

## RAILS ALLOCATED TO SINGARENI COLLIERIES

\*1263. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to reply to starred question No. 693 asked on the 11th March, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the balance of 600 tons of second-hand rails allocated to Singareni Collieries has since been despatched;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Government have been able to meet in full the indents for iron and steel placed by Singareni Collieries Company?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Full demands of the colliery could not be met due to shortage of supplies. Singareni colliery has been allotted 1319 tons against 4914 tons indented from January 1952 to September 1953.

**Shri Vittal Rao:** May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware of the fact that the short supply of steel and iron is impeding the production in the collieries?

**Shri R. G. Dube:** No, Sir. Our information is that the situation is improving in the Singareni collieries.

## MULTI-STOREYED GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, QUEEN VICTORIA ROAD

\*1264. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the sanctioned estimate of the construction of multi-storeyed Central Government offices, Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi; and

(b) what is the commencement date and the stipulated time for completion of this work?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Rs. 43 lakhs 61 thousand.

(b) The work on the framed structure was started on the 27th August 1952 and it was to have been completed by August 1953, but an extension of time has been applied for by the contractor and the application is under consideration. The rest of the construction will take a year after the framed structure is complete.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know, Sir, whether tenders were called for before the contract was given to the present contractor?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Of course, tenders were called for and the work was allotted to the lowest tenderer.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know, Sir, whether the present contractor has laid hands on certain P.W.D staff who were checking and supervising the work?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What do you mean by 'laid hands'?

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Whether the present contractor assaulted some of the P.W.D. supervisory staff?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** That hardly arises out of this question. I can't have daily watch upon the activities of the contractor, unless there is a complaint, I can't know about it.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know, Sir, what proportion of the framed structure has been constructed as yet and what are the reasons for the delay?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** It is difficult to give the exact proportion in a mathematical form, but it is likely to take some time before the structure is completed and one of the factors which contributed to this delay was non-availability of the entire land upon which the building was proposed to be constructed. It was also found that when the foundations were dug up, there were torrents of sub-soil water and it took some time before that could be controlled.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Is it a fact, Sir, that the work that has been

done by this contractor is sub-standard work and that bills are being passed though it is sub-standard work and it is not according to specifications?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I think not. It should be according to specifications and I have no reason to doubt it.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Were the estimates for the work revised at any stage after being sanctioned or is there any proposal to change them?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Not to my knowledge.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know, Sir, if Government is making sure that all the fittings and furniture in these buildings are as nearly as possible of Indian manufacture?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The buildings are not completed and nothing has happened.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Are these torrents of water from subterranean stream or what are they?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Sub-soil water may be of a stream or may be the normal water that is found.

#### KHADI

\*1265. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge stock of khadi that had been accumulated with the producers has shown any appreciable sign of being cleared as a result of the subsidy of three annas in the rupee that has been granted on the sale of khadi for the last several months; and

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to continue it till all available surplus is sold out and khadi industry is placed on a sound footing?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, till the end of the current financial year, for the present.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** How far has the subsidy assisted the production of khadi in the country and has it given any impetus to khadi production? Could the hon. Minister give the figures of the total quantities sold and subsidy spent so far?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I could only give the value of the subsidy available as Rs. 56 lakhs. The proposal has been accepted in principle. The Board have asked for Rs. 26 lakhs up to the end of September and this has been sanctioned. The remaining amount of subsidy will be sanctioned as and when required by the Board.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know, Sir, if this subsidy grant has encouraged the sale of khadi and thereby released the stock or amount of capital held up in khadi?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** In regard to the first part of the question, I think it will help to reduce khadi stocks accumulated. I cannot give an answer in regard to the second part.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Delhi State Government has imposed a sale tax on khadi at the rate of 6 pies per rupee?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am not cognizant of this, but will make enquiries from the Delhi State Government.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know, Sir, whether there was a meeting recently held in Government House and some recommendations were made in order to push up the sale of khadi?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It was not a formal meeting. There was only an informal meeting there in which the people who assembled there considered the prospects of Government encouraging the use of khadi by the purchase of khadi for some portion of Government requirements, but no decisions were arrived at.