

mercy petition had been rejected by the Governor and later by the President also. But the man has not yet been executed and we are giving consideration to the matter.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether the State Government is under any obligation, under any provision of law for the time being in force, to consult or get the concurrence of the Central Government in commuting the sentences imposed by them by law?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** The State Government is not empowered to commute a sentence of death in a case in which the State Government has already rejected the petition and a further petition has been presented to the President. The matter is within the jurisdiction of the President, and the President, who is the supreme authority, being seized of the matter, no one else can deal with it except the President.

**Shri Bharucha:** That is not the correct view of the law.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Is it the view of the Home Minister or that of the Government of India or of any provision of law in any enactment?

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### **Cost Structure of Coal Production**

\*190. { **Shri Kasiwal:**  
**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**  
**Shri Bahadur Singh:**

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make a probe into the cost structure of coal production; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). A Coal Price Revision Committee has been appointed. A copy of the order constituting the Committee is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 2].

**Shri Kasiwal:** The statement which has been given in reply to this question states the terms of reference to examine and report upon the cost of production of coal. May I know whether the Government have separately under their consideration the fixation of a pool price of coal?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I said something on that subject a few days ago on the floor of the hon. House. That matter is being considered. But, I cannot say whether the decision will be to accept the proposition or to reject it.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** The hon. Minister has replied that the whole cost structure of coal is under investigation of the Government. If the Government had not before worked out the details of the cost of production of coal in the public sector that was to be produced at a cost of Rs. 80 to 120 crores, may I know how the Government came to the conclusion that 15 million tons will be produced in the public sector at a cost of Rs 80 to 120 crores?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** These are estimates. Decisions with regard to targets that are settled cannot await calculation till the last pie.

**Shri Bahadur Singh:** May I know the recommendation of the Railway fare structure Enquiry committee and Road-rail-sea Co-ordination Committee with regard to the creation of a price pool is available with the Government at present and may we know in brief the recommendations of these committees?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** These reports have been presented to other Ministries of the Central Government and these reports are under examination.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Only last year, a Cost Accounts Officer and some other officials of the Government went into the question of price revision, of coal and gave an increase of from Rs. 3 to 6 per ton. Immediately after that, again, when

was the necessity for appointing another Committee?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** A subsequent award by a tribunal which stipulated a wage increase and also other factors which go into the cost structure: for instance, cement, steel, mining stores and equipment.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** It has been the practice of the Government to increase the price of coal by consulting only three big collieries. May I know if the Committee which has since been appointed will take an overall picture of coal mines in India?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not accept the first part of the suggestion that Government have been fixing the price of coal after consulting three big collieries. Government take into consideration all relevant factors and I am sure all relevant factors will be taken into consideration.

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Arising out of the answer of the hon. Minister that the cost cannot be calculated to the pie, may I know what is the difference between the actual cost and the estimated cost?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The question which was put by the hon. Lady Member was as to why a particular sum was indicated as the amount which was required for achieving a certain result.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** My question was how it was worked out without taking the cost of production into consideration.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not know what would be the reaction if I were to say that mathematics is probably beyond the purview of the hon. Lady Member.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** No, no.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I was saying that the hon. Lady Member had put the question as to why a particular amount was indicated as the cost of additional production of coal when

the quantity was fixed. All that I said was that the additional expenditure which is mentioned as the amount required for achieving that additional target has been calculated on the basis of estimates. As things develop, the prices of various materials go up or labour tribunals give awards which the Government have to respect, and the wage structure changes, then obviously those changes will be reflected in the cost structure, and certainly the total sum, if there is a price revision upwards, will change. There can be a revision downwards also in which case the total amount which is mentioned there will decrease.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether Government propose to lay down a policy about coal production in the public and private sectors only after this cost structure investigation is completed, or whether the policy that holds today will hold the ground?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The policy is to increase production both in the public sector and the private sector. The additional targets have also been indicated in the Plan and it is Government's intention to stick to those targets.

#### India Office Library

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\*191. { Shri Radha Raman:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the progress so far made in arriving at a settlement with the British Government about the India Office Library in London?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimani):** There has been no further development since Question No. 415 on the subject was answered in the Lok Sabha on 26th November, 1956.