

### O & M. Division

\*589. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, Government have taken or propose to take to strengthen and streamline the Organisation and Methods Division, and

(b) whether any non-officials are being associated in an advisory capacity with the Division?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The activities of the O & M. Division were discussed in detail in Lok Sabha on the 9th December, 1958, during the discussion on the 4th Annual Report of the Division. The Home Minister then explained the working of the Division and other allied problems at length. The structure and the strength of the Central O & M organisation in the Cabinet Secretariat and also the O & M cells in the Ministries and Attached Offices are settled on the basis of the functions that they are called upon to perform and these are reviewed from time to time according to the actual needs

It is not necessary to associate any non-officials with the working of the organisation in regard to its purely departmental activities. However, as stated by the Home Minister in the discussion on 9th December, 1958, those M.P.s who are interested in administrative problems are welcome to discuss such problems with the Prime Minister or the Home Minister

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know what steps have been taken by the hon. Prime Minister to make such discussions possible?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** None, Sir. I thought the steps will come from the other side

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Is it expected that the Members should write to the hon. Prime Minister or

the hon. Home Minister for a discussion or whether they propose to set up an advisory body or they want to invite the Member to discuss these various matters?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I hope every Member will not write to me on this subject. If any Member wishes to discuss any particular matter, it is up to him to say so, because as I pointed out, hon. Members can point out deficiencies etc., certainly from their experience—I mean specific things. A broad discussion of the whole thing is likely to lead us nowhere

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Is it a fact that the working of this division is left primarily to a Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry and if it is not so, may I know what functions and responsibilities are taken by other organisations superior to the Joint Secretary?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I suppose that a Joint Secretary is in charge of that and in all the Ministries also, senior officials are in charge. I do not quite understand the reference to other organisations

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I clarify the question? The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are supposed to control and give guidance to the Organisation and Methods Division. But my information, as I put it in the question, is that it is primarily a Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry who deals with it. If it is not so, and if the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretariat plays any part in it, may I know the responsibilities and functions that are discharged by the Cabinet Secretariat or Ministers i.e., people at higher level than the Joint Secretary?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** A Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry is in charge of it. But the Cabinet Secretariat deals with this matter and I deal with it through the Cabinet Secretary

**Shri Vasudevam Nair:** One of the functions of this Division is effecting economy in expenditure. May I know whether the Government have assessed the result of the work of this Division in that respect?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We have placed on the Table of the House the reports of this Division and the answer to this question particularly is given at length.

#### Manganese Ore Trade

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\*531. { **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla**  
**Shri Kistalya:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 844 on the 11th December, 1958 regarding formation of a Committee for the promotion of manganese ore trade and state:

(a) the number of times the Committee has met;

(b) the main decisions taken by it; and

(c) how far these decisions have been implemented?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) Five Times.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 5.]

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** May I know if it is not a fact that after the recent recession the manganese purchases of our main buyers abroad have gone up and reached the pre-recession level and, if so, are we exporting as much manganese ore as we used to do to those countries before the recession started?

**Shri Kanungo:** The manganese trade has picked up a bit from what it was a year back. But it is also true that the purchasing countries have stepped up their purchases from other competing countries. We have not

come to the pre-recession level. As far as USA is concerned, they are largely buying from nearer sources where the freight element and the Price element are cheaper.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** What is the quantity of the various grades of manganese ore lying here on account of the STC and what is the cost?

**Shri Kanungo:** You mean the purchases of STC which have not been lifted? I have not got that information.

**Shri Panigrahi:** We were told that 137 manganese mines were closed down last year as a result of the recession. May I know how many of them have been opened up because of the improvement in the promotion of trade in manganese ore?

**Shri Kanungo:** The improvement had not had its full effect in India, because the competing countries are able to supply manganese at a cheaper Price than India can offer.

**Shri Damani:** May I know whether it is a fact that the STC is charging some charges on the export of manganese ore and, if so what is the rate charged? Is it also a fact that our export has been affected by this?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, it is not charging anything. In fact, the STC is prepared to offer contracts for even longer periods. In fact, a public notice to this effect was issued about three months back.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** The statement says that it has been decided in the meeting to enter upon contingent contract with the mine-owners and pay up to 50 per cent of the charges to them. May I know how many such contingent contracts have been entered into by the STC with the mine-owners and how much money has been paid to the mine-owners for encouraging mining?

**Shri Kanungo:** I have not got that figure, because this decision was taken very recently. In any case, there is no worthwhile export order now.