

(f) The deal was negotiated with certain leading traders of Kharaghoda, who subsequently formed themselves into a partnership firm in the name and style of "Gujerat Salt Trading Corporation".

Shri P. R. Patel: In the statement it is stated:

"The transaction referred to relates to the disposal of accumulations of powdery salt of the 1958 crop for which there was no demand."

How many maunds of salt were manufactured and what is the percentage of powdery salt? I want to know further whether any tenders were invited before selling this to private persons?

Mr. Speaker: Already the question is long. The supplementaries are longer still!

Shri Manubhai Shah: Regarding the first part of the question of the hon. Member, 73,18,000 maunds were manufactured in 1958. Of course, in 1959, the production was only 52,00,000 maunds. This is not the normal standard quality of salt; this is what is called *chooram* in that part of the country, powdery salt. This generally fetches a lower price. In this case they had to clear the ground because the fresh stocks had to be properly stored. So, they sold it to a chemical firm nearby at the same price and then negotiated further with those firms who are lifting it up from year to year. That is how it was disposed of.

Corpses of Indians on Ceylon Coast

***695. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dead bodies of 18 Indian nationals were found washed ashore on the North Coast of Ceylon during August, 1960;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission arranged for their burial;

(c) what are the findings of the inquiry held by the Ceylon Government;

(d) whether the persons arrested in this connection have been convicted for any offence;

(e) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that respectable Indian nationals are detained as illicit immigrants; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken by our High Commissioner to put an end to such harassment?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Government enquiries reveal that the dead bodies of 16 Indian nationals were found washed ashore on the North coast of Ceylon in August, 1960.

(b) The bodies were buried after religious rites were performed by two priests—one Hindu and one Muslim—in the presence of a representative of the Indian High Commission.

(c) A copy of the inquest proceedings has not yet been received from the Ceylon Government.

(d) Of the 6 persons who were arrested by the Ceylon Police, 4 were detained in Ceylon in connection with the magisterial enquiry which concluded on the 10th October, 1960. A copy of the inquest proceedings when received from the Attorney General of Ceylon will be forwarded to the Controller of Emigration, Madras. The photographs of the 16 dead bodies received from the Government of Ceylon and copies of statements made by 4 survivors were forwarded to the Controller of Emigration, Madras, who will in due course consider action to prosecute the offenders in a court of law.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Shri Tangamani: What are the findings of the magistrate's court in Ceylon about the four persons who were detained?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have stated in the original answer that we are awaiting the inquest proceedings.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Deputy Minister stated in the original answer that six persons have been arrested and four of them have been detained before the magistrate's court and findings have been given. What are the findings of the magistrate's court?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: What I said was that a copy of the inquest proceedings, when received from the Attorney-General, will be forwarded to the Controller of Emigration, Madras.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member says that the hon. Minister read out that some findings were also given in the case of those persons who were arrested and detained.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I did not say so.

Shri Tangamani: In reply to part (d) of the question you have stated...

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I will read that portion again; it reads:

"Of the 6 persons who were arrested by the Ceylon Police, 4 were detained in Ceylon in connection with the magisterial enquiry which concluded on the 10th October, 1960. A copy of the inquest proceedings when received from the Attorney General of Ceylon will be forwarded to the Controller of Emigration, Madras."

Shri Tangamani: The information they have received is that 36 persons were there in a particular boat, 16 bodies were found and the magistrate's court has found that these 4 persons who were arrested were not illicit immigrants.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I may point out that the boat contained not 36 but 42 persons, two crew and the agents.

Shri Tangamani: What has happened to the two other persons who were

in this boat? Are they at present in Ceylon or in India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Out of the 42, 16 were dead, 6 were arrested and deported, 7 are awaiting deportation, 6 were towed, two boat crew have come back and 7 presumably returned or evaded detection.

Shri Tangamani: Regarding (e) and (f) no definite answer has been given. I would like to know whether Government have received a representation from an affected person in Ceylon by name Vedanayagam that although he was a Ceylon subject he was sent back to India because the High Commission certified that he was an Indian national?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have not received any representation. But I may inform the hon. Member that there is a procedure laid down for identifying whether a person is an Indian national, a licit immigrant or a stateless person. If there is any dispute as to the nationality of the migrant, the onus is on the migrant himself to prove that he is an Indian national and not an illicit migrant. The Ceylon Government then refers the case to our High Commission. Then the High Commission makes the necessary interrogation and if it is convinced that he is an Indian national then he is given proper documents to come back to India. But if he is continuously residing in Ceylon before 1st November, 1959 then he is not regarded as an Indian national; he is regarded as a Ceylon national and if he has not got the papers he comes under the category of stateless persons. According to these procedures, these people will be interrogated and they will be deported or given papers according to the evidence.

Shri Raghunath Singh: We are more concerned to know how they died. Sixteen persons died and the statement was made in court. What was the statement? How did these people die?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: As far as we know, they died because they did not know swimming. They were illicit immigrants. When they were near the Ceylon shores, the boatmen asked them to get out of the boat. They got down. They were out of depth. They wanted to come back. They were allowed to come back. They were drowned.

Claims of Displaced Persons

*696. **Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint an agency to settle claims of the displaced Government staff;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this agency; and

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for the completion of the work by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). No new agency is proposed to be appointed for settlement of claims of Displaced Government staff. These claims are processed and settled through the Central Claims Organisation already set up in the two countries.

(c) No time limit has been fixed for the completion of the work. Every effort is however, being made to complete the work as soon as possible.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: How many cases are pending of these government servants?

Shri P. S. Naskar: The cases pending with the Government of Pakistan, which were referred by the Government of India are about 11,300.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: For how long they are pending?

Shri P. S. Naskar: From time to time we referred the cases, I cannot

give the exact date or say how long they are pending.

Industrial Relations in Iron and Steel Industry

*697. **Shri Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state whether Government have any intention to take over industrial relations in iron and steel industry into the Central sphere?

The Deputy Minister of Labour and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Shri Kunhan: May I know whether the Government have received any representation from any Central T.U. organisation regarding this matter?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I am not aware of any recommendation from any central workers organisation. As a matter of fact, the Estimates Committee made a recommendation. We have taken up the matter with the employing Ministries and we are awaiting replies from them. After receipt of reply, we will take it up with the State Governments.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In view of the fact that this industry is entirely regulated by the Central Government with regard to production, price and various other things, what is the difficulty in taking it over?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We took it with the State Government a year ago. Many of the State Governments did not agree with the proposal. At present, it continues to be in their sphere.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Is it not a fact that the steel industry is entirely regulated by the Central Government and the industrial relations are within the purview of the State Government, workers find it very difficult to resolve disputes in that matter?

Shri L. N. Mishra: There has not been any difficulty. There have been some voluntary agreements between the State Governments and the Union