

be spread over a period to make adjustments easier and to proceed colliery by colliery. This recommendation has been accepted by Government and it is proposed that the Coal Board should investigate in due course the extent to which mechanisation can be introduced in the existing mines without any material unemployment resulting therefrom. It has also been decided that when permission for opening new mines is granted a condition will be imposed that all new developments should be planned and executed as far as practicable with the maximum possible use of machines for coal cutting and coal conveying.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Board's functions are to deal with problems relating to safety in coal mines and conservation of coal, and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(d) The Board is continuing the work of the late Coal Mines Stowing Board in regard to stowing for safety. It is engaged in drafting the necessary rules under section 17 of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, regarding the measures to be taken for the purpose of maintenance of safety in coal mines and for the conservation of coal. It has set up an informal Technical Committee to undertake investigations into the working conditions of collieries producing metallurgical coal and to make recommendations regarding the output quota to be fixed in respect of each colliery, and has also investigated the possibility of pegging the production of metallurgical coal at a certain level.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Shri N. P. Sinha: With regard to the hon. Minister's answer to (a), may I ask whether this system has affected employment?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The answer is already contained in the answer that I read out. If the mechanisation is proceeded with very quickly without taking into account the possibility of unemployment that may be caused, certainly there will be unemployment. That is why the Board has commended that so far as existing mines are concerned, we have to proceed with the work rather cautiously in order to prevent unemployment.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, if, in view of the emphasis laid by the Planning Commission on strict enforcement of conservation measures, certain coal mines have been closed down?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir, I am not aware.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir, whether there is any wage cut and retrenchment in view of the introduction of mechanisation in coal-cutting in coal mines?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir, not of any appreciable magnitude.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if this mechanisation will reduce the cost of raising coal, or simply increase the production?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Both.

✓ **Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that sufficient number of wagons have not been available to remove the coal from the colliery sites, what is the purpose of increasing the coal raising unless wagons are provided for them?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That raises a different question altogether.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, the interests represented on this Coal Board, and whether organised labour is given representation?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The Board consists of Mr. L. S. Corbet, Coal Commissioner, Chairman; Mr. Bakhley, Member; Mr. Guha, Chief Mining Engineer, Member, Railway Board—Dy. Coal Commissioner, Production; and Mr. I. S. Malik—Dy. Coal Commissioner, Distribution. There is no representative of labour as such on the Coal Board.

Shri Punnoose: Is it in the policy of the Government to consider giving representation to organised labour on this Board?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I think, Sir, the Board has been constituted in accordance with the terms of the Act. Anyway, I will have the question examined.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the progress of mechanisation in Government collieries?

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

EXPORT OF MICA AND SHELLAC

*1322. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the value of mica and shellac exported from India during the year 1951-52?

(b) Which countries import them from us and what are the articles manufactured from them?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The value of mica and shellac exported from India in 1951-52 was Rs. 1321 lakhs and Rs. 1130 lakhs, respectively.

(b) The principal importers of mica are U.K., U.S.A., France, Western Germany, Italy, Japan and Australia; and of shellac, U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R., Western Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Brazil, Argentina and Australia. Mica is mainly used by electrical industries and shellac is used in the production of Gramophone records, electrical insulating material, varnishes and adhesives, sealing wax, grinding wheels etc.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the value of the imports of articles made out of these raw materials?

Shri Karmarkar: The hon. Member may put a separate question for that.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are any of these articles imported from abroad made here in our country?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice. Gramophone records are made here.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Is it a fact that the export of shellac and also of mica is progressively going down, and that foreign countries are making arrangements for synthetic products to replace them?

Shri Karmarkar: Our figures show, Sir, that the exports are in fact progressively going up. For instance in 1949/50, so far as Mica is concerned, it was about Rs. 7 lakhs, and now it is Rs. 13.20 lakhs; and in shellac also, our exports were about Rs. 30 lakhs and now they are about Rs. 91 lakhs.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Is it due, Sir, to the price going up or is it due to larger quantities being exported?

Shri Karmarkar: It is due to both the quantity and the price going up.

Shri Punnose: May I know the States which chiefly produce these articles, mica and shellac?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

INDIAN CULTURAL DELEGATION TO CHINA

*1326. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the expenses incurred by the Government of India on Indian Cultural Delegation to China in May, 1952?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The details of expenditure incurred on behalf of the delegation by the Embassy of India, Peking, and the Indian Consulate General, Shanghai, and some other bills have not yet been received. It is not possible, therefore, to give the exact amount. However the total expenses are expected to be well within Rs. 1½ lakhs.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know what is the response we got in proportion to the expenditure incurred?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If I may say so, Sir, it is a very extraordinary question but I may say this, that they were treated with the utmost cordiality and friendship.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this delegation is reported to have submitted any report to the Government of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: All delegations which go there are supposed to submit some kind of report. But usually these reports are not published.

Shri Punnose: Has it come to the notice of the Government that a certain section of the Foreign Press has attributed views to the leader of the delegation contrary to those expressed in this country by her?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know to which particular thing the hon. Member refers. But perhaps I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that a certain contradiction was made by the leader of the delegation to certain statements made in the Press in regard to that matter.

PRICE OF JUTE

*1327. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the price of jute per maund before the control was lifted in March, 1951;

(b) the price immediately after the control was lifted; and

(c) the price at present?

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

(a) Rs. 35 per maund on the basis of bottom variety for delivery free at mills in Calcutta.

(b) Rs. 65 per maund on 12th March 1951.

(c) Rs. 27 per maund was the quotation for Assam bottoms on 26th June 1952.

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know the reasons for the decrease in price?