum. The maximum may exceed Rs. 1,000.