

LOK SABHA DEBATES

2533

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 29th May, 1957.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Are there any hon. Members who have not taken the oath here? I see none.

The House will now take up Questions. There are 93 Questions. They should try to divide them.

Mineral Deposits in Himachal Pradesh

*530. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate taking up geological investigations in respect of mineral deposits in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the mineral deposits that are reported to occur in the territory; and

(c) whether the work has already been started?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (c): Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has been carrying out investigations in the past and will continue to do so in future as part of their annual field programme.

(b) Asbestos, Beryl, Barytes, China clay, Coal, Copper, Galena, Gold, Gypsum, Iron ore, Lead, Limestone, Magnetite, Mica, Pyrites, Salt, Slate and Sulphur.

2534

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know whether suggestions are asked for from the State Governments about the geological survey in the States and whether the State Mining Department selected certain samples for examination?

Shri M. M. Das: So far as suggestions from State Governments are concerned, it has been the practice of the Geological Survey of India to ask for suggestions from the State Governments as to what particular type of investigations they should carry out. I do not know whether Himachal Pradesh has got any geological survey department.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know whether any steps have been taken for the exploitation of these minerals?

Shri M. M. Das: The Ministry of Steel, Mine and Fuel is concerned with this particular work on the mines.

Foreign Exchange

*531. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**
Shri L. N. Mishra:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated saving in foreign exchange during the period from January to March, 1957, as a result of measures taken to check the drain on foreign assets; and

(b) how much of the foreign exchange was expended on private account and how much on Government account for the year 1956-57?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) It is not possible at this stage to state with any

degree of precision the saving estimated in the expenditure of foreign exchange during the period January-March as a result of the measures taken, since the result of the restrictions imposed will begin to show only in months to come.

(b) During eleven months, April, 1956, to February, 1957, for which data are available, foreign payments on private account totalled Rs. 35.7 crores and on Government account Rs. 237.4 crores.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what are the main reasons for the foreign exchange expenditure on private account being so high? Is it due to the fact that haphazard relaxation of imports was hermitted during the last two or three years?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is mainly due to the industrial expansion in the country.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Why is the expenditure on private account so high compared to the Government account?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): He has already answered the question. The demand for capital goods has been high in view of the industrial expansion and developments that have taken place.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will have an opportunity to raise it in the debate.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It is a very important question. We do not get all answers in the debate. It is my privilege to ask questions.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the hon. Member was here yesterday or day before yesterday. The question was answered that for capital goods there is expansion in the private sector and public sector. The hon. Member is trying to convince the hon. Minister that he ought not to do

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Why I am being denied this privilege, I cannot understand.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of privilege; it is a question of argument. Very well, the hon. Member may put her question.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Of course, I shall put a question. At the All India Manufacturers' Association meeting the Prime Minister made an appeal to the country to give ornaments and jewellery for augmenting our foreign exchange resources by collecting gold. May I know what specific steps have been taken by the Finance Ministry so far after the appeal made by the Prime Minister, and what has been the response?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is that question germane to the original question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of foreign exchange; it is internal exchange?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We can have gold reserves for our foreign exchange.

Mr. Speaker: That is internal and not foreign.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: If we have got reserve gold in the country, we can certainly reduce burden on foreign exchange.

Mr. Speaker: Even cotton can be used.

Shri B. C. Ghose: May I know whether the Government have for the purpose of the Second Five Year-Plan made any estimate of the extent to which domestic expenditure will be affected as a consequence of reduction in or staggering of foreign exchange expenditure?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, the question of reduction in foreign expenditure is now under consideration. Its effects on domestic position so far as development is concerned is a thing which has to be determined

nature of the cuts that would have to be imposed, if necessary, in regard to foreign exchange expenditure. I am afraid, the answer would not be available for some time to come.

Administration of Union Territories

***532. Shri H. C. Mathur:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have undertaken the re-organisation of the administration and services of the Union Territories;

(b) if so, what are the present arrangements and what steps, if any, have been taken in the direction of reorganisation; and

(c) what are the recommendations in the interim reports, if any, received?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). The Government of India are giving their attention to the two-fold question:

(i) on what lines the administrative set of Union territories needs rationalisation; and

(ii) how best posts in various Departments in the Union territories can be manned.

A senior officer has been appointed to go into the existing arrangements and suggest measures for improvement. The officer is engaged in a study of the question.

Shri H. C. Mathur: May I know whether the integration of the services is also being effected at the same time?

Shri Datar: Integration of services is being effected and Government will be consulted in due time.

Shri Brahm Prakash: May I know whether after abolition of the States some economy could be effected in the Union Territories?

Shri Datar: That is a larger question which I cannot answer now.

Counting of Votes in West Bengal

***533. Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had directed counting of votes to be held as soon as possible after polling in a constituency;

(b) whether counting in West Bengal took place in the same order of priority as the dates of polling;

(c) if not, on what other basis counting was held; and

(d) the reason for following an order of counting different from the order of polling?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The information asked for is not yet available with the Election Commission which is collecting it. I understand, however, that there was no general direction of the Commission to the effect that counting in any constituency or in all constituencies should take place in the same order as the dates of polling.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether it is not a fact that in West Bengal counting had often taken place between 16 days to three weeks or more after the date of polling and, if so, what is reason for it?

Shri A. K. Sen: Unless specific instances are given, it is very difficult to answer that question. But the fact is that the Election Commission had given a general direction to all Returning Officers that counting should be started as soon as possible after the polling was over, and our information is that that direction had been adhered to and followed as best as possible and as best as circumstances could permit.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Is it not a fact that in all the constituencies in the suburbs of Calcutta which went to the polls on 1st March, counting took place, with one exception, about 16 days to three weeks or more after the date of polling and, if so, what is the reason for it?