

persuasion has no place in matters of this nature

**Shri Achar:** What are the main items constituting the Rs 300 crores?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The Rs 300 crores is the over-all partition settlement between the two countries, that is to say they have with them assets of that category which are not balanced by assets in India. Therefore, they owe us about Rs 300 and odd crores

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know when the last meeting between the Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan was held and what efforts have been made to have another meeting, and whether the fault has been on our side that we have not had a meeting?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would draw the attention of the House and ask my hon friend to recollect the supplementary question which he put to my distinguished predecessor on the 27th July, 1955. The position remains much the same. In order to arrange a meeting, two people must come together. In this case Barkis is willing, but I am afraid Peggotty will not play up.

#### Panna Diamond Mines

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\*699. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the company which operated the Panna Diamond Mines ceased its operations since the nationalization announcement made on the 9th April, 1956,

(b) whether it is a fact that the workers of the Mines are sitting idle for lack of work;

(c) when the procedure relating to nationalization will be completed; and

(d) whether the quantum of compensation to the company has been decided?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). The operations of the Company were undoubtedly affected by the nationalization announcement, but even earlier financial difficulties had rendered it necessary for the Company considerably to reduce its scale of operations. These difficulties have continued to multiply and have resulted in the laying off of surplus labour

(c) and (d) If agreement is not reached in the negotiations that are proceeding Government intends to promote legislation to acquire the business of the Company which will contain a provision defining the principles on which compensation is to be assessed

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the number of workers who are lying idle because of this confusion?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** There are three or four concessions. The Panna Diamond Mining Syndicate is the only active holders which were doing something before these announcements were made

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** I wanted to know how many workers are going without any work because of this announcement of the Government and the consequent suspension of work on the part of that company.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Part of the working was going on and is still, I am told, going on, but I do not know just now the exact number who are idle.

जी व० सा० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जो कम्प्लेक्सन दिया जा रहा है वह उस कम्पनी के फाँट और मैजिनरी के बेल्सुएशन से कहीं ज्यादा है, और क्या यह सब है कि जो कम्प्लेक्सन दिया जा रहा है उसका एमार्चेंट बढ़ाया जायेगा ?

जी के० रे० बालबीच : कम्प्लेक्सन की निकदार का अभी कोई निश्चय नहीं हुआ है ।

लेकिन वह बात सही है कि जो कम्प्लेक्सन पन्ना डायमंड सिंडीकेट द्वारा मांगा जा रहा है उसको गवर्नमेंट अफरत से ज्यादा समझती है और वह कोशिश कर रही है कि मुनासिब कम्प्लेक्सन तै हो जाये ।

**Shri Dasappa:** May I know whether any mining expert's collaboration is being sought by the Government and whether any of them have offered themselves to do the service?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Yes, Sir. There are two or three advisers whose opinion was sought and we have got reports also, and all those reports have been considered and are still being considered.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** These protracted negotiations have been going on for well over a year, but there is need for working these mines in view of our requirements of industrial diamonds. So, when can we expect these negotiations to come to an end.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** In a way no time has been lost because even after negotiations had been successfully completed a lot of detailed prospecting was needed to find out exactly the quantum of investment that will be economically feasible for the exploitation of the Panna diamond mines. We did not stop for the detailed prospecting and it has been going on. Together with it, some diamond also is being exploited. It is not of much consequence from the point of large-scale exploitation, but as I said, both the items of the programme, that is negotiation and detailed prospecting are going on simultaneously. So there is no loss of time.

**Shri Kasliwal:** Probably the hon. Minister is aware that before this question of nationalisation was taken up a Russian team of investigators was invited by the company to go into the whole matter. May I know whether these experts mentioned by the hon. Minister now are the same

Russian team of investigators or some other team?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No Russian diamond mining experts as such were invited either by the Syndicate or by the Government from the USSR to carry on investigations, but certain Russian geologists were available to the private company who gave their opinion on the data produced by the company. That was not necessarily to be accepted by the Government. We got it checked up and there was some amount of difference on the opinion expressed by the Russians. Now there is not much of a difference, and we hope that as soon as the negotiations are concluded, we shall start actively working the mines.

#### Fiscal Monopolies

\*700. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 117 on the 18th July, 1956 and state:

(a) whether any decision for making an expert enquiry into the possibilities of setting up fiscal monopolies with a view to augmenting public revenues has since been taken; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) and (b). The matter had been examined at an official level and Government do not feel that there is a *prima facie* case at the present moment for instituting an expert enquiry into the possibilities of setting up fiscal monopolies.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know the names of the articles in relation to which this question was examined by the department?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The Taxation Enquiry Commission recommended that tobacco, matches and salt should be selected for fiscal monopoly and these have been examined at the official level.