

handicapped because the authorities do not know the price of the washed coal that they will use and the locality from where they will have to get it ?

Shri Satish Chandra : According to the decision already taken, a State-owned plant with a daily output of 550 tons is being set up near Bokaro and Kargali Collieries to supply washed coal to Rourkela and Bhilai steel plants. The private sector will be encouraged to put up more washeries. If the demand of the new steel plants is not fully satisfied the steel plants will put up their own washeries for washing the balance quantities of coal.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know if it is known now that in the private sector, the colliery owners are not interested in putting up washeries ?

Shri Satish Chandra : It is not so. About 40 collieries have applied for erection of the washeries.

Mr. Speaker : The Question Hour is over .

Short Notice Question and Answer

Third Division Clerks

S. N. Q. No. 5. **Shri Kasliwal :** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether the third division clerks of the Central Secretariat have decided to launch 'direct action' for the fulfilment of their demands from the 16th August, 1955;

(b) whether they are opposed to the Central Secretariat Reorganization Scheme which confirmed their present grade;

(c) whether they have demanded the establishment of a Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal and the extension of the Industrial Disputes Act to the clerks; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (a) to (d). On the 22nd of June Government received a letter from the Third Division Clerks' Union intimating their intention to initiate 'direct action' if the demands of the Union were not conceded within 75 days. Government have since seen press reports and printed leaflets published by the Union in which a programme of what is called 'direct action' has been announced. The so-called 'direct action' it is reported, was to take the form of two processions on the 12th and the 13th instant and attending office from the 16th onwards dressed in progressively

less and less clothing. In communicating their intention to launch 'direct action' the Union demanded an increase of their pay-scales to Rs. 100-10-300 and amendment of the Central Secretariat Clerical Scheme. The letter of the 22nd June did not refer to an Arbitration Tribunal or to the Industrial Disputes Act.

2. The Union have already been informed that while the Government are always anxious to ensure fair and adequate remuneration and other conditions of service to Civil servants in the lower income groups within the limits of available finance, a threat to participate in any form of 'direct action' involves a dereliction of duty and is contrary to public interest. In considering claims for higher pay-scales Government cannot, consistently with the trust which they hold from the public with regard to public funds, overlook the overall burden which such increases may place on the taxpayer.

3. While the Government are at all times ready and willing to consider all grievances, they cannot allow themselves to be coerced by threat of or recourse to direct action. Government have the duty of maintaining discipline and proper standards of behaviour among Government servants and where necessary they have to and will take suitable action for this purpose.

Shri Kasliwal : The hon. Minister said that they propose to use less and less clothing. He also said that the Government will take suitable action. May I know whether they propose to amend the service rules so as to ensure that these clerks do not go to the Secretariat in indecent clothing ?

Shri Datar : Government will consider this question when such unfortunate action is resorted to.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : In view of the fact that the Minister has said just now that they are ready to consider all the grievances, may I know if it is not a fact that repeated attempts have been made to open negotiations regarding improvement of the standard of the third division clerks and those attempts have not been heeded to by the Government ?

Shri Datar : It is not correct that their requests were not heeded to. In fact, in this particular case, after considering their grievances, Government allowed two increments to all the people who were clerks and also two additional increments to those who had passed the typing test.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : The hon. Minister said that it will involve additional expenditure if the demands are met. May I know if the Government have

assessed the extra expenditure they will have to incur if the demands are to be conceded ?

Shri Datar : The extra expenditure, I am afraid, will be more than Rs. 10 crores if all the clerks are given the increments.

Shri S. L. Saksena : In view of the hard conditions of the third division clerks, will the Government consider the question of settling the matter with them by negotiation ?

Shri Datar : I may point out to the hon. Member that they are already getting Rs. 120/- a month.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi : May I know if it is a fact that the Home Minister gave a warning to the deputationists of clerks and if so whether any agreement has come about that these clerks will not proceed with demonstrations and direct action ?

Shri Datar : I know that the Home Minister advised them not to take recourse to such uncalled for action.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi : May I know whether they showed any willingness to heed this ?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant) : So far as their conduct indicates, up to this point of time there has been no response.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani : Just now the hon. Deputy Home Minister said that two increments have been given to the third division clerks. Is it a fact that those in the subordinate offices have not received these two increments ?

Shri Datar : These have been given only to the people in the Secretariat and attached offices. It would be very difficult to give these increments to others. That is what I have said.

Mr. Speaker : Now we will go to the next item of business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trade Delegation to Middle East

*742. { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra :**
Sardar Iqbal Singh :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 220 on the 25th February, 1955 and state :

(a) whether a report has since been submitted by the Trade Delegation sent to the Middle East Countries;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Delegation; and

(c) the decisions taken thereon ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) Yes, Sir. Copies have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) A statement as laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 37]

(c) Such of the recommendations as require action are under examination.

Trade with Middle East Countries

*743. **Shri M. R. Krishna :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any trade relations have been established with any Middle East countries after the receipt of the recommendations of the Birla Mission ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : Trade relations between India and the Countries of the Middle East have existed since centuries and are continuing to exist.

The Goodwill Trade Mission sent by Government under the leadership of Shri M. P. Birla in December-January last has made certain suggestions for the expansion of India's trade with the countries in the Middle East, and not for the establishment of trade relations with any or all of them.

International Tea Agreement

*744. **Shri S. N. Das :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations for a fresh International Tea Agreement between the countries concerned have started;

(b) if so, who has taken the initiative; and

(c) the state at which the negotiations stand ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Tea Committee.

(c) Draft agreement is under consideration of the countries concerned.

Handlooms

*747. **Shri Sivamurthi Swami :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report has been received from the State Governments regarding the number of active and idle handlooms in the year 1954-55; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of idle looms is on the increase ?