

being deprived of their rights in the Municipal elections and a Bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives to bring the law relating to elections to local bodies, the Local Bodies Election Ordinance, in line with the Parliamentary election law?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I require notice.

PRODUCTION OF COAL

*456. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to introduce pegging on production of coal and if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): The Government have decided to limit the production of the better qualities of metallurgical coal only. It is not proposed to restrict the production of non-metallurgical coal. The production limit for selected grades "A" and "B" of metallurgical coal during 1953 has been fixed at 7.4 million tons, and for Grades I and II at the level of production in 1952.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know if the recent decision of the Government of India makes it obligatory on the part of the collieries to seek previous permission from the Chairman, Coal Board, while employing fresh labour?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Does the hon. Member refer to private collieries or railway collieries?

Shri N. P. Sinha: I am referring to private collieries.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry, I am not in a position to give the information now, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether this pegging of the production of the collieries is going to be made on the *pro rata* basis and if so how it would affect the Indian-owned mines?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no intention to make any distinction between Indian-owned mines and European-owned mines. The instructions of the Government are expected to apply to all the mines by whomsoever owned. To what extent it would affect the limit of production of each colliery will have to be calculated in respect of individual collieries.

Shri K. K. Basu: I wanted to know whether it would be on the basis of the *pro rata* of the existing unit of production. That is not answered.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is not so simple as the hon. Member thinks. It is not fixed as so much for each colliery. In certain cases a group of collieries are taken as the unit.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not accusing any one particular section. Some of the hon. Members who are themselves putting questions are talking. Therefore, I would request all hon. Members to preserve silence in the House.

Shri K. K. Basu: Cannot he repeat the answer, Sir?

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know if the Chairman, Coal Board, at a Press Interview at Dhanbad stated that there will be effective pegging of production of coal and the colliery owners may not be able to despatch beyond a certain measure? Is that true, Sir?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware, Sir, as to what the Coal Commissioner said, in that particular Press Conference. There have been certain instructions by the Coal Commissioner in pursuance of the Government Notification. There is some restriction, Sir. I do not know to what particular instructions of the Coal Commissioner the hon. Member is referring. If he is a little more specific, I would try to answer that question.

SUPPLY OF CLOTH TO BIHAR

*457. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there was any complaint from Bihar that supply of cloth to that State was inadequate in the year 1952?

(b) If so, what was the reason for the short supply?

(c) How many bales were supplied to Bihar in 1951 and 1952 and what was the percentage of Saris and Dhories in each of the two years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) There were complaints mainly upto September, 1952 that the supply of certain low priced varieties was inadequate.

(b) There was no shortage; the supplies of cloth were adequate to the demand.

(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 4.]

Shri N. P. Sinha: The hon. Minister said that there is no shortage. But from the statement I find that the monthly requirements of *dhoties* and *saries* are not being complied with as shown in the monthly despatches in 1952. May I know what it is due to?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Unfortunately, Sir, the first column in the statement is a little misleading. The monthly requirements is the demand made by the State. It is not necessarily the demand accepted by us. The hon. Member will compare the figures of supplies during 1951 and during 1952 and he will perceive that the supplies during 1952 have been far in excess of what was supplied in 1951.

Shri N. P. Sinha: My question was as against "the monthly requirements and monthly despatches in 1952." I only want to know if Government are taking steps to cover up that shortage in the near future.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the present moment I understand there is plenty.

FOREIGN NATIONALS IN INDIA

*458. **Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nationals of other countries who have been in India up to December 1952; and

(b) whether any of them have been given Indian nationality?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) It is not possible to give a definite figure without knowing what specific period the hon. Member has in mind. Figures for 1952 have not yet been compiled. The latest information with Government relates to the number of foreigners registered in India on 31st December 1951, which was 70,326. This does not include Commonwealth citizens nor children under the age of 16 years.

(b) Since the commencement of the Constitution, 1085 foreigners have been recognised as Indian citizens. They are not, however, included in the figure given in part (a) as they were not foreigners on 31st December, 1952.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know the proportion of the United States Nationals out of this 70,000 and out of the 1085 who have taken Indian nationality?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: If a separate question is put, I can supply the necessary information.

ALL-INDIA HANDICRAFTS BOARD

*460. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the important recommendations of the All-India Handicrafts Board so far made to the Government?

(b) Which of these recommendations have been accepted and given effect to by Government?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 5.]

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Government have accepted the recommendation and, if so, which of the State buildings have been decorated or fitted with products of handicrafts so far?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Which recommendation does the hon. Member mean, Sir? Item 1 states, Sir that.—

"All heads of States should be requested to get the Government houses and State buildings fitted with products of Handicrafts".

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Government has taken any steps to act according to this recommendation accepted by it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer given as against that particular number is:

"All State Governments were addressed in the matter. So far the Governments of Tripura, Kutch, Bihar and Manipur have replied saying that they are taking necessary action in the matter. Replies from other States are awaited."

SYNTHETIC OIL

*461. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what decision, if any, has been taken on the report of the firm employed in 1948 to examine the possibility of producing synthetic oil from low grade coal?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Government have not taken any decision.