

Shri A. P. Jain: Requests of all kinds are received, and if they are considered proper they are acceded to.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that refugees from Muzaffarabad have been refused settlement in Jammu and that lands are still reserved in that area for the return of Muslims who had gone to Pakistan?

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, the question relates to Yol camp and not to Muzaffarabad refugees outside the camp.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any refugees from Muzaffarabad in the Yol camp as well?

Shri A. P. Jain: Maybe, I do not know.

WAGONS FOR COAL TRANSPORT

*534. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some coal ships have been held up in Calcutta for lack of supply of wagons for transport of coal?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any steps in regard to the supply of necessary wagons?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, During the last 3 or 4 months coal ships have suffered detention in the port of Calcutta both on account of inadequate wagon allotments to the Docks, arising out of overall wagon shortage and insufficient berthing facilities.

(b) Necessary steps to clear the congestion of ships have been taken. Wagon supplies to the Docks have been increased by the Coal Commissioner and an additional berth for coal loading has been allocated by the Port Commissioners temporarily. In addition certain ships were permitted to be loaded in midstream in September and October. It is expected that by December the congestion will be cleared and normal conditions will prevail.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of wagons allotted per day for the movement of coal from the coalfields to Calcutta port for export?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Ordinarily it is about 480 wagons per day according to my information.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the number of wagons allotted for the movement of coal for internal consumption?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would require notice for that.

Shri A. C. Gaha: What was the number of wagons allotted for carrying coal to the Calcutta dock last year and how does it compare with the number allotted this year?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It compares favourably excepting for about six weeks during this year when, owing to coal supplies having been insufficient to West Bengal, the supply of wagons to the Calcutta Port was reduced from 480 to 260. That is partly the reason why there was this congestion.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether this difficulty that has been experienced is not due to the recent regrouping in the Eastern Railways?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Not to my knowledge.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the scarcity of wagons for transport of coal for internal consumption will also be removed by December?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say that. I think according to the programme of the Railways the shortage of wagon availability will be gradually reduced over a period of three or four years.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: When the ships are detained in the docks for want of wagon supplies, do they pay any demurrage? If they do, who finally pays the demurrage?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Not the Government anyway; I think it is the shipping companies themselves—subject to verification.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know whether during his last visit the hon. Minister assured the coal-owners in Jharia coal-fields that he would take up the matter at Cabinet level and try to remove this shortage of wagons?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Is the hon. Member referring to the shortage of coal wagons for the shipping business or to the general wagon question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I think, to the general question.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether Government has any figure as to the total loss suffered by the parties concerned due to the difficulties in wagon supply?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We have no information.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Sir, I would like to know what exactly was the question—the previous one.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

COKE OVEN PLANT AT SINDRI

***535. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up a coke oven plant at Sindri Fertilizer Factory?

(b) If so, what is the estimated cost of setting up that plant?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A coke oven plant is being put up by the Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., a private limited company owned by the Government of India.

(b) Rs. 235 lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the contract for the installation of this plant has been placed with any firm and if so, in what time it is likely to be completed?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir. The contract has been placed with a firm in Germany. I think it is expected to be completed in twenty-two months.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the estimated capacity of that plant?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I think about 600 tons per day.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the daily requirement of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The idea is that production in the coke oven plant will be sufficient for the requirements of the Fertilizer Factory.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Would it be cheaper than the present one?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Surely it will be economical.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know whether this will be a part of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how the Government propose to utilise the by-products after the production of coke.

Shri K. C. Reddy: What by-products?

Shri A. C. Guha: I want to know how the by-products will be utilised. Will there not be any gas? How will it be utilised?

Shri K. C. Reddy: A part of it is to be utilised but I cannot say now how exactly it will be utilised.

PAKISTAN'S EVACUEE PROPERTY ACT

***536. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have suggested to the Government of Pakistan that the latter should, as a reciprocal measure, remove the "intending evacuees" clause from her Evacuee Property Act; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of Pakistan have taken in that regard?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the number of persons who have been declared as intending evacuees so far?

Shri A. P. Jain: I am quoting from memory. I think anything between 1500 and 1550 persons have been declared intending evacuees; about 782 cases are pending.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What would be the approximate value of their property? How many of them have actually migrated?

Shri A. P. Jain: Not one of them has migrated because a person actually migrates when he becomes an evacuee. So far as the value of their property is concerned, we have no figures nor are we concerned with it because we do not take possession of their properties but only certain restrictions on the management of the property of the intending evacuees are placed under law.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in today's papers that there is an offer by Dr. Qureshi, the Pakistan Rehabilitation Minister, to scrap the Pakistani Evacuee Property Act if it is reciprocated by the India Government and what is the attitude of the India Government with regard to this offer from Pakistan?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have seen the report but I do not take offers through the Press.