

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if there has been any further correspondence between the Government of India and the U.K. Government on the subject, and if so, what is the nature of that correspondence?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The High Commissioner of India has recently sent a further reminder to the Office of the Commonwealth Secretary to send a reply to the note which was handed over to him personally, but so far we have not received any reply.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the question of referring this matter to the International Court of Justice has been considered by the Government, and if so, with what result?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: That question does not arise because we are still hopeful that the U.K. Government will take a reasonable view of things.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government of India has been in touch with the Government of Pakistan in order to arrive at a joint policy for the achievement of this objective?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: Some discussion had taken place at a previous stage, but nothing has happened recently.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: May I know whether the proposal to have the library partitioned between India and Pakistan is still before the Government of India?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The whole question is under a negotiation.

Coal Washing Plant at Kargall

*182. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made up-to-date in regard to the installation of coal washing plant at Kargali;

(b) whether the machinery and equipment required for the plant have since been received from Japan;

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the same; and

(d) when the plant is likely to be commissioned?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The plant and equipment required for the washery has been fabricated in Japan. One-fourth of the plant and equipment has so far been received at the site, and the remaining portion is expected to be received within the next few months, in time for the timely completion of the project. 5 per cent of the structural work has been completed at the site.

(c) No delay is anticipated in the receipt of the plant and equipment in time.

(d) About January 1958.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether this time-schedule of its coming into operation by January, 1958, has been drawn up in consultation with the management of Bhilai Steel Plant because the washed coal from this is to be mainly supplied to the Bhilai Steel Plant?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There has been consultation between the two organisations, and it is known to the Bhilai organisation that this is the target for the completion of the washery.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The likely capacity of this plant is about 550 tons per hour. May I know from which collieries this is to be drawn, whether it is going to be drawn mainly from Bokharo, and if so, what arrangements have been made to step up production at Bokharo coal fields?

Sardar Swaran Singh: All that has been taken into consideration, and I can assure the hon. Member that the washery will not lie idle. The development programmes of the various collieries which are to feed this washery have been so formulated that

they fit in with the date of commission.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when the other two washing plants are likely to be set up?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is a separate question for which I would require notice.

American Assistance for Higher Technological Institute

*193. **Shri C. E. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any American technical and financial assistance was offered for the establishment of Higher Technological Institute in the country;

(b) if so, at what stage the negotiations are; and

(c) where the Institution is likely to be located?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das): No offer of American assistance has been received for the establishment of a Higher Technological Institute. However, it is for the Central Government to consider financing the project out of the Foreign Aid Funds available.

I may add that there are certain Foreign Aid Funds available for financing various development projects in this country. These funds consist of the funds provided by the U.S.A. including funds under the Surplus Agricultural Commodities Agreement between India and the U.S.A. It is for the Government of India to finance any developmental project including a Higher Technological Institute out of these funds.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the services of the American experts who have helped us in the setting up of the higher technological institute at Kharagpur will be utilised for the setting up of the other technological institutes which are going to be set up in the northern and southern regions?

Dr. M. M. Das: The whole question is under the consideration of the Government of India now.

Revision of Coal Prices

*194. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to further raising of prices of coal;

(b) if so, the extent of the rise agreed to; and

(c) the reasons for agreeing to such rise?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The question has been under consideration ever since the pronouncement of the Award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal on colliery disputes. In the meantime, the colliery owners moved the Supreme Court for special leave to appeal and also obtained an *ad interim* stay against the operation of the Award. The decision of the Supreme Court is awaited. Meanwhile a Coal Price Revision Committee has been set up.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether any rise in price has been agreed to, pending the decision of the Coal Price Revision Committee?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Actually, the committee which has been constituted to advise Government on the price structure is to examine this matter, and it will be after that examination that Government will take a decision.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether Government are going to give effect to the award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal in their own collieries?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Whatever is the final decision of the judicial tribunal, whether it be the Labour Appellate Tribunal or the Supreme Court, will be the decision which Government will respect.