

are important and will naturally have to be kept in mind while implementing the Plan.

Shri Matthen: They say that they are deeply concerned about the transport situation and they suggest maximising the transport by available means, by rail, road, coastal shipping and inland waterway. They consider it important that the structure and level of railway rates should be revised promptly so as to provide more incentive for the utilisation of other means of transport. What do the Commission think about it and what are they going to do about it?

Shri S. N. Mishra: All these are points of detail, and naturally they will have to be examined in the Division concerned for the purpose of seeing to what extent they can be put into effect in the process of implementation.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know how far it is true to say that these comments are tendentious in the sense that they deliberately go out of their way to support the position of foreign capital in the country and private enterprise?

Shri S. N. Mishra: It would not be proper to impute any such motives to these comments. They are indeed very valuable and useful.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The World Bank Mission has recommended to give more concessions to the private industry and has also recommended to impose more taxes on agriculturists in the form of land and water rates, etc. May I know whether the Planning Commission shares that view and whether it is going to recommend imposition of more taxes on the agriculturists to give concessions to the private industrialists?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Planning Commission does not impose any taxes on anybody.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that the World Bank Mission has said that the targets fixed under the Second Five Year Plan are too ambitious and have expressed doubts if the financial resources will be available to fulfil those targets, may I know whether Government intend to revise the targets of the allocations in the Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: We have stated in the Plan that it requires very big effort, financial and organisational, on the part of the Government and all sections of the community. So it is also not a comment with which we have been unfamiliar.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Planning Commission have discussed with the World Bank Mission and whether there was agreement between the Commission and the Mission with regard to the Social and economic objectives of our Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I do not quite follow the import of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Has there been any understanding between the Commission and the Mission regarding the social and economic objectives of the Plan?

Shri Punnoose: The question is raised whether their recommendations will be accepted. I want to know whether there was agreement with regard to the social and economic objectives of our Plan.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of agreement between them and us. Probably in regard to some matters at least, there is a lack of agreement. We have made a Plan; we do not ask other people to agree to our social objectives; it is for us to determine. We may discuss the financial and other consequences with them, and it is open to them as it is open to many others to express their views about our Plan. We welcome criticisms; we welcome the different aspects being discussed. In fact, quite apart from the World Bank's view, we have received comments, criticisms, praise or lack of praise from many countries about it. We welcome all of it, so that we may be able to consider how far it is useful.

Indian Foreign Service Probationers

*1512. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names of the foreign universities to which the Indian Foreign Service Probationers are sent for training?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Indian Foreign Service probationers are usually sent to Oxford or Cambridge in the United Kingdom, but if a probationer has already studied there arrangements are made to send him to some other University abroad.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know why the Government has deemed it necessary to send our probationers to foreign countries for training?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We consider it very necessary, in fact, essential for them to go to some foreign countries to get a broader outlook, to get a better knowledge

of languages and many other factors, which in fact is to supplement the training they have got here; maybe the training we give is supplemented by this.

Coal Distribution

*1513. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry is being made to purchase low quality coal at high prices in Assam; and

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal for fixing a standard distribution price for coal meant for tea industry on the basis of any area or region or generally?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) In pursuance of the policy of zonal distribution of coal, supplies for tea industry in Assam as well as for other consumers in the state are normally arranged from the collieries in Assam.

Assam coal has an ash content not exceeding 10% and compares favourably with the Bengal/Bihar coal and as such is not of low quality. The prices which the tea industry are required to pay for this coal are not higher than those paid by other industries in Assam.

(b) There is no such proposal.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that there are two types of coal in Assam, one in the Khasi Hills which is of low quality and the other in the East which is of better quality, and that the price of the Khasi Hills coal is far higher than that of the other coal? If so, how is the price determined with regard to the tea industry?

Shri R. G. Dubey: In Assam there are two sources from where coal is procured—Khasi Mines and the Assam Collieries. The actual position, I think, is that the price of coal procured from the Khasi Mines somewhat compares favourably with the coal produced in Bihar and Bengal.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: My question is about the prices of each type of coal, and that question is not answered yet. I want to know the prices of the different qualities of coal.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may lay a statement regarding the coal prices on the Table.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): The prices of coal are fixed region-wise and not industry-wise. No special price for tea industry or for jute industry or some other industry is fixed. The hon. Member has referred to

a price being fixed for the tea industry, but I say that prices are not fixed on that basis. So far as Assam is concerned, prices are fixed for various collieries. About 12 different prices are fixed for Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margharita Collieries, etc. etc. Different prices are fixed for different collieries. To this we have to add the transportation and other charges. All these put together, the price at which the tea gardens obtain the coal may be higher than the price at which other people get in Bihar and Bengal region. It is not because of the prices only that there is this difference. Therefore, Government is considering the question of equalising the freight incidence and making available the coal in various regions at about the same price. The Estimates Committee has also recommended to that effect. Government is considering that aspect, and if we accept that policy and equalise the freight, then it may be possible for the various regions to get coal at about uniform prices.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I would like to know specifically the difference in the ruling prices in the Assam tea gardens and those in the Dhanbad area for the same quality of coal. There are two qualities in Assam; I would like to know how they differ.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like to give a fairly detailed answer. As I said already, the prices vary from colliery to colliery and from region to region. To this we have to add the transportation charges which again vary from place to place depending on the points of destination. What exactly the hon. Member has in mind I do not know. The quality of coal that is supplied to the tea gardens is not by and large inferior to the coal supplied to Bihar and Bengal industries.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: By what percentage do the prices differ?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is a matter of arithmetical calculation. I will have to work out the figure.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when the decision regarding the charging of a uniform price for coal at rail heads will be taken? The Estimates Committee has made this recommendation a year ago.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not think that the Estimates Committee made this recommendation a year ago. Perhaps it discussed it in the meeting about a year ago but the point of time at which it came to the Government was not at that time. I know definitely that the time is less than a year. The whole matter is receiving our very close examination. It is a complicated matter and it requires a lot of consultations with other Ministries also. I can assure the hon. Member that we are actively