

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether any effort was made before placing firm orders with the foreign firm to ascertain which of the firms assembling in India would be able to supply at a lower rate?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The quotations were invited and the only other firm which could be considered was Messrs. Koolaire Limited, and some of the Members of this House also pointed out that that could be considered, but the main difficulty was that they were manufacturing 4 c.ft. capacity which did not suit the requirements of this hotel.

श्रीमती कमलेश्वरमति शाह : क्या मैं जान सकती हूँ कि इस होटल के लिए चाइना और कटलरी हिन्दुस्तान की क्यों नहीं मंगाई गई और बाहर से मंगा कर इतना खर्च क्यों किया गया है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : इस होटल में बाहर के लोग भी रहेंगे । अच्छी कटलरी और क्लकरी भ्रगर बाहर से मिल सकती है, तो मैं उस के मंगाने में कोई हर्जा नहीं समझता ।

Dr. Rama Rao: The statement says that Messrs. Koolaire Limited reduced their quotations after the Government had placed a firm order with Messrs. Phillips. The quotations of Messrs. Koolaire Limited were as follows: 4 c.ft.—Rs.1,220 then reduced to Rs. 825. 7 c.ft.—Rs.1,980 then reduced to Rs. 1,550.

This is a very dangerous thing. How do the Government proceed with the quotations of a firm which can reduce it by 20 to 25 per cent? Does it not show that the quotations are very much exaggerated?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member is entitled to draw any conclusion. He should, however, remember that no order was placed with the firm which reduced the quotations by this startling figure as was pointed out by the hon. Member. I do not know what further he wants me to say. It is really for a firm to give any quotations. It is for the buyer to watch his interests and not to be entrapped.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: One more question.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed a number of questions.

Increase in the Price of Coal

*1930. [Shri H. N. Mukerjee
Shri K. K. Basu:

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government held any independent enquiry before accepting the mine owners demand for the recent increase in the price of coal; and

(b) what was the total profit earned by the private mines during the last five years?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) The information is not now available with us.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is not a fact that the Industrial Appellate Tribunal when it recommended some slight increase in wages took into consideration, generally speaking, the capacity of the industry to pay and did not indicate the desirability of any increase in the price of coal?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Industrial Tribunal assessed the increase in wages as about 40 per cent of the existing wages and they themselves recommended that an increase of about Rs.3 per ton will have to be given to the collieries.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it has come to the notice of Government that a few weeks ago a special article was contributed by the Director of the Fuel Research Institute to the *Eastern Economist* justifying this wage increase, and if so, what is Government's view in regard to a highly placed Government official supporting a matter on which there is still room for controversy?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have not seen the particular article.

Power Looms

*1931. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom Board was consulted before issuing license for conversion of handlooms into power-looms; and

(b) if so, the opinion of the Board and the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Handloom Board at its meeting held in August 1955 passed a Resolution opposing the proposal. The views expressed by the Board were taken into consideration by Government along with other factors, when coming to a decision on this question. I may add that the majority of the members of the Board did not participate in the voting.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether the decision of the Handloom Board was communicated to the State Governments and their views obtained?

Shri Kanungo : No, it was not necessary.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know how many handlooms have been converted into power looms and how many are yet to be converted and the total increase of cloth thereby?

Shri Kanungo : The programme has been put into action only about a month back. Before that, as far as I remember, two societies in Madras State had asked for power looms. Under the new plan, proposals have not started coming in.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : In view of the fact that the encouragement of handlooms predominantly related to the problem of employment, that is increase of employment, may I know how far this conversion of handlooms into power looms will affect the employment position? Can we have a categorical answer to that?

Shri Kanungo : The increase in the total amount of production is expected to give more employment also.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know whether it is a fact that the handloom co-operative societies in Salem and other districts in the South have passed resolutions repeatedly opposing the introduction of power looms, and if so what are the reasons that they have advanced and if they have been considered?

Shri Kanungo : Some of the co-operative societies have expressed their opposition to the proposal, but also many societies have asked for allotment of power looms.

Treaty of Cession of the French Establishments in India

*1932. **Shri Kamath :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Treaty of Cession of the French Establishments in India signed on the May 28, 1956 has been duly ratified; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : (a) No.

(b) The French Government have not so far been able to ratify the Treaty of Cession, owing, presumably, to their other more pressing preoccupations.

Shri Kamath : Has this matter been discussed directly by the Government or the Prime Minister with the French Government or the French Foreign

Minister whom the Prime Minister met recently, and if so, what was the reaction of the French Government to the early disposition of this matter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : The French Government naturally are committed to do it and they said they would do it, but they could not indicate a date. As far as I remember, they thought they would be able to do it round about October or thereabouts, but I do not know at all what the present position is—in regard to the date I mean.

Shri Kamath : The Prime Minister just told us that it might be done in October or thereabout. Has the Government given serious consideration to the matter of integration or rather merger of these former French establishments in the adjoining States so as to provide for their representation in Parliament after the next general election?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : First of all, what I just said was that October was the date broadly indicated to me some time ago informally. I did not say it has recently been said, because as the hon. Member knows, the French Government is involved in many pressing preoccupations at the moment. So far as the other part of the hon. Member's question goes, we have given a definite assurance to the people of Pondicherry, and in the course of our talk to the French Government but mainly to the people of Pondicherry, that no change would be made in their present individual status without consulting them so that we do not propose to consider at this stage any kind of merger. Pondicherry and some areas will continue to keep a separate status. About the future, it depends upon consultations, and their own desire, which is the chief thing.

Shri Kamath : Is the House to understand that these former French establishments will continue to be without representation in Parliament in the foreseeable future?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : About that I am not quite sure whether it is possible to give them separate representation. But it may be considered. I do not quite know what the Home Ministry which is dealing with this matter has thought about it. But in any event, our difficulty has been that we cannot give them anything at all, till strictly in law, they are part of India. *De facto*, they are part of India. But *de jure*, they are not. And we cannot bring measures here to give them representation, when *de jure*, they are not yet part of India.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : Since the ratification of the treaty is only a formal matter, have Government considered the advisability of amending the Representation