

(b) None; they were purely casual workers employed and paid directly by the Contractor.

Ch. Raghbir Singh: Is it a fact that at the time of their retrenchment nothing by way of compensation was paid to the labourers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is a scheme for payment to the permanent employees who are retrenched for good reasons. Since they were employed by the contractors, I am afraid, these workers are not entitled to retrenchment compensation.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, how many have been retrenched from Railway collieries and how many have been retrenched from other State collieries. May I also further know—having regard to the fact that the profits in 1953-54 are estimated to be Rs. 63 lakhs which is more than other previous year's figures,—how has the question of retrenchment arisen?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There are no State Collieries apart from Railway Collieries. They are the only State Collieries. It is because of the partial retrenchment that there has been some economy in the working expenses. I may inform the hon. Member that the retrenchment that is to take place in the Railway Collieries, is according to the recommendations of the various Committees which have studied the matter very carefully. It will be of the order of about four thousand and odd workers but that has not yet been given effect to because of certain legal and technical difficulties. The profit to which the hon. Member has referred has been made by having recourse to several setps. One of them being retrenchment of the casual workers referred to in the answer.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has reconciled to the retrenchment made by the contractors or whether they have advised the contractors for retrenchment of these labourers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There was no need to advise the contractors. The only question that is to be borne in mind is whether there is work for the labour that is to be employed there. If there is no work then whether it is the contractor or the Government, they will have, I regretfully submit, to retrench these people. As I said, these were engaged for temporary casual work.

Shri R. N. Singh: Sir, how many of these State Collieries are worked by the contractors and how many of them are worked by the Departments themselves?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There are 11 State Collieries. Out of them the administration of 9 have been completely taken over by the Government. In two of the other collieries contract labour is still there. The Government have declared their policy that before April 1953 the contract labour in the remaining two collieries has to be done away with and replaced by Government labour.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, for how long these casual workers were working in the collieries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I require notice to answer that question.

SUPPLY OF FERTILISERS

*743. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sindri Fertilizer Factory meets the internal demand of India in fertilizers?

(b) If so, what is the demand of U.P. State in fertilizers and what amount is supplied to it?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Sindri Fertilizer Factory produces only ammonium sulphate. The estimated internal demand in India for this fertilizer in the year 1953 is approximately 3.5 lakh tons. The Sindri Factory is expected to produce about 3 lakh tons this year. There are, however, other fertilizers also for which there is limited demand in the country.

(b) The demand of the U.P. State in respect of ammonium sulphate for the current Calendar year is 40,000 tons, of which 35,000 tons have been released from Sindri and the remaining 5,000 tons from the coke oven bye-product material. Over 31,000 tons have already moved from Sindri.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know the percentage of fertilizers produced at Alwaye in the Travancore-Cochin State?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is a small percentage. I have not got the exact figure, but it is in the neighbourhood of 50,000 tons per year.

Shri Jaipal Singh: After meeting the present internal demand, what quantity is available for export; and if any quantity is available, are international prices taken into consideration in fixing the export price?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is not the policy of the Government to export any fertilizer, if we can help it. The internal demand is big enough, and the Planning Commission has estimated that the demand may be 5 lakh tons in the next one or two years. So Government have not in view any policy of export of fertilizer. But as a special case we have agreed to export 15,000 tons to East Bengal. That was part of the Trade Agreement, based on a policy of helping our neighbour State.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the medium adopted for the sale of these 35,000 tons of fertilizers in U.P.? Are there co-operative societies?

Shri K. C. Reddy: U.P. has three agencies which they are employing, namely the Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Kanpur, the U.P. Co-operative Federation Limited, Lucknow and the U.P. Co-operative Cane Union, Lucknow.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is the facility that is given to the co-operative societies also given to the Imperial Chemical Industries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not know the distribution arrangement in U.P.

I can give only the broad aspects about it.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if Government have under contemplation any scheme for producing other fertilizers like sulphate of potash and superphosphates at Sindri?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government have certain plans, but not to manufacture the kinds of fertilizer that the hon. Member has mentioned. Sindri Fertilizers Ltd. are actually processing a urea and ammonium nitrate project. A Technical Committee had been set up for this purpose and it has submitted its report. Government are actively considering that report.

Shri A. M. Thomas: From the figures given by the hon. Minister it is seen that Sindri has not as yet reached the target figure. Within a year of the starting of the factory it reached a target of 965 tons per day. What is the difficulty in reaching the target after such a long period?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Sir, it is a very complicated thing. If I were to give the full picture it will take some time. It is true, as the hon. Member has stated, that during certain days this year it reached not only a target of 965 tons but sometimes 1,050 and 1,100 tons. That was because of certain special features which depend upon the production of various components, ammonia, etc., etc. But generally speaking, on an average the figure has been 800 tons. That is the average. 960 tons is our aim. That is the real target, finally. There are some troubles and Sindri is actively considering what steps have to be taken in order to reach this target.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In such matters whenever an hon. Minister feels that some more time is necessary for answering a question in a detailed manner and he thinks the house should be supplied with the information, he may briefly state one or two points on the floor of the House and circulate through the Secretariat (I will suggest to them)

the other items of information to the hon. Members.

Shri Jalpal Singh: The hon. Minister has said that there has been one special case. With a view to meeting another special case, that is the improvement of Indo-Ceylon relations, would Government consider the advisability of treating that also as a special case in the matter of export of fertilizers to Ceylon?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I may tell the hon. Member that he has anticipated Government's action in a small way. They have already given 100 tons of fertilizer to an Agricultural Demonstration Farm in Ceylon as a result of a suggestion made by our High Commissioner there. But whether we would be able to export in bulk, what quantities, under what circumstances and all that are to be considered by the Government.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: What are the channels for distributing the fertilizers to the Madras Government? May I also know the figures for 1952-53?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Madras is the State which is consuming the major bulk of this fertilizer. I am not in a position now to give the figure wanted by the hon. Member.

PRODUCTION IN TELEPHONE CABLE FACTORY

***744. Ch. Raghubir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Telephone Cable Factory will meet the annual requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) If so, what is the annual output?

(c) If not, how much has India to import?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Telephone Cable Factory was initially planned to produce on single-shift basis the full requirements of telephone cables of the Posts and Telegraphs Department as estimated in 1950. Re-

cently, the Posts and Telegraphs Department have more than doubled this demand. The question of adjustment of this capacity to meet the increased demand is under examination.

(b) The Factory has been planned for a scheduled output of 469 mlie length of cable per annum, on single shift basis, but production has not yet started.

(c) In view of the answer to part (a), it is not possible to form an estimate of the amount India will have to import. It appears, however, that for some time after the factory starts production, some imports will be necessary.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the basis on which quotations of the price of these telephone instruments are given by the factory to Government, and on what basis are they purchased?

Shri K. C. Reddy: This has nothing to do with telephone instruments, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know what percentage of the import of these materials has been lessened after the factory has begun to produce?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Sir, the factory has not yet gone into production. It is expected to go into production by the end of this year. It is expected that the production will be of the order of about 500 miles length of cable. That will be, according to the present demand of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, about fifty per cent. of our requirements.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether this factory will produce the ordinary paired wires type of cables or the coaxial type of cables?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry, the hon. Member knows more about the technical side, and I would require notice to go fully into the question.