

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: May I also know if the Planning Commission approached the Government of West Bengal with any proposal for making any contribution pending payment by other parties such as the Railways and national highways, and if so, with what result?

Shri Hathi: So far as the West Bengal Government is concerned, the Government of India have asked them as to how they propose to finance the scheme.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has proposed that the sum of Rs. 5 crores is likely to be required for the first three years would be contributed by the West Bengal Government and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India?

Shri Hathi: I have no information like that.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the large influx of refugees from East Bengal and the importance of the scheme, does the Government propose to give top priority to it?

Shri Hathi: That, Sir, will be determined after the scheme is examined completely.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the North-Eastern Railway also has suggested that the barrage on the Ganges near about Farakka would be necessary and useful, to shorten the route between Lower Bengal and northern Bengal and Assam?

Shri Hathi: In fact, Sir, the views of the Ministry of Railways have been invited on this.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: I wanted to know from the hon. Minister definitely whether it is not a fact that the West Bengal Government has offered to give a contribution?

Mr. Speaker: Order order. He may contradict his facts later.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: I am not contradicting. I am asking if it is not a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has made a definite proposal for making a contribution of the sum required for the first three years, pending payment by other agencies such as the Railways and national highways?

Shri Hathi: I would require notice for that.

COAL

*252. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal over and above that required for railway consumption can meet the demands for public consumption in important cities of India?

(b) whether there are sufficient wagons available to distribute coal to various parts of India; and

(c) what are the conditions of agreement to export coal to Pakistan after June 1952?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) Wagon supply is inadequate during about 8 months in the year.

(c) The validity of the Trade agreement of February 1951 was extended upto the 7th August, 1952. Coal exports were continued to Pakistan at the previously fixed prices, viz. the Indian control price plus Rs. 11/- per ton. Coal is not included in the current Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement which came into force on the 8th August, 1952 but the Government have consented outside the agreement to the export of coal to Pakistan at the rate of about 90,000 tons a month upto the end of December 1952 when the position will be reviewed. The present price has been revised, on a consideration of the market prices outside India, to the Indian price plus Rs. 12-10-0 per ton.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, if the Government has any scheme to nationalise the coal industry?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir. Not at present.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, how many collieries are in the hands of private concerns?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I should like to have notice to answer that question.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, the price of coal in India generally?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is the controlled price. I am not in a position to give the controlled price now here.

Shri Raghuramiah: May I know whether the amount of coal supplied to Madras State for tobacco purposes this year, is the same or less or more than that supplied last year?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like to answer that if separate notice of the same is given.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: Is it true that large quantities of coal are being exported to South Korea in order to help Syngman Rhee to crush his own people?

Mr. Speaker: He is making an allegation and putting the question. He can enquire about a fact.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there are complaints from the factories in the south that sufficient coal is not being sent to the South?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Generally, there are complaints about inadequate supplies of coal to some of the industries in the south as well as in the north. The difficulty is about the wagon availability. Everything is being done by the Railway Ministry to the extent possible to supply more wagons, but I have already said in the course of my answer that the wagon availability is inadequate for about 8 months in the year. It applies to the South also.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the wagon availability is being improved by constructing more wagons or by any scheme like that, in order to help the industries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir. Necessary action is being taken by the Government in that direction. Also During 1951/52, sufficient orders have been placed for the supply of wagons from year to year.

COTTON PIECE GOODS (PRICES)

*253. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the causes for the fall in prices of Indian cotton piece goods sent to Asian countries; and

(b) what is the rate of fall?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The fall in prices is due to the general depression in the textile trade all over the world.

(b) The average price of cloth per yard exported in the period April 1952 to August 1952 was approximately 22 per cent. less than the average price in the period October 1951 to March, 1952.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, the countries in Asia to which the piece goods are sent?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have the information available somewhere in the file with the Ministry, but I have not brought it here.

TRAINING OF DISPLACED PERSONS

*255. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state by what time, the Committee appointed to enquire into the vocational and technical training of the displaced persons from West Pakistan is expected to submit its report?

(b) What is the nature of work done so far?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the Committee?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) By the end of January, 1953.

(b) The Committee has issued a questionnaire to the State Governments concerned, to the Director General of Resettlement and Employment, and to the Railway and Defence Ministries. The information received is being scrutinised. The Committee has also visited 30 Training and Production Centres for men and women and 8 Homes and infirmaries in the Punjab, and PEPHU and U.P., and has had discussions with the State Governments of Punjab and U.P.

(c) A copy of the Press Communique announcing the formation of the Committee, which contains its terms of reference, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 8.]

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the schemes of vocational and technical training undertaken by the Ministry of Labour will also be examined?

Shri A. P. Jain: No.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 256.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Question No. 267 seems to be connected with that.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Am I to understand, Sir, that Question Nos. 256 and 267 are to be answered together?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KARNATAK AREA OF BOMBAY STATE

*256. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what measures