

tical prisoners from Lisbon to Angola in Portuguese West Africa and also their confinement in "Cuanze Norte" jail which is popularly known as a "death chamber"?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Seven prisoners were taken by ship from Goa and reached Lisbon on the 18th June 1952. These prisoners were confined in the Aguada Fort in Goa. They are understood to have been removed from there at short notice and were taken from Lisbon to Angola in West Africa on the 9th July 1952. It is understood that they are confined in 'Cuanze Norte' jail in Angola. We have no further information.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a recent report that these prisoners are suffering from 'biliosa', a deadly fever which is prevailing in Angola and that there are no medical facilities being provided in this particular jail which is meant for criminals of a very special description?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We have no means of finding out directly. This is a matter entirely in Portuguese territory there. Informally we tried to find out from the Portuguese Legation here and according to them, these reports are not correct and they are in the best of surroundings.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the fact that these seven political prisoners were non-violent Satyagrahis and have been sentenced to savage terms of imprisonment, is it in the contemplation of Government to move very urgently in the matter of repatriation of these prisoners, if possible?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We are in a difficulty in this matter because they are Portuguese subjects or nationals, and normally a Government does not move in regard to the nationals of another country. I am sure all people in this House will agree that the treatment accorded to these prisoners by the Goan authorities has been exceedingly regrettable and deplorable. But what more steps we can take in this matter to get them repatriated is not clear to me.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the forthright statement recently made by the Prime Minister in regard to French Settlements in India, could we have an assurance from him that in regard to such foreign enclaves as Goa something very specific and very strong is going to be done in the near future?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The statement I made in regard to the French

Settlements applies equally to the Portuguese Settlements. But that does not mean—and I do not wish the House to imagine—that something very sudden and abrupt and big is going to happen.

**Shri Nambiar:** Have the Government enquired as to why these prisoners were transferred to Angola where there are no facilities, and whether these prisoners could not be detained in India?

**Mr. Chairman:** That is beyond what this Government can say.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PROJECT OFFICERS TRAINING AT NILOKHERI

\*835. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the 'officers training' recently organised at Nilokheri and whether any portion thereof will be paid by the State Governments?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reports in certain sections of the Press that dancing parties had been engaged from Delhi for the officers' entertainment during the training period, and huge sums were paid to these parties, which also constitutes an item in the expenditure?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi):** (a) Rs. 8,693-6-0. No part of the expenditure will be met by the State Government.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1534-8-0 was spent on holding a *Mushaira* of poets which included music and some items of various styles of Indian dancing. These programmes were held to give an insight into the culture and traditions of India.

#### LIMESTONES IN KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS

\*837. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that good quality limestones are available in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the State of Assam in large quantities?

(b) What steps have been taken by Government to utilise these limestones in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of Pakistan has been utilising these limestones in manufacturing cement?

(d) Will it not be possible to start a cement factory in Assam instead of lending the limestones to Pakistan?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Government agreed in 1948 to the starting of a cement factory in Assam. It appears that due mainly to transport difficulties no progress has so far been made.

(c) The cement factory in East Pakistan owned by Messrs. Assam Bengal Cement Co. Ltd., Calcutta, has been utilising the limestone from Assam.  
COIR INDUSTRY IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

\*838. Shri Raghunath: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin State had come recently to Delhi to discuss the position of the coir industry in his State?

(b) What are the official figures, according to the State Government, of the number of coir factories closed down and the number of unemployed?

(c) What steps are contemplated by the Central Government to find new markets for coir goods and for giving interim relief to coir workers in Travancore-Cochin State?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister and the Finance Minister of Travancore-Cochin Government discussed this matter with the Ministry early in October 1952.

(b) About 108 factories and about 21,400 workers.

(c) Government's Trade Representatives abroad have been addressed, with a view to removing obstacles, if any, in the way of import of coir and coir products into foreign countries.

Opportunities are taken from time to time to introduce coir products as an item of export from India, in our Trade Agreements with foreign countries.

To stimulate internal markets, the Government of India have requested all State Governments and departments of the Central Government to make increased purchases of coir products.

To relieve immediate unemployment, steps are being taken to start civil works in the affected area. A conference was convened by the Travancore Government last month to discuss problems relating to the Coir Industry. The Textile Commissioner

to the Government of India attended this conference. The further steps to be taken in this connection are under examination.

#### DIVERSION TUNNELS IN BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

\*839. Shri Krishna Chandra: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in their fifth report for 1951-52 under para 85 has reported that the two diversion tunnels of the Bhakra-Nangal Project have been constructed by engineers who are not experts at the job;

(b) whether some damage has been caused to these tunnels by flood; and

(c) whether this has been due to defect in construction?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is also invited to reply to part (a) and (b) of Starred Question 1169 by Shri Lakshamanan on the 20th September, 1951. There has been no damage to the tunnel structure.

(c) No, Sir.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION IN KOSI CATCHMENT AREA

\*840. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme for soil conservation measures in the Kosi catchment area; and

(b) if so, the chief features and the estimated cost of the said programme?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out.

#### COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

\*841. Kumari Anule Masearene: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allotted to Travancore-Cochin State for community projects;

(b) whether the Government of Travancore-Cochin State have placed any schemes before the Central Government for community projects;