

42 per cent. cheaper than the fuel available in India?

Shri Buragohain: The position stated by the hon. Member is not correct.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the hon. Minister has seen the report of the Air Transport Enquiry Committee, to para. 138 of which, on page 71, I would draw his pointed attention?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister does not agree with him.

Shri V. P. Nayar: This is a committee appointed by the Government of India and there is no getting away from the facts contained in its report.

Shri Buragohain: I have seen that report. The position stated therein was the position as it existed in 1950-51, but it has since changed. The matter was taken up by the Government with the oil companies—the suppliers—and the present position is that the price is almost the same as the one that rules in Australia both at port and at the supply points.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that 98 grade used in the United States and Australia by DC-3s is about 10 per cent. cheaper than the 100/130 grade used here?

Shri Buragohain: It is not correct. The incidence of cheapness is only about two pice, i.e. 25 cents.

Dr. Jaisoorya: According to AERO-PLANE dated 10th October 1952, the prices in Australia were reduced by 13 pence. Was it done so here?

Shri Buragohain: According to the information that Government have in their possession, the price in Australia has, in fact, been slightly raised, whereas the price in India has been correspondingly reduced.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government are aware that the price differential necessitates an avoidable extra expenditure of a minimum of Rs. 60 lakhs per year to Indian air service companies, and may I also know whether in fact the subsidy that is given by Government is not used to finance the suppliers of fuel?

Shri Buragohain: The price differential is not admitted. There is no price differential at all. As I said, the difference is only about two pice per gallon.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House what is the present price of this fuel in Australia and will he also in-

form the House of the source of his information?

Shri Buragohain: In Australia, at Durban it is 34.13 pence and at Sydney 31.73 pence, which works out to Rs. 1-6-9 and Rs. 1-5-2 respectively, whereas in Bombay and Calcutta it works out to Rs. 1-5-9, and Rs. 1-6-6 excluding taxes and duty.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I do not want the price at Bombay and Calcutta. Petrol is supplied at several other interior ports also. What is the average price of petrol?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. We are going into minute details.

Shri V. P. Nayar: One more question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No more questions. I will call upon the Prime Minister.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS COTTAGE INDUSTRY INSTITUTE, HARDUAGUNJ

*972. **Shri S. C. Singhal:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the progress made by the Central Cottage Industries Institute of Harduaganj, P.O. Kasimpur, District Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh?

(b) How much money in all has been spent on it and for how much the machines were purchased?

(c) How many students are receiving education and what is the strength of the staff and their salary?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Experiments were conducted on the machines installed at Harduaganj but most of them have been found out-moded or unsuitable for Indian conditions. A few, like the oil expeller and the fodder-cutter which proved useful have already been produced.

Due, however, to the unsuitability of the majority of machines and the isolated location of Harduaganj, the Institution has been closed down.

(b) In all Rs. 3,57,770 has been spent upto October, 1952. This amount includes Rs. 80,820 on account of cost of machines and equipment, Rs. 1,64,500 for renovation of buildings and the balance of Rs. 1,12,450 on account of salaries of staff, contingent expenditure, etc.

(c) No training classes were started. A statement showing the care and

maintenance staff working at present and their salaries, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 53.]

INDIAN DOCTORS FOR BURMA

*985. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indian doctors recently recruited by the Government of Burma and the number of doctors who have already left for Burma?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): 201 Indian doctors were selected by the Government of Burma, and 103 of them have left for Burma so far.

A.I.R. STATION, VIJAYAWADA

*992. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Radio, Vijayawada, has been down-graded;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representations were received protesting against such an action; and

(d) if so, the attitude of Government towards the same?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

PAKISTANI RAID ON ASSAM BORDER VILLAGE

695. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a Pakistani raid in the border village of Takimari in Assam on the night of the 11th February, 1953;

(b) if so, the casualties, if any, and the amount of property lost; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government of India to put a stop to such raids?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) It is reported that Pakistani nationals attempted a dacoity in a house of village Takimari, Goalpara District.

(b) As a result of firing by the dacoits, four persons received injuries, of whom one died on the way to hospital. The value of property lost is not known.

(c) Under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1948, all border incidents other than those involving questions of policy have to be settled by the District Magistrates of the border districts concerned, and, failing a decision by them, by the Commissioners of the Divisions. Steps have also to be taken by them to prevent recurrence of such incidents. Serious incidents are taken up with the East Bengal Government by the State Government concerned. Action according to this procedure has been taken.

GYPSUM DEPOSITS IN RAJASTHAN

696. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gypsum deposits in Rajasthan is the only source of supply to Sindri Fertilizers Factory;

(b) the estimated quantity of Gypsum in reserves for this purpose,

(c) when this factory operates in its full capacity, for how many years these reserves would suffice;

(d) whether new sources are being tapped;

(e) whether Government are aware that large quantities of Gypsum are burnt on the site and used for building purposes;

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to check it;

(g) whether Government are also aware that the Cement Factories misuse it; and

(h) whether investigations have been made and if so, up to what grade the gypsum could well serve the purpose of Cement Factories?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No. but for the present only the deposits in Rajasthan, which are the largest and of a grade suitable for the Sindri Fertilizer Factory, are being exploited for this purpose.

(b) The reserves of high purity gypsum in Rajasthan are estimated at 36½ million tons. Deposits are also reported to exist at the following places and in the quantities shown against them, but their quality and purity with respect to their suitability