

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.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I point out that the Minister has not been able to supply any figure? Can we have an assurance that they will be supplied later on?

Mr. Speaker: No assurance can be asked for on the Floor of the House during Question Hour

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

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*532. { **Shri N R Munisamy.**
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri.
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that representatives of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation Employees' Federation and Unions met him on the 14th January, 1959,

(b) if so, the demands of the employees, and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) (a) Yes

(b) Government's intervention is urged with regard to disciplinary action taken by the Corporation against some of its employees

(c) The matter is being examined

Shri N. R. Munisamy. May I know whether out of the various demands submitted by the Federations and Unions one is that the employers are creating discordance and disharmony among the workers and, if so, whether any examination has been made? What is the result?

Shri Abid Ali: The matter is being examined. All those things that were placed before us have been referred to an officer for examination.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether the service conditions will also be covered by the Pay Commission?

Shri Abid Ali: Their service conditions have also been mentioned

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know if it is a fact that the President and Secretary of the Calcutta Union have been victimised and dismissed without notice for their legal trade union activities and, if so, what steps have been taken to reinstate them?

Shri Abid Ali: They were not victimised, they were considered unsuitable and so they were sent out

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal. May I know whether these reasons are given in the dismissal letters?

Shri Abid Ali. They were served with one month's notice because they were not considered suitable

Shri Tangamani. May I know whether the ESI Corporation has recognized the ESI Employees' Federation? Is it a fact that after the formation of this Union indiscriminate transfers of the office bearers of the Union who are in Madras city have taken place?

Shri Abid Ali. The Federation has not been recognized because it has not complied with the rules which have been framed in this behalf. There have been some transfers, but they are not because of trade union activities

Shri Tangamani: The Deputy Minister said that the dispute between the Corporation and its employees has been taken up by the Ministry. May I know what steps the Ministry propose to take in this particular matter?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): The representatives of the workers from various centres met me some time back and they had their complaints. I told them, rather assured them, that they would be looked into. I appointed a special officer to go into all these matters and if it is found that any wrong has been done