

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that various factors will be taken into consideration in fixing the site. Could I know whether one such factor will be the availability of good timber at cheap rates?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We have not yet considered the question of timber supply for the second shipyard.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have not Government enough material in their possession for the last three or four decades in regard to the importance of Bhatkal as a suitable shipyard site, and also Karwar?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We have plenty of information. Personally I know about it because I had something to do with it when I was Chief Minister of the Mysore State.

Wage Boards

*102. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Wage Boards likely to be set up during the year 1957;

(b) the industries to which they relate; and

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for the submission of their findings?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A Wage Board for the cotton textile industry will be set up shortly.

(c) No.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether a judicial authority will be the Chairman of the Wage Board when it is constituted?

Shri Abid Ali: He will be an independent person, experienced in this line.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know which are the other industries under the consideration of the Government for which Wage Boards will be set up?

Shri Abid Ali: So far we have not decided for other industries.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is under contemplation to have Wage Boards constituted for agricultural labour as well?

Shri Abid Ali: Not at present.

Nepa Newsprint Factory

*103. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Swedish delegation of newsprint manufacturers that visited the Nepa Newsprint Factory recently, have expressed doubt about the success of the Project; and

(b) whether the raw material used in the Nepa Mills was tested and found to be of the required standard?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir, though the delegation had not actually visited the factory.

(b) Yes, Sir. The possibilities of successful utilisation of the raw materials were established by laboratory and pilot plant trials both in India and abroad prior to the launching of the venture. The utility of the project has further been proved by the actual working of the mills during the last 24 months. Thus our actual experience has proved that the fears of the delegation are not borne out by facts in this case.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether the factory has already started production, and if so, what is the annual amount of production and what is the total cost of the factory?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The factory has started production, as the House is aware, for the last 18 months, and the House will be pleased to know that last month it reached a capacity of 80 tons per day as against the rated capacity of 100 tons. The total capital investment in the factory has been about Rs. 5 to 6 crores.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know how far the Nepa newsprint factory has helped the country in its object of

saving India's foreign exchange, and what is the total amount that is saved by using the newsprint of this factory?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Last year, the total amount produced was about 10,500 tons, which saved us about Rs. 80 lakhs foreign exchange.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The hon. Minister replied that the Swedish delegation did not visit the actual site of the factory. What was the background then on which they reported that this project was not going to be successful?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will be difficult for me to say whether, without visiting the site, one could express an opinion. But I can well understand that the technical people would naturally think that the traditional raw material like fir and spruce were not available in Nepal and we have used a new experiment with bamboo and salai. And so they might have expressed their fears about these two new raw materials and thought that perhaps this new factory may not succeed in the manufacture of pulp and newsprint.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The hon. Minister has said that the factory has been running for the last few months. May I know whether the production that is coming out of this factory compares well with the paper produced in other factories?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The House will be pleased to know that the quality is better than that of imported newsprint, and the price is about Rs. 25 per ton less than that of the imported newsprint.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it the view of the Government that the opinion of the Swedish delegation, who never went and saw this factory, is a biased one in view of the fact that Sweden exports newsprint?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have no reasons to suspect their motives. Of course the Swedish delegation, I think, would not have given their opinion without proper consideration

of the question. Perhaps the Press reports may not have given a truthful account of what they had said. They might have said that we are not using fir and spruce but instead we are using bamboo and salai in this country. Fir and spruce are the traditional raw materials used.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether the raw materials from Malnad will be used in this factory, and if so, the results thereof?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I can only say that if Malnad is producing bamboo and salai, we shall certainly be using them for this factory.

Postal Money Order Service

*104. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any proposal has been recently received from Pakistan to provide facilities for postal money orders between the two countries?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that Indian currency is being exchanged with Pakistan currency at a premium of about 40 per cent?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have also heard that but that question should better be addressed to the Minister of Finance.

Shri Barman: If that be so, may I know whether this fact will be taken into consideration when deciding the question of money exchange with Pakistan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is on account of exchange difficulties that these things have been left under suspension; otherwise, these facilities will be there.

Ashoka Hotel

*105. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ashoka Hotel is running at a loss; and