

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether Government have taken a decision on the report submitted by the Expert Committee?

Shri Tyagi: There is one Advisory Committee which is examining the recommendations regarding this project and they are making some experiments in boring, soil testing etc. on the spot. Actually, these operations were going on when the rains came and they had to be suspended. These activities will be resumed soon, and Government will be able to take a decision.

Mr. Speaker: We shall go to the next short notice question.

COAL

127. Shri G. D. Somani: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of wagons supplied for the transport of coal to the collieries in West Bengal and Bihar for the period from January to June, 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that the supply of wagons has been inadequate to the total requirements and that the stock of coal at the pit heads has increased to such an extent that serious curtailment of production is apprehended unless the number of wagons is increased in proportion to requirements;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from the various other industries in regard to the inadequate supply of wagons;

(d) when and to what extent the supply of wagons will improve in the near future?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The average daily loadings from the West Bengal/Bihar fields during January to June, 1952, were as follows:

Month	Wagons
January	2,939
February	3,044
March	2,997
April	3,067
May	3,037
June	3,012

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, there have been a number of representations from other industries regarding shortage of wagons for their coal supplies.

(d) The Coal traffic can count on a suitable share of the overall improve-

ment in the wagon position of the Indian Railways to the extent of about 3,000 wagons which is expected to materialise in about a year's time.

Shri G. D. Somani: May I enquire what was the stock of coal on the 31st December 1951 and what is the comparative figure of the stock on the 30th June 1952?

Shri K. C. Reddy: On the 31st December, the stock was 2 million 96 thousand and 617 tons. At the end of May 1952, the stock was 3 million 386 thousand and 214 tons.

Shri G. D. Somani: Is it a fact that about 50,000 workers have been or are likely to be retrenched due to the curtailment of production owing to the inadequate supply of wagons?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give any definite information regarding that point.

Shri G. D. Somani: May I know whether it is possible by improving the operational efficiency of the railways to increase the number of wagons for the supply of coal requirement?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is a question which my hon. colleague the Railway Minister has to answer.

Shri B. K. Das: What is the usual stock at the pitheads?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It varies from month to month.

Shri B. K. Das: Can I have some idea?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I shall give you the figures. At the end of January 1952, it was 2 million and odd tons. At the end of February it was 2,608,956 tons. At the end of March it was 2,893,753 tons. At the end of April it was 3,201,340 tons. The May figure I have already given.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what is the requirement of West Bengal in respect of wagons for transport of coal to that State?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give the requirements of West Bengal separately but the total requirements of wagons for transport of coal is 3,500.

Shri B. K. Das: Is the hon. Minister aware that in a Press interview the Supply Minister of West Bengal stated that 90 wagons were required daily for the transport of coal to West Bengal and actually only 51 wagons were being supplied?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It may be so, but I cannot definitely commit myself.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: To what extent is this accumulation due to larger production and to what extent is it due to lack of wagons for transport?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is entirely due to increased production. The number of wagons made available is showing a satisfactory improvement. In fact, in 1951 the wagon supply was better than in 1950, and during the first six months of this year the supply was better than that during the corresponding six months of last year.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether this transport bottleneck has anything to do with the recent regrouping of railways?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Not at all.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the average production and relative consumption every month by way of wagons for transport?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I require notice.

Shri B. K. Das: On what basis are the wagon allotments made as between the different States for transport of coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The basis is this. The various State industries indent for so many wagons for themselves, and the Coal Commissioner goes through the whole position and then allots the respective number of wagons to each industry.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the position has deteriorated during the last few months as regards supply of coal to West Bengal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir. I am not aware of that. The position has not deteriorated in so far as the supply of wagons is concerned, but if the hon. Member wants to know the position regarding supply in relation to production, I may inform him that the position has somewhat deteriorated.

Shri Heda: Is it a fact that a factory in Hyderabad State was not able to get a single wagon in spite of its representations during the last three months and also in spite of the fact that the supplying colliery happens to be on the same railway line within six hours running distance, resulting in the unemployment of about 6,000 workers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware of that.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Can the hon. Minister tell us whether in the near future there will be an increase in the supply of wagons?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have already answered that question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AID TO CANTONMENT BOARDS

415. Shri N. L. Joshi: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the figures of monetary aid which the various Cantonment Boards in India had been receiving either from the Central or State Governments during the four years preceding the Independence and in the subsequent years upto 1952?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): Two Statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 36.]

STATE FORCES PERSONNEL

416. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any, and if so what, facilities were given to the State Forces personnel who could not be absorbed in the regular Indian Army; and

(b) whether any number out of these has been settled on land in the Punjab?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) The following facilities were given to State Forces personnel who could not be absorbed in the Indian Army:

(1) Employment in Government/Private Service.

(2) Vocational/Technical Training.

(3) Settlement on land in Co-operative Colonies on individual basis. A statement showing the assistance afforded is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 37.]

(b) No.

CORDITE FACTORIES

417. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of various categories of workers employed in all the Cordite Factories in India;

(b) the terms of their wages and allowances according to the nature of their work; and

(c) whether the State Employees Provident Fund Ordinance applies to them and if so, what other facilities are provided to them and their families?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) There is only one Cordite Factory in India and the number of workers employed there is 1,486.