

Press. An interim agreement was reached between the Deputy Commissioners of Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Sylhet that force would not be used by either side over harvesting of paddy and that nationals of both sides would not go to disputed areas pending a decision at Government level. There have been instances of violation of the agreement by the Pakistani side. The Assam Government have taken precautions to safeguard the lives and properties of Indian nationals by posting sufficient border police at different places.

(c) Forty persons, including 35 women, arrested mostly for entering Pakistan territory without passports or visas and for smuggling, are in Pakistani custody. Three persons are reported to have been kidnapped from Indian territory. The Assam Government has taken up the matter with the East Bengal Government with a view to securing release of the prisoners

Shrimati Khongmen: May I ask, Sir, whether Government is aware of the fact that many of the simple and ignorant people have not the slightest idea of the necessity of taking passports, before entering into Pakistan area?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is quite true. These international documents or passports etc. are not known even or understood by large numbers of people living there and doing business there and quite unknowingly they walk across a certain line and get into trouble because they are called smugglers or trespassers on foreign territory. It is very unfortunate and we should try to help them as far as we can.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: What steps were taken, after these people were arrested and taken away, for harvesting their paddy?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This refers to Pakistan territory. Presumably they had gone to Pakistan territory and had been arrested for trespassing on their territory. They did not know that probably there is no harvest land there. But what does the hon. Member refer to by 'steps'?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: As a matter of fact, there was firing and as a result thereof the paddy fields were left un-reaped. So I want to know whether any steps have been taken within our border for getting those crops reaped in time?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I presume so, but I do not know.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it a fact that similar incidents took place in the border of Garo hills also?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That does not arise out of this question.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: What steps are Government taking to get back our citizens who have been taken into custody by Pakistan, and how many are still in custody there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The figure given in the reply is 40. These persons according to the Pakistan Government were trespassing into their territory without passports and the rest. Even if technically that charge is true, it is obvious that these persons were not intending to commit any offence. They may have walked across. It is therefore a simple matter. The Assam Government is in touch with the Pakistan authorities, and it may be that the two adjoining officers would meet and consider this matter.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Have we released the few persons who were arrested within our border?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In this connection, or some other connection?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: In this connection. The Deputy Minister read out that four or five had been arrested.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know. We will enquire into it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri S. C. Deb: May I know whether the report is true that these persons were arrested in our border?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I have called the next question.

COAL TRANSPORT

*1230. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been recommended to the Planning Commission to provide transport facilities for coal; and

(b) if so, what is the scheme and how much will it cost?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of the scheme will be about Rs. 710 lakhs. The details of the scheme are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 52.]

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know whether any part of the scheme is under execution?

Shri Hathi: Not yet.

Shri M. Islamuddin: Is it included in the Five Year Plan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have not copies of the Five Year Plan been circulated to hon. Members?

Shri Hathi: It is included in the Five Year Plan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members ought to know that where the information is available in published documents which are either circulated or placed on the Table of the House, in respect of such records which are available to them, they should not put questions and unnecessarily take up the time of the House.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether it is the paucity of wagons that is resulting in these difficulties of transport of sufficient coal?

Shri Hathi: That is so.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): I might supplement the reply by saying that it is so to some extent.

Shri Raghavaiah: If the answer is in the affirmative, then may I know whether any provision has been made in the scheme that has been recommended by the Planning Commission for the production of more number of wagons next year for carriage of coal?

Shri Hathi: We have a plan for that.

Shri B. S. Murthy rose—

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know when this scheme will be implemented?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Murthy.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the number of extra wagons that are to be made available by 1st January 1953?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is already contained in the programme of the last Budget. They have said so many wagons would be made available. As for the next year, the hon. Member will wait.

Shri Raghavaiah: In view of the fact that our railways had made a profit of some Rs. 26 crores during the last year.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is addressing the wrong Minister. It is not the Railway Minister who is answering this question.

Shri Raghavaiah: Still, in view of the fact that the Railway Department

got so much profit last year, may I know whether any increase in the number of wagons has been effected?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we having a general discussion on the Railway Budget? What is this question?

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the transport of coal to the Calcutta docks has been eased in the meantime?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

COAL BOARD

*1231. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the personnel of the Coal Board;
(b) whether any of them is an expert technologist in scientific coal research; and

(c) whether the coal industry and coal consumers have representation on the Board?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The present personnel of the Coal Board is:

Shri R. K. Ramadhyani, Coal Commissioner—Chairman.

Shri N. Barraclough, Chief Inspector of Mines.

Shri L. S. Corbett, Chief Mining Engineer (Railway Board)/Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production).

Shri A. B. Guha, Superintendent of Collieries—Member—Secretary.

Shri M. L. Shome, Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution).

Members.

(b) No.

(c) No.

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know whether Government propose to take one expert technologist in the Coal Board?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I did not hear the hon. Member properly.

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know whether one expert technologist will be taken in the Coal Board?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Raghavaiah: In view of the fact that the certain districts of Andhradesa produce the greatest amount of tobacco, especially Virginia tobacco, for the cur-