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Chaitra 9, 1881 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Seventh Session)



(Vol. XXVIII contains Nos. 31—40)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

62 n P (INLAND)

THREE SHILLINGS (FOREIGN)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

8423

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 30, 1959/Chaitra 9,
1881 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Shri Rajendra Singh.

If, hereafter, I find the first person
in whose name a question stands is
absent consecutively for three days,
I will put him in the end.

Next question.

International Scouts Conference in Delhi

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*1538. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Education be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there
is a proposal to hold an International
Scouts Conference in Delhi during
1959;

(b) if so, whether the date and ex-
act venue have been fixed;

(c) whether all the countries in
the world will be represented in the
Conference;

(d) whether the Government of
India will bear all the expenses; and

(e) if so, the amount set apart for
this purpose?

3 LSD—1

8424

The Minister of Education (Dr. K.
L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.
The 17th International Scouts Con-
ference will be held in New Delhi
from the 28th July to 4th August,
1959.

(c) Sixty nine member countries
which are affiliated to the Boy Scouts
International Bureau are expected to
be represented.

(d) and (e). The Government of
India will not bear all the expenses.
However, the question of giving the
Bharat Scouts and Guides some finan-
cial assistance for this purpose is
under examination. No decision has
been taken regarding the amount to
be paid.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know
who else will bear the expenses?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Bharat Scouts.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know
whether Government have any approx-
imate idea about the persons that
will join the conference?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The members of
the conference.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I
know if guides will also attend this
conference, and if there is a separate
fund set apart for helping the guides
to join the conference?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: All those who
are members of this conference will
attend it.

Mr Speaker: Shri Vajpayee

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: My
question has not been answered

Mr. Speaker: Has it not been an-
swered?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have said all those who are members of this conference will attend it

Shri Vajpayee: May I know the total amount which has been asked for by the Bharat Scouts for the conference?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: They have asked for Rs 50,000

Shri E. C. Majhi: May I know for how many days this conference will be held?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have already answered from the 28th July, to 4th August, 1959

Shri Tangamani: May I know how many countries have so far responded to the invitation for this Seventeenth Conference?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: We have not issued the invitation. As I have said, it is the Boy Scouts International Bureau which organises the conference, and the Bharat Scouts in India will be the hosts

Income-Tax Investigation Commission

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*1539. { **Shri S. C. Samanta.**
Shri Subodh Hansda.
Shri Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the brief accounts and a number of typical instances submitted by the Income-tax Investigations Commission about the methods of evasion adopted by the assesseees have been scrutinised by Government, and

(b) if so, whether relevant details have been compiled and communicated to all the Income-tax Officers in the country for their future guidance?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) and (b) The annual administration reports of the Income-tax Investigation Commission gave brief accounts of the methods of

evasion adopted by the assesseees whose cases were being investigated and also cited a number of typical instances. Copies of these reports have been furnished to the Commissioners of Income-tax for being distributed to the Income-tax Officers. In their latest report for the period 1-1-1954 to 31-3-1958 the Commission suggested that the Government should arrange to compile from their records information about the various devices adopted by the assesseees and the methods adopted by the Commission to detect these concealments and that this information should be communicated to all the Officers of the Income-tax Department

The suggestion of the Commission has been accepted by the Government. The work of compiling this information is bound to take time as the records of the Commission which have to be gone through are voluminous. It is being taken in hand and the information will be communicated to the Income-tax Officers in due course

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether in the meantime any brief note, instead of these exhaustive notes have been issued to the income-tax officers?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: No, Sir. It is proposed to issue exhaustive notes, not brief notes. Sometimes they are misleading

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know whether the Government have got any idea about the total amount which is evaded by the people who have been alleged by this Investigation Commission to have evaded tax-

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The total amount of evasion in these cases, or the general question of evasion?

Shri Tangamani: For this period from 1-1-1954 to 31-3-1958

Shri B. E. Bhagat: In the cases which were investigated, the concealed income and tax involved were Rs 47.73 crores and Rs 29.42 crores

respectively for the whole period investigated

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the probable *modus operandi* suggested by Prof Kaldor for tax evasion was investigated into, if so, whether the correctness of the typical instances is established?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Naturally, they are benefited by the methods suggested by Prof Kaldor, but most of these cases were investigated earlier than the arrival of Prof Kaldor on the scene

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know how many cases of tax evasion were found in 1957-58?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I want notice for that

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Out of the amount evaded, how much amount has been realised so far?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I do not have the figure just now, but off-hand I can say about Rs 12 crores have been realised

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this committee has also suggested writing off certain amount? If so, what is the amount, why have they suggested that?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I want notice for this

Mr Speaker: He wants notice

Shri Tangamani: The question is whether there has been evasion, and we would like to know whether this committee suggested writing off, and if so the amount.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I should be allowed to put another question

May I know whether the assessmen, of Prof Kaldor about the total income-tax evasion has been found correct by this committee, and the estimate it has made?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No, Sir Government have considered it and I say that it is on the high side

Mr. Speaker: Has the Committee's report been placed on the Table of the House?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It was not considered by this committee. The question is about the general question of evasion as determined by Prof Kaldor. To that I say we have considered it, and we think that it is on the very high side

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What is their estimates? Prof Kaldor says this is to the tune of Rs 300 crores, as far as I remember

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From part (c) of the question

Shri Braj Raj Singh: He says it is very much on the high side. What is his estimate?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: There is no (c) here

Mr Speaker: Where is (c)? The hon Member is looking at another question.

Scheduled Areas

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*1549. { Shri R. C. Majhi.
 { Shri Subodh Hansda.

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Central Government have requested all the State Governments to submit their suggestion for the revision of scheduled areas in the States, and

(b) if so, how many States have so far submitted their suggestions?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The following State Governments which have Scheduled Areas have

been requested to send their proposals —

- 1 Andhra Pradesh
- 2 Bihar
- 3 Bombay.
4. Madhya Pradesh.
- 5 Punjab
- 6 Orissa, and
- 7 Rajasthan.

(b) The States of Bihar, Punjab and Rajasthan have so far sent their suggestions

Shri E. C. Majhi: What are the main criteria for the inclusion or otherwise of scheduled areas?

Shri Datar: The question is under consideration as to whether the same original criteria should be maintained, or whether new criteria should be accepted as to whether there are certain areas where the ordinary rules should not apply, and secondly what should be the percentage of the concentration of the Scheduled Tribes

Shri E. C. Majhi: May I know whether the State Governments have taken the approval of the State Tribes Advisory Council before submitting their proposals?

Shri Datar: This question relates to scheduled areas. After the State Governments' views are received, Government will have to consider whether Schedule V of the Constitution will have to be amended

Shri E. C. Majhi: Is the approval of the State Tribes Advisory Councils taken?

Shri Datar: It is for the State Governments to ascertain the views of the Advisory Councils, wherever they are

श्री बिभूति मिश्र ने जानना चाहता है कि बिहार के कौन कौन से जिलों में ये सिड्यूल्ड एरियाज डिक्लेयर किये गये हैं ।

Shri Datar: The hon. Member can see from the Scheduled Areas Order of 1950 It is long in use

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether the Assam State has submitted any proposal in this connection?

Shri Datar: Some State Governments have indicated certain additional areas They have now to be considered.

Mr. Speaker: He asked whether the Assam Government submitted any proposal.

Dr. M. S. Aney: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government of India to reduce the Scheduled Areas or to increase them?

Shri Datar: Our policy is that these areas should, as far as possible, be brought up to the normal level of proper administration. Therefore, as far as possible, they should not be increased

Shri Tyagi: May I know if the treatment meted out to the citizens residing within the prescribed Scheduled Areas is common to all or any preferential treatment is given to the Scheduled Tribes living in that area as against others in the same condition?

Shri Datar: Generally, in the Scheduled Areas, there is the largest concentration of the Scheduled Tribes, tribal people. If there are also others in those areas, the question of giving benefits is to be considered

Shri Tyagi: I want to know what is the position today, whether others living in the same conditions of poverty and starvation are given the same preferential treatment as is given to their neighbours, the tribal people

Shri Datar: So far as these other people are concerned, the Government look after them out of their general funds. So far as the development of tribal areas is concerned special funds are given to them

Shri Tyagi: That is not my point

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member does not make his intention clear even in two questions

Shri Tyagi: My intention is this I want to know whether others living in the same area and in the same economic conditions are given equitable treatment as is given to those who belong to the Scheduled Tribes

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): So far as the general law and order rights are concerned, they are common to all citizens, whether they belong to the Scheduled Tribes or to others. So far as developmental matters go, there is a general fund, the benefit of which is available to every citizen and every class and every section. There are some special allotments and grants made for the Scheduled Tribes that are available exclusively to the members of the Scheduled Tribes. There are also certain grants intended for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. Those who come within those categories receive that benefit, in addition to what they can get out of the general fund—from those grants.

Shri Tyagi: So, Sir, may I take it

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of 'So, Sir' Shri Bhakt Darshan

श्री भक्त दर्शन माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से यह स्पष्ट है कि जिन राज्यों में इस समय शैड्यूल्ड एरियाज हैं, वही जो राज्य सरकारों से इस बारे में राय मांगी गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन राज्यों में अभी तक शैड्यूल्ड एरियाज नहीं हैं क्या उन राज्य सरकारों में मे किमी राज्य सरकार से भी इस बारे में पूछा गया है या किमी राज्य सरकार ने सुझाव दिया है और क्या उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार से इंडो तिब्बत बोर्डर को शैड्यूल्ड एरिया बनाने के बारे में कोई सुझाव प्राप्त हुआ है ?

श्री गो० ब० पन्त जी नहीं ।

Shri Tyagi: From the explanation given by the Home Minister, I have concluded that a person not belonging to the Scheduled Castes but residing in the same area. . .

Mr. Speaker: Even in the Scheduled Areas, special attention is bestowed upon the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, to the extent allowed to them whether inside or outside the Scheduled Area

Shri Tyagi: My question is whether the other persons living in the same conditions of poverty are given the same preferential treatment.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. The hon Member is trying to argue and force the Government to do away with certain privileges given to the Scheduled Tribes

Shri Tyagi: No, Sir

Mr. Speaker: Merely because non-scheduled Tribes are living in Scheduled Areas, should preferential treatment be given to them also? Whatever is possible is being done. The answer is clear, unless the hon Member wants to impose upon the Government a particular course of action. He might take another opportunity to discuss this matter

Shri Tyagi: Thank you.

Violation of Foreign Exchange Regulations.

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|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| *1541 | { | Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: |
| | | Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: |
| | | Shri S. M. Banerjee: |
| | | Shri Tangamani: |
| | | Shri A. K. Gopalan: |
| | | Shri Vajpayee: |
| | | Shri Nagi Reddy: |
| | | Shri Vasudevan Nair: |
| | | Shri Rami Reddy: |
| | | Shri D. C. Sharma: |
| Shri Parulekar: | | |
| Shri Jagannatha Rao: | | |
| Shri P. C. Borooah: | | |

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 300 on the 28th November, 1958 and state:

(a) what is the present stage of the adjudication proceedings started

against Shri S P Jain under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act;

(b) whether explanation of the party, as per notice served on him, has been received, and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by the Director of Enforcement about adjudicating the matter?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr B. Gopala Reddi): (a) to (c) Shri Jain's explanation in regard to the existence of a Deutsche Mark account in West Germany has been received. His arguments in defence have also been heard and the hearing completed. The case is now awaiting the final orders of the Director of Enforcement.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: What are the salient features or points of the explanation submitted by Shri Jain?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: The matter is before a quasi-judicial authority. The whole matter is *sub judice*.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: No, Sir. I only wanted to know the salient points of the explanation given.

Mr. Speaker: Explanation won't be given. The matter is pending before a tribunal. All these details ought not to be asked here.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Have Government decided whether Shri Jain is to be proceeded against under section 23(A) or section 23(B) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: This is not a matter for Government. It is for the Director of Enforcement, a quasi-judicial authority, to decide the matter.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that a statement has been made that Shri Jain has a large bank deposit in West Germany, may I know whether he actually took the permission of the Government to open this bank account? If not, what

steps are proposed to be taken on that account?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: He has not taken any permission at all. If permission was taken, there would have been no question of inquiry, adjudication etc. But his explanation is now being considered by the Director of Enforcement. It is *sub judice*.

Shri S M Banerjee: In reply to a previous question, the hon. Minister stated that a diary was also seized. May I know what was contained in the diary and whether it is a fact? May I know what was contained in this diary had necessitated more serious investigation?

Mr. Speaker: How can the hon. Minister carry in his mind what is contained in the diary?

Shri Tangamani: In reply to a previous question, the Minister stated that there was an attempt to seize the document, and the document was recovered from him and it contained valuable information also. So as a result of that, was a separate prosecution launched?

Mr. Speaker: Order order. That is another matter. And when I am dealing with Shri S M Banerjee, why should Shri Tangamani get up and ask this question? Shri S M Banerjee wanted to know from the hon. Minister what are the contents of the diary. This is too much.

Shri D C Sharma: May I know if there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act in order to make the procedure of enforcement more speedy and deterrent?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: No, Sir.

Shri Tangamani: Why has there been delay in launching a prosecution against Shri Jain when under similar circumstances, the son of Shri Ramnath Goenka was prosecuted and

find before the Presidency Magistrate, Madras?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I do not know about that case, but, as I said, the arguments were concluded in the first week of February, and it is being considered by the Director. There is no inordinate delay in the matter.

Shri Nagi Reddy: In answer to the previous question, it was stated that the documents seized contained a diary and some papers which appeared to indicate maintenance of foreign currency accounts by Shri Jain. May I know whether Government have calculated the total amount as per those documents maintained in foreign currency accounts by Shri Jain?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: The Director of Enforcement is looking into the matter. That is the matter which is being investigated and also adjudicated.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: In view of the fact that it was stated that evidence was closed as long ago as the first week of February, why is there so much delay in the Director of Enforcement submitting his award?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: Some complicated documents were produced in evidence. They are being looked into.

Shri Nagi Reddy: It was said last time that an unsuccessful attempt was made by Shri Jain to snatch away and tear off some documents. May I know why Government have not initiated criminal proceedings against him for interfering with the implementation of justice?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow that question. It does not arise out of the question.

Shri Nagi Reddy: The question relates to a person trying to violate the foreign exchange regulations. The question asked was whether he tried

to interfere with the administration of justice.

Mr. Speaker: But is that referred to in this question?

Shri Nagi Reddy: Yes.

Shri Vittal Rao: rose—

Mr. Speaker: How can all hon. Members ask questions at the same time? I am asking Shri Nagi Reddy to ask his question. Why should Shri T. B. Vittal Rao get up?

Shri Nagi Reddy: The question was put last time and an answer was given by the Finance Minister that an unsuccessful attempt was made by him to snatch and tear away some of the documents. My question is why no action or criminal proceedings were taken against him for trying to obstruct a government officer from doing his duty.

Mr. Speaker: How does this arise out of this question?

Shri Nagi Reddy: This question is on foreign exchange. At that time when the government officer tried to get at the documents there was an attempt made—a conscious and powerful attempt—to tear away the documents themselves.

Mr. Speaker: I do not allow this.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Should I put a different question?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow the hon. Member to put the same question in a different form.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Should I place a different question on the Table for that?

Mr. Speaker: Certainly, if the hon. Member wants to elicit information on a particular matter which does not arise out of this here, I need not instruct him what to do. He should put a different question.

Shri Punnoose: May I point out that it has reference to a question....

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vajpayee.

Shrimati Bena Chakravartty: I would like to have a clarification, Sir. If a particular question arises out of an answer to an earlier question, are we not entitled to ask a question to elicit further information?

Mr. Speaker: My answer would be this. Unless that question arises out of this question now before us, I would not allow it. The question may arise out of another question. The hon. Member may table another question. Hon. Minister cannot be expected to carry every blessed thing in their minds in order to answer every possible question whether arising out of this or not.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It was said in the reply.....

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Vajpayee.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if the Government have issued any instructions or directions to the Director of Enforcement regarding prosecutions to be launched against Shri S. P. Jain; and, if so, what is the nature of those instructions?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: The question does not arise at all.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has already said it is an autonomous body. Therefore, it is left to that body to launch prosecutions or not.

Solar Energy

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*1542. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the extent to which experiments for harnessing solar energy, which were being conducted in the laboratories under the Central Government, have been successful?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun

Kabir): Some success has been achieved by the National Physical Laboratory in designing a solar water heater for the supply of hot water for domestic use. The Laboratory has also developed a method for distilling water for use in places where the water supply is brackish and cannot be directly used for drinking or cooking.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the total amount spent so far on this solar heater?

Shri Humayun Kabir: No separate account is maintained as this is a part of the normal work of the National Physical Laboratory.

Shri Bose: May I know if Government are aware of the fact that a very advanced type of this solar energy apparatus has been invented in other countries, especially in Russia, and may I know also whether Government is taking advantage of those things?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We have seen newspaper reports to that effect; but, we have no further information.

Steel Plants

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*1543. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Osman Ali Khan:
Shri Assar:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Damani:
Shri Khadiwala:
Shri K. B. Malviya:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in setting up of the three steel plants;

(b) the total amount spent so far and the amount likely to be spent during 1959-60 (plant-wise);

(e) the final date by which the plants will be completed and they will go into full production; and

(d) how the present market price of iron compares with the iron produced at Bhilai and Rourkela?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure, No. 88.]

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the total amount of pig iron produced so far by these three steel plants?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As the hon. Member would, no doubt, be aware, Durgapur has not yet started producing pig iron. One blast furnace each at Rourkela and Bhilai has started producing pig iron. In the course of the day I will make another detailed statement about production.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिलाई और रूरकेला इन दो कारखानों में सोहा पैदा हो रहा है इसलिये क्या सरकार लोहे पर से कंट्रोल हटाने जा रही है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : नहीं, ऐसा कोई विचार नहीं है ।

श्री भक्त बर्षन : जो विवरण दिया गया है उनमें पर्सोनेल के बारे में यह लिखा गया है कि

"At present, there are 14,200 workers employed by the Rourkela project direct and 45,400 by the contractors."

तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो ये कर्मचारी हैं उनके ऊपर भारत सरकार का क्या नियंत्रण है, इसलिये कि ऐसी रिपोर्टें मिली हैं कि रूरकेला में बहुत से जर्मन कारीगर समय समय पर उपद्रव करते रहते हैं। इस तरह की बहुत सी शिकायतें भक्तबार्सों में भी आयी हैं ।

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : वह पुरानी शिकायतें थीं और वह बहुत कुछ दूर भी हो चुकी हैं ।

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if the blast furnaces and the open hearths in Rourkela and Bhilai will go into complete production at the end of this year as originally planned?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do hope that the schedule indicated from time to time will be adhered to.

Shri N. R. Munsamy: May I know the probable cost of production of pig iron in Rourkela and Bhilai projects?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is too early yet to make an assessment of the cost. We are still in the initial stages.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government propose to institute a well-staffed cost accounting organisation for the steel plants as for other industrial undertakings? If so, what is the progress made so far in this respect?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That will arise when we go into production. That is a suggestion for action and it will be given very careful consideration.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether it is a fact that the foundations laid for some of the buildings in Durgapur have not been properly done and, therefore, there is the danger of the machinery not being placed properly there?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I had received some reports. And, the hon. Member must have noticed the statement made by the British Consortium that some defects have been noticed. But they have assured that the requisite strength will be assured and that delay will be avoided and that will not entail any additional expenditure to the project.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know what is the daily production of pig iron in Rourkela and what was the original estimate?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the figure for today; obviously the day is still running. But the order of production in Rourkela is about 500 tons

a day. It is much below the rated capacity because the tilting arrangement is showing some defects. It is hoped that it will be rectified.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The piling which was done in Durgapur has been found to be defective. It is not clearly given in the statement. What exactly is the defect? Is it that piling was to be done to a very much greater depth than it has been done or is it only for the steel melting shops or for a much wider area?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The whole matter is being investigated and I cannot really say anything unless the investigation has been done as to what would be the extent of the area affected. But I have been assured that we will not be called upon to incur any additional expenditure and all delay will be avoided. So, I think, on that we should be content.

सेठ अचल सिंह क्या मंत्री महादय यह बतवाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन दो प्लान्ट्स में जो पिल आयरन तैयार किया जा रहा है वह देश में ही खर्च हो रहा है या बाहर भी भेजा जा रहा है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : दारों जगह ।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister stated that it is being investigated. May I know whether it is being investigated by any officer of the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., because we were told that some Indian engineer detected the mistake?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The engineers of the steel plant are also being associated with the investigation.

Shri Goray: The hon. Minister stated that the defects are being remedied and there will be no additional expenditure and no delay. I can understand that regarding the expenditure. But, how is it that he is satisfied that there will be no delay?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Because it is expected that they will step it up. In certain parts the superstructure has not yet started and the piles are there

Before the actual superstructure is started further piling can be driven or underpinning can be undertaken. It is a technical matter. They have assured that they will expedite. (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker: The Demands are coming up. As many of the hon. Members as catch my eye will have an opportunity.

Marking System of Voting

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*1544. { Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Goray:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of voting by marked 'ballot paper' was reviewed in November-December, 1958 by the Election Commission in consultation with the four All India Parties;

(b) whether any other matter concerning election procedure etc. was also discussed at that conference; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Yes, Sir. The marking system of voting was reviewed at a conference of the All-India Political Parties held by the Election Commission on the 28th November, 1958.

(b) The other matters which were discussed at the Conference were —

(i) Employment of minors in election campaigns;

(ii) reduction of election expenses incurred by (1) candidates, and (2) Government; and

(iii) suggestions for securing the accuracy of electoral rolls.

(c) The representatives of the all-India political parties who attended the above conference as well as the Chief Electoral Officers who met in a

conference recently convened by the Chief Election Commissioner are in favour of the adoption of the 'marking system' of voting in the next general elections. The question as to how far this system can be adopted in the third General Elections is being carefully considered by the Election Commission. As regards employment of minors, the conference agreed that it was neither desirable nor practicable to check the evil by legislation and that parties should endeavour to establish a convention about not employing minors, particularly the school students in electioneering activities.

The discussions on the measures to be adopted to check increase in election expenses were inconclusive. The political parties desired to examine the question further. It was decided that they would send their suggestions to the Election Commission in due course.

On the question of securing the accuracy of electoral rolls, various suggestions were considered, but no decision as such was taken.

Pandit D N Tiwary: May I know whether any legislation has been introduced or recommended about the employment of minor children?

Shri Hajarnavis: No, Sir.

Pandit D. N Tiwary: How will the employment of minor children for election purposes be eliminated?

Shri Hajarnavis: The suggestion before the Election Commission is that the parties should adopt a convention by which they will desist from employing minor children.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Election Commission and the parties were apprised of the percentage of wrong marking of ballot papers? What was the percentage of wrong marking under the old method and what was the percentage under the new method? What was the difference in percentage?

Shri Hajarnavis: I cannot give comparisons between the old and new systems. In the new system it has

ranged from 7 per cent in Bhawanipur in West Bengal to 148 per cent in Omarkot in Orissa.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know if details of suggestions of different parties had been received about the reduction of election expenses?

Shri Hajarnavis: I should like to have notice of this question.

Shri Goray: The Minister told us that different parties had been approached not to use minors. What is their reaction?

Shri Hajarnavis: The suggestions have not yet come.

सेठ गोबिन्द दास . चूंकि यह देश गरीब है और चुनावों में विधान सभाओं के और पार्लियामेंट के, दोनों में ही बहुत रुपया खर्च होता है तो इसलिये क्या इस बात पर गवर्नमेन्ट कुछ विचार कर रही है कि विधान सभाओं के और पार्लियामेंट के इनडाइरेक्ट चुनाव किये जायें और इस मन्त्र में सविधान में कोई परिवर्तन की जरूरत हो तो क्या वह परिवर्तन किया जायेगा ?

श्री हजारनवीस एसा काई विचार नहीं है ।

Mr Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Raghunir Sahal: May I know if this new system of marking has been tried in rural areas and if so in how many places and with what results?

Shri Hajarnavis: I can give full information if the hon Member wants. But I may tell him that it was tried in a predominantly Adivasi area—Bhiloda—and it was fairly successful.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: The polling hours had been fixed from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. without any interval and this is causing great inconvenience to the voters living in the rural areas. May

I know whether this aspect has been discussed by the Election Commission?

Shri Hajarnavis: That hardly arises out of this question. But so far the Election Commission have not received any complaint in this behalf.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government of India to change the criteria for recognition of the All India Parties? There are the criteria according to which four parties have been recognised. May I know whether the Government will go according to the strength of the political parties in the country and not only according to the votes polled by them at the time of the General Election?

Shri Hajarnavis: The decision is that of the Election Commission and it would be free to adopt any criteria which it thinks fit.

श्री बाजराजसिंह : क्या यह सच है कि इस बैठक में चुनावों के खर्च को कम करने के लिये यह सुझाव दिया गया था कि चुनाव के दिन पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट के साथ साथ प्राइवेट ट्रांसपोर्ट के चलने पर भी रोक लगा दी जाय और यदि हां तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

श्री हजारनवीस : इस बारे में चर्चा चली होगी और शायद यह सोचा भी गया होगा लेकिन अभी तक इस के बारे में कोई बात तय नहीं हुई है ।

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: What is the percentage of reduction in the expenses by the new method as compared to the old method?

Shri Hajarnavis: That has not been worked out.

Reorganisation of Delhi Administration.

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*1545. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether work regarding the reorganisation of Delhi Administration has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the main features of the reorganisation?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) The reorganisation of the secretariat of the Delhi Administration has been completed and brought into effect from December 1, 1958. The extension of the process of reorganisation to the offices of local heads of departments is in progress. The taxation departments, namely, Sales Tax, Excise, Stamps, Registration and Entertainment Tax, have already been integrated and reorganised under the administrative control of one departmental head.

(b) The main features of the reorganised set-up for the Secretariat are:

- (1) Reduction in size, involving 4 posts of officers and 42 ministerial posts;
- (2) Provision, to the extent practicable, for the Heads of Departments to function directly under the Chief Commissioner without the interposition of a Secretary
- (3) Regrouping of branches to ensure better co-ordination and cohesion.

Similar considerations of increasing efficiency and speed, and of economy, are being borne in mind in extending the process of reorganisation to the offices of Heads of Departments.

Shri Tangamani: As a result of the reorganisation of the set-up what is the estimated saving per year?

Shri G. B. Pant: The savings in the Delhi Secretariat will come to about a lakh of rupees per year.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there is a proposal to replace the office of the Chief Commissioner by the office of Chief Administrator with reduced powers?

Shri G. B. Pant: No.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether, after the reorganisation, the abnormal delay that was taking place in the disposal of cases would be minimised?

Shri G. B. Pant: I think there is no abnormal delay; there is not even any "normal" delay.

Shri Anwar Harvani: May I know if there is a proposal to have a non-official as head of the State of Delhi?

Shri G. B. Pant: I am not aware of it myself.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the scheme of reorganisation worked out by the Home Ministry is proposed to be limited to Delhi Administration or whether there is any proposal to extend it to other Union Territories also and, if so what is the progress made so far?

Shri G. B. Pant: The other territory which calls for similar consideration without further delay is that of Himachal Pradesh. It is being examined.

श्री अन्त बर्मान : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि दिल्ली प्रशासन का जो पुनर्संगठन किया गया है उस के फलस्वरूप कितने लोग कम किये गये हैं और जिन को हटाया गया है उन्हें कोई दूसरा रोजगार देने की क्या व्यवस्था की गई है ?

श्री गो० ब० पन्त : करीब ४६ श्रादमी यहाँ पर कम हुए हैं । उन की तादाद वहाँ कम की गई मगर किसी को अलग नहीं किया गया और वे दूसरी जगह खपा दिये गये हैं ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if similar schemes of reorganisation are being undertaken in connection with the other Union Territories and, if so, what are those Union Territories?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he answered just now.

Shri G. B. Pant: As I just now said, the other Union Territory which seems to be similarly situated is that of Himachal Pradesh.

Advances Against Foodgrains

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*1546. { Shri L. Achaw Singh:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank has directed all scheduled banks to restrict advances especially against foodgrains;

(b) if so, the nature of the directive; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to ensure that advances on commodities other than foodgrains are not utilised for the purpose of speculation in foodgrains?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes.

(b) The latest directive dated the 29th December, 1958 requires every scheduled bank to restrict its advances against paddy and rice, wheat and other foodgrains, during each month in 1959, to the level of the advances actually granted in respect of the relevant commodity during the corresponding month of 1958, these levels being also enforced separately in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in respect of rice and paddy, and in the Punjab, in respect of wheat, as additional and independent ceilings in those areas.

(c) The evidence available does not indicate any significant diversion of advances on commodities other than foodgrains for purposes of speculation in foodgrains.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether there is any proposal to make advances to co-operative societies for the procurement of paddy and rice; if so, whether actually any

advances have been made to any co-operative society?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: There are advances made to co-operative societies, but not for procurement of paddy and rice. They are not the agencies at present.

Shri Jadhav: May I know what was the total amount of advances against foodgrains made by the various banks in the year 1957-58?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: Total advances against foodgrains?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, that is what he wants to know.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I have got here monthly figures, and it will be difficult to total them up now. It is better to take the figures at any particular date. For example, the total advances made in January, 1957 against foodgrains was Rs 24.25 crores. In January, 1958 it came down to Rs 16.38 crores. The latest figure is for January, 1959, when it has further gone down to Rs 15.09 crores.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What is the position in June, every year?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The trend is the same even if you take the month of June. In June 1957 it was Rs 37.69 crores and it came down to Rs 24.74 crores in June, 1958.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether speculation in foodgrains generally results in fluctuation of foodgrains prices, and whether in view of the present trend of foodgrains prices Government propose to impose a ban on speculation in foodgrains?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: It is easy to impose a ban, but it is very difficult to enforce it. That is why a fine instrument as the selective control of credit for foodgrains has been evolved. It has been perfected, and so far, in the limited field, because I consider that the prices of foodgrains cannot be controlled effectively by the negative method of selective control

of credit, it has been successful. And, I say, of late the prices have been coming down in respect of foodgrains.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: From what the hon. Deputy Minister has said, the advances are still quite substantial, in terms of tens of crores. In view of the urgency of the food problem, is there any proposal to make these restrictions more effective so that advances on foodgrains are more or less stopped in the near future?

Mr. Speaker: She wants to know whether any other measures will be taken. The hon. Minister has just answered.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The other measures, are direct measures, positive measures for which we have power under the Essential Supplies Act for directly controlling trade and speculation in foodgrains. There are other methods, and they are being evolved and are being introduced.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: What I said was, the advances are being reduced too gradually. My question was, is there any proposal to reduce these advances sharply so that the advances against foodgrains are stopped altogether?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: From Rs 37 crores it has come down to Rs 16 crores, almost half. The Reserve Bank goes into this and determines the requirements of trade. There are legitimate requirements of the trade as well, apart from speculation and other undesirable practices. Therefore, the Reserve Bank goes into all this and issues directives in order to prevent or curb speculation and promote legitimate trade. We cannot, therefore, put a ban on all advances.

Shri Tyagi: Is it the policy of the Government to recognise village co-operatives as their agents in their set-up of State trading in foodgrains, and, if so, will the same restrictions on advances apply to co-operative

societies as well, as are applied to individuals today?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: That proposal is being worked out, and when State trading is introduced the matter will come before the House in some way or the other and the House will have an opportunity to give its opinion on it

Shri Achar: Are the Government aware that the very same individuals who take money against food security are taking advances against some other securities?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: There is always some risk in the same persons taking advances under various heads and also using the advances against one for the other purpose. But, of late the Reserve Bank has been examining this and through periodical inspections which have been made more frequent they have been trying to check it. Also, now the Reserve Bank, beyond certain limits of clear or secured advances, beyond Rs 1 lakh in one case or beyond Rs 5 lakhs in the other, scrutinises all such limits which are submitted to it every fortnight. Therefore, the chances of such malpractices, using one advance against another or for speculative purposes are very much minimised if not stopped altogether.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon Minister admits that some people have resorted to malpractices. May I know what action has been taken against them, whether there is any single instance of any action taken against anybody?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: If the hon Member tables a separate question I will find out and give the information. Certainly, if they are found out action is taken against them under the law.

Pipe Fabricating Plant

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1548 { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Shivanadappa:
Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government of India to establish a pipe fabricating plant at Rourkela, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up a pipe fabricating plant in the public sector. The location and other details are under consideration.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government is consulting any foreign firm or foreign technician so far as the setting up of this plant is concerned, and, if so, what kind of advice the Government has received and from whom?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Yes, the Government has contacted many commercial firms in foreign countries.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether global tenders will be invited for this purpose, or only tenders from Indian firms will be invited?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): It is too early to make a commitment on that.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Will this plant also fabricate pipes which will be suitable to carry gas from the steel plants as it proposed to be done at Durgapur?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: At present the proposal is about fabrication of pipe for oil refinery for carrying crude oil to the oil refinery.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If I may add, later on we may also fabricate the other type of pipes.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that we have got a cast iron pipe foundry attached to the Indian Iron and Steel and also, I think, at Bhadravati, will it not be better to establish this pipe fabricating plant side by side with the one at Bhadravati rather than start a new one at Rourkela?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the processes are entirely different. One is cast iron. The technique in the other kind is entirely different. This is steel pipe. There is really nothing common between the two either in the raw material or in the process of manufacture.

शेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या इस प्लांट के साथ स्टेनलैस स्टील और एलाय मेटल का प्लांट लगाने की योजना भी है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : वह अलाहिदा योजना है। इस से उस का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

Shri Dasappa: Is this plant the same as the one at Kulti, or is it different? Is it not of the spun-pipe foundry type?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As I answered a moment ago, this will be steel pipe and not iron pipe. At Kulti and Bhadravati it is cast iron pipe.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The hon. Minister says that this is for steel pipes. My point is that Bhadravati produces steel also; it is not producing iron only. There is a steel section. Therefore, will it not be better to utilise this—it is only for the fabrication of a pipe lines for the Oil India Limited—and have it in Bhadravati?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the hon. lady Member is unnecessarily compelling me to take a position. The

fact is that there is not enough of plate at Bhadravati. Secondly, the points of consumption and utilisation are likely to be very very far removed from Bhadravati because the pipe line has to be put up in Assam and Bihar. So, it will create a very big transport problem to transport it from Bhadravati.

Mr. Speaker: She does not want in Durgapur; is it not? I think what Shri Dasappa should ask, the hon. lady Member is asking.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if any criteria have been decided upon for the location of this plant, or, are the Planning Commission considering the location of the plant as they are considering the location of other plants, for intermediate chemicals and others, nearby the steel plants?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is not a question of theory or deciding criteria. As soon as we decide the criteria, we decide the location also.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: About the consideration by the Planning Commission regarding the location?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not necessary. The Planning Commission is not bothered about matters of detail. It will look into the bigger questions of policy.

Excavation at Bodh Gaya

*1549. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 354 on the 17th February, 1959 and state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which the excavation of a site near Bodh Gaya by a Japanese team has been undertaken; and

(b) whether the Japanese team has approached Government for further excavations in India?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) The terms and conditions were as follows:—

- (i) They could carry out excavations for one month.
- (ii) The antiquities found by them during the excavations were to be made over to the District Magistrate, Gaya
- (iii) The trenches excavated were to be filled up when the excavations were over
- (iv) No cost was to be incurred by us for the excavations and for filling up of the trenches dug by the party.

(b) No, Sir

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether the work of excavation has started, and if not, when it is going to be started?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I would invite the attention of the hon Member to the answer that I gave on the 17th February

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the co-operation of our Archaeological Department was asked for in this excavation work by the Japanese team and, if not, whether the Archaeological Department is going to be associated in assessing the historical value of the antiquities?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said just now, this question was answered before on the 17th February. The Archaeological Department gave the team whatever help was necessary but it carried out the excavations itself. As for assessing the things, all the things will be kept in India and when we decide about the things, we can give the team whatever we think it is entitled to take

Pensions for U.P.S.C. Members

*1562. Shri Ayyakanna: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant pensions to the members of

the Union Public Service Commission; and

(b) if so, how many of them would be benefited?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Under the rules now in force, persons who were already in pensionable service at the time of appointment to the Union Public Service Commission count for pension their service as Chairman or Member of the Commission. The question of providing pension to other Members of the Commission is under consideration of the Government.

Shri Ayyakanna: In view of the fact that the members of the Union Public Service Commission are constitutionally prohibited from taking up any job either in the Centre or in the States, will the Government consider seriously or actively the question of giving them pension?

Shri Datar: That is one of the reasons why the matter is under consideration

Shri Tyagi: May I know if the Government are considering the question of giving pensions to non-pensionable personnel in the Public Service Commission even though they have served only for two, three, four or five years? Will they also be entitled to pension?

Shri Datar: Does the hon. Member refer to the members of the UPSC?

Shri Tyagi: I think the pension is meant for the members in this question

Shri Datar: The pension is with regard to the members of the Public Service Commission

Shri Tyagi: That is what I say

Shri Datar: The question is under consideration

Shri Tyagi: The question is, whether the Government are taking up

for consideration the question of giving pension to those members of the Union Public Service Commission who have served only for four or five years in the Union Public Service Commission.

Shri Datar: The whole question is under consideration.

Shri Tyagi: Is that a matter to be considered at all?

Shri Datar: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member cannot go on arguing.

Shri Tyagi: The point is, they are considering the question of offering pension to members of the Public Service Commission who have served hardly for a few years. Is it a question to be considered at all? (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. So, shall I allow a discussion on this question if the hon. Member does not want that point to be considered? Next question.

**Central Mechanical Engineering
Research Institute at Burgapur**

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*1556. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1233 on the 10th December, 1958 and state what further steps have been taken for the establishment of the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute at Durgapur?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (**Shri Humayun Kabir**): The office of the Institute has shifted to Durgapur. The Architects have drawn up the layout plan of the main building and also for the entire scheme. Necessary land has been procured for the Institute

and for residential quarters. The construction work of the Multipurpose Shed for the Institute has been awarded to contractors and is expected to start shortly. Recruitment of staff and procurement of equipment is in progress.

Shri Samanta: May I know how far the investigational operations have proceeded?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I do not quite follow the question. The main preliminaries have been completed. Land has been acquired; construction work is being started, and the plan for the main building has been prepared. Investigational operation, that is, research work, will follow after the institute is in position.

Shri Samanta: Last time we were told in answer to an unstarred question that all investigational operations would be finished within a year. So, I wanted to know whether that has been done.

Shri Humayun Kabir: All the work necessary has been done.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what are the special branches of mechanical engineering in which research will be undertaken at this institute?

Shri Humayun Kabir: All problems will be investigated in this institute. But the main branches will be (i) materials, (ii) mechanism and machines, (iii) heat engines and heat transfer, (iv) design and production and (v) technical services. If the hon. Member wants the details, I can give them but it is a very long list.

National Youth Centre in New Delhi

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*1557. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri E. C. Majhi:
Shri Kadiyan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Starred Question No. 988 on the 15th December, 1958 and state at what stage is the proposal to develop a part of "the Ridge area" near Talkatora Gardens in New Delhi into a national youth centre?

The Minister of Education (Dr K. L. Shrivastava): The design and estimates of the Centre are under preparation by the CPWD. The required plot has yet to be allotted by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know when the actual work of construction will start?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: As soon as the site is allotted.

श्री जगदीश प्रकाशजी क्या मंत्र महोदय यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि इस प्रस्तावित राष्ट्रीय युवक केंद्र के बनाने में कितना धन व्यय होने का अनुमान है ?

डा० का० सा० श्रीमती डिजाइनर: बर्तमान तैयार हो रहे हैं। उस के बाद ही उस का अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है।

Shri Panigrahi: What will be the main features of this national centre, and what is the total area which is going to be acquired?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: It is proposed that it will require approximately 43 acres of land if all the structures are to be single-storeyed, and 32 acres if all the structures are to be double-storeyed. The main features are, an open-air theatre with a capacity of about 5,000 persons, dormitories—10—seated, 200 and four-seated, 30, dining halls, permanent kitchen, reading-room-cum-conference hall and adequate sanitary arrangements, etc. Also recreation hall for indoor games and play-courts for tennis, volley-ball, basket-ball and gymnasium. Details are being worked out.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know who will be the authority in charge of this youth centre after its completion?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: This is being set up by this Government.

Shri B. C. Samanta: May I know whether all the other Ministries concerned with this work have been consulted?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: Yes, Sir. The various Ministries concerned—the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, the Town Planning Organisation, the CPWD, have been consulted.

Shrivastava: May I know whether such an institute is proposed to be set up anywhere else also in due course?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: Let us start one centre. If we can have the resources, I would certainly like to have more centres set up.

Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme

*1559. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state

(a) whether the Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme is being expanded and further Government aid is being sanctioned in the coming years for its expansion; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to start coaching schools in athletics at places other than Delhi and Bombay?

The Minister of Education (Dr K. L. Shrivastava): (a) The matter has been referred to the All India Council of Sports whose views are awaited.

(b) The question of instituting a Central Coaching School to train coaches in various games and sports including Athletics is under consideration of the Council.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether such a coaching scheme will be started in every State centre to provide year-round coaching for the youth in many other places?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: The whole matter is under consideration. The

matter is being examined by the Sports Council and the Government will await its report before taking a decision in this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government have enquired into the various charges made against the Sports body including misuse of funds, before allocating further sums, and if so, what is the progress so far made in this direction?

Dr K. L. Shrivastava: If any such thing comes to the notice of Government, they do enquire into it

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Refugees from Tibet

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Shri M. E. Masani.
Shri Asoka Mehta:
Shri Frank Anthony:
Shri Nausahir Bharucha:
Shri Geray:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Nek Ram Nagi:

S. N. Q.
No. 15.

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news report in *The Statesman* (Delhi) of March 21 which states —

"The Government of India's present anxiety concerns the movement of refugees towards the long and rambling frontiers India has taken steps to strengthen the check-posts and the orders are that no refugees should be allowed to cross over"

(b) if so, whether the report is correct, and

(c) if not, what is the policy Government propose to follow in the matter of giving effect to international law and practice of giving asylum to political refugees entering the country from Tibet?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The general instructions issued by the Government of India some time ago were that any persons endeavouring to cross our frontier should be stopped at our check post and should not be allowed to cross over unless they have the necessary travel papers. The existing strength of our check posts on the borders is sufficient for dealing with normal movements between India and Tibet. There has thus far not been any substantial increase in the movement of persons from the Tibet region into India. If necessity arises the strength of our check posts will be increased.

2 The general position under International Law is that a State is free to admit or not to admit a foreigner into its territory. This applies to giving asylum also. It is thus a matter entirely in the discretion of the Government concerned. It is the sovereign right of the State to give asylum when it chooses but no individual can insist on obtaining such asylum. Individual cases have to be considered on merits whenever occasion for this arises.

Shri M. E. Masani: Does not the Prime Minister appreciate that since the Chinese authorities have given instructions to their soldiers to shoot at sight any groups or individual Tibetans who may be crossing the frontier into India and carrying out those instructions would mean in fact co-operating in their butchery?

Mr Speaker: What is the hon. Member asking?

An Hon. Member: Speech-making

Mr Speaker: What is his question?

Shri M. E. Masani: Is the Prime Minister aware that Austria, which enjoys a neutral status and had diplomatic relations with Hungary in 1936, threw its frontiers wide open to receive thousands of Hungarian refugees and why cannot this country follow the same brave policy?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Primarily because this is not Austria or Hungary

and secondly because the question has not arisen. As I have said, we have not had any large numbers, or even small numbers, of people, apart from the normal traffic. The question has not arisen; it is a hypothetical question. Whenever any question arises, it will have to be considered in the context of events and conditions there. It is obviously impossible for me to give an answer to a question which has not arisen.

Shri M. E. Masani: If a group of...

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly read Rule 41. Matters involving high policy cannot be asked in a question.

Shri M. E. Masani: Would you allow me to elucidate the answer given by the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is going on giving suggestions. He is not eliciting information.

Shri M. E. Masani: I am eliciting information.

Mr. Speaker: What is it?

Shri M. E. Masani: Will the Prime Minister explain what would happen if a party of 25 or 30 Tibetans who are followed in hot pursuit by Chinese forces come to the frontier? Will their lives be protected or will they be allowed to be butchered?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member is also a barrister. This is irrelevant according to all standards. Hypothetical questions cannot be asked.

Shri Frank Anthony: The Prime Minister has said that it is always within the discretion of a sovereign power to admit to asylum to those who may seek it. We have a specific context and that is, presumably the Chinese Government have given an order to their soldiers to shoot any Tibetan seeking entry into India. In that context, I want to ask the Prime Minister how he proposes to give asylum to a Tibetan, because he has said each will have to be considered

on merits, and the Chinese soldiers have been told to shoot them at sight.

Mr. Speaker: If they are shot at sight, how can they enter India?

Shri Frank Anthony: There need not be any deliberate mis-assumption of my question. When they will be seeking presumably asylum on a large scale, the Chinese soldiers being ordered to shoot them at sight, I want to know how we are going to admit them and consider each case on merit?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: You have been pleased to answer that question, Sir. All these are hypothetical approaches. There has not been any slightest, vaguest approach to us of this kind or any facts indicating that such an approach, such a thing, might happen. How can I answer that? Secondly, if I may say so, I do not know, because there are so many rumours and statements. If people are shot at sight, surely the hon. Member does not imagine this kind of thing happening on the border: People sitting on the border and waiting for people to approach the border. This kind of thing does not happen; if they are sitting on the border, nobody will go to that border. They will go to some other border or they will be shot down before. This kind of thing does not happen—people being pursued and so on.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I raise a point of order? I seek your guidance. Since I have not given you notice in regard to it—whether it is a question of privilege or not—I am raising it as a point of order. I want to know how it is that the Chinese Embassy here have issued officially....

Mr. Speaker: We have got some adjournment motions. The hon. Member can wait and see.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I have not finished the question. It is a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this. The point of order must arise out of the question. It does not arise out of this question—what the Chinese Embassy has done here. The hon. Member will kindly wait and see. There are some adjournment motions relating to that subject.

Shri Nanshir Bharucha: May I know whether the Government have addressed any communication to the Peking authorities conveying the Government's reaction to the military occupation of Tibet?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; the military occupation of Tibet has been in existence for the last few years.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: If the Dalai Lama approaches the border, shall he be allowed political asylum here in India, because it is given in the Press that if the Dalai Lama crosses the border, he will not be shot at, but others who cross the border from Tibet will be shot at. So, if the Dalai Lama crosses the border, shall he be given asylum here?

Mr. Speaker: I am really unable to understand this question. Is the newspaper correspondent the Prime Minister of India? Here the hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly said no such question has arisen. If any, when those persons come in, certainly he will consider, not in groups, but each individual case on merits. Why should he unnecessarily embarrass and put a question as to what will happen if the Dalai Lama comes in?

श्री ब्र० राज० सिंह : मैं इज्जत माव
बजीरे भाजम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि
ल्हासा में लद्दाख के तकरीबन ६० के करीब
तालिबान्म वीजूद हैं इस के मलावा वहाँ
चार बहुत बड़े कुचक हैं, क्या उन के वापिस
पाने के लिये और उन की सलामती के लिये
हकूमत ने क्या इन्तिजामात किये हैं ?

۱ مہوں سزسے آب وزیر اعظم سے یہ جاننا
چاہتا ہوں کہ اسے ۶۰ ہوں اداخ کے تقریباً

۶۰۰ کے قریب طالب علم موجود ہیں
اور وہاں چار بہت بڑے کوشک ہیں -
ان کے واپس آنے کے لئے اور ان کی
سلامتی کے لئے حکومت نے کیا
انتظامات کئے ہیں -

श्री ब्रजराजसिंह नेहरू : हमें तो मालूम
नहीं था कि लद्दाख के वहाँ लामा या भीर
लोग कितने ल्हासा में थे या उस के इर्द गिर्द थे
क्योंकि हमारे पास कोई फँहिरिस्त नहीं है।
दो रोज हुए हम से यह पूछा गया, हमें कहा
गया कि दरियाफ्त करे इस के बारे में। चुनावे
फौरन हम ने दरियाफ्त करने की कोशिश की
है ल्हासा से उन की खैरियत के बारे में।
बात यह है कि यों तो जो वहाँ हिन्दुस्तान के
नैदानल जाते हैं, उन की फँहिरिस्त हमारे
पास रहती है, लेकिन पुराने जमाने से
लद्दाख की तरफ से जो जाते हैं, आमदोरफ्त
रहती है, उस की कोई फँहिरिस्त नहीं है
और न उन के नाम हमारे पास रहते हैं।
लेकिन हम दरियाफ्त कर रहे हैं।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Goray.

Shri B. C. Kamble: May I know whether it is a fact that the Chinese

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Goray.

Shri Goray: The Prime Minister said just now about the refugees, that the policy of the Government will be decided upon when the need arises I would like to say that when the need arises it may be rather too late to decide the policy. You cannot start digging a well when you are thirsty. I am saying that the policy should be decided upon just now.

Mr. Speaker: He has said so. He has already said about the policy in the House

Shri Goray: I think it is very inadequate, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. That is not under discussion now.

Shri B. C. Kamble: Is it a fact that the Chinese authorities have issued orders to shoot? Then, will the Union Government exercise discretion

in favour of admitting the refugees in India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is very extraordinary. The Chinese order to shoot, if they issued such an order, has no relation to this question of our admitting people or not admitting people. Nothing has happened on the borders of India. It is in the interior of Tibet that this is happening. And, certainly it is not a question of our not having a policy. We have got a very clear policy. But the implementation of that policy depends upon the circumstances. All our check-posts have been informed of the broad policies that should be pursued in these matters. Obviously, I cannot be expected to say that when a large crowd comes suddenly. I should admit it—or if half the population comes. How can I commit the Government of India to any such thing?

Shri M. E. Masani: Why not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Because, will not admit them. I should be quite clear about it, because no country can possibly say, if you take the past history of thousands of years "we will admit everyone".

Shri M. E. Masani: Austria admitted thousands of people.

Shri Raghunath Singh: But we are not Austrians.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Shri Masani's information on the subject is no doubt very intimate. I cannot challenge that. But I do say that no country can give a guarantee, or should give a guarantee, that "we will admit every person who wants to cross the border".

Shri Tyagi: On a point of order. It has been conventional in all Parliaments everywhere practically that the Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and Defence have been enjoying the privilege of keeping away information on matters pertaining to high diplomatic policy for the safety of the nation itself. Shall we not observe

that convention here in this Parliament on matters which pertain to our future relationship, that the Ministers concerned may enjoy the privilege of keeping the information from the House?

Mr. Speaker: I am not able to understand the point of order.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I just want to ask one very important question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I will be forced to take disciplinary action against him.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Only against me and not against others?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There must be a limit to this. Does the hon. Member, Shri Tyagi, mean to say that the hon. Prime Minister need not have said all that he has said?

Shri Tyagi: I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and the one in charge of Defence Affairs may have the privilege of keeping information from the House if the situation so requires.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of some adjournment motions.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: We have still to ask some questions. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister has communicated his reactions regarding the latest developments in Tibet to the Chinese authorities, any type of reactions?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, sir, if he is referring to the statements which were issued yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: I will come to them. There are some adjournment motions on the subject.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Just one point. I have been abroad for 31 years and I have been often a refugee in a way. The British Government wanted to capture me in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Government boldly

said "we cannot give him up". And when I was in Peking, the British Government had extra-territorial rights in China and the British Government wanted to capture me. The French Legation told me: we would inform you if the British take any action against you. So, I was protected all the time in all the countries of the world, non-British countries. Under these circumstances, I can request you, I can beg of you, that you kindly give asylum to every Tibetan who comes here. There is no harm in it.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of adjournment motions.....

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I request you to permit us to put some more questions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, they will not be answered now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of Iron and Steel

*1537. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 859 on the 24th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether there has been any further fall from the anticipated fall of 0.5 million tons in the import of iron and steel during 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this fall in the import of iron and steel has affected the industrial growth and construction works in the country with particular reference to Bihar?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Imports in 1958 were about half a million tons less than in 1957. This was more or less as anticipated.

(c) Indigenous production in 1958 was about the same as in the previous

year. The total availability of steel was slightly less; industrial users like others could not, therefore, receive adequate quantities of steel and there was some short supply for construction works, both in the field of public activity and private construction. It is difficult to evaluate these precisely and even more difficult to do so with reference to a particular State. Though the overall allocation of steel to industries using steel was maintained at the same level as in 1957, some of the relatively less important steel-using industries obtained less raw material as a result of giving higher priority to more important industries.

Fabricated Steel

*1547. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 83 on the 19th November, 1958 and state:

(a) the expected cost of 250,000 tons of fabricated steel to be imported for the steel plants; and

(b) the reasons why statistics of imports of fabricated steel are not maintained?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The average price of fabricated steel imported for the three steel plants is about Rs. 1,350 per ton.

(b) The reason is that Indian trade statistics are compiled on the basis of the Standard International Trade Classification. This classification does not include the term "fabricated steel". Since the end of 1957, however, a head called "finished structural parts of iron or steel including assembled structures" has been introduced and this includes part of what is commonly known here as fabricated steel. The rest will, no doubt, be included under other appropriate heads.

**Post-Graduate Basic Training
College in Tripura**

*1550. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the only post-graduate Basic Training College of Tripura set up in 1954 has been functioning so far in a rented house;

(b) whether any attached hostel of the college has also been housed in a rented quarter since 1954;

(c) if so, what is the total amount of money spent on account of rent on these two houses so far; and

(d) The present rented house accommodating the Basic Training College has been found to be adequate?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 42,971:84 N.P. up to 26th February, 1959.

(d) The present accommodation is barely satisfactory for the present but not adequate for the expending needs of the college.

**Rehabilitation of Assam Border
People**

*1551. Shrimati Manjula Devi: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive programme involving expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs for economic rehabilitation of the border people in Assam living in autonomous Districts of United Khasi Jaintia Hills, the Garo and Mizo Hills has been recently approved;

(b) if so, the reasons why the border villages of Haritakitalla, Madanpur, Barpunji, Mahishashon, Karikabela and Latu, Zorapata, Sandeah and Sutorkandi which are the targets of heavy firing by the Pakistani troops are excluded from

the comprehensive programme for economic rehabilitation of border people; and

(c) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of these border people in Cachar District?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) Yes, Sir. A block grant of Rs. 25 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Central Government to enable the State Government to take up relief and economic rehabilitation programme for people of United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills and Mizo Districts.

(b) The circumstances under which the programme has been undertaken in the three Autonomous Districts do not apply to these border areas. The State Government, however, render necessary relief to sufferers of recent Pakistan firing.

(c) The State Government have provided gratuitous relief and established necessary relief camps and shelters.

Indo-German Agreement

*1552. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been reached between India and Germany for financial assistance to be given by Germany for the training of Indian Engineers in steel production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lubricating Oil

*1554. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Starred Question No. 99 on the 19th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether it has been finally decided to produce lubricating oil in the refinery to set up at Barauni;

(b) what additional steps are being taken to produce lubricating oil in the country;

(c) whether any firm has been asked to submit a project report for the establishment of lubricating oil plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (d). The matter is still under consideration.

Harassment of Scheduled Castes and Tribes

*1555. Shri B. K. Galkwad: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is authorised to submit reports to the President of India in case of harassment to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, how many such complaints of harassment have been reported by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the year 1958-59 so far; and

(c) what action Government have taken in redressing such complaints?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not made any such report during 1958-59.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Limestone for Durgapur Steel Plant

*1558. Shri Maraka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given

to Starred Question No. 89 on the 19th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a permanent source of limestone for Durgapur Steel Works has not been finalised yet; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). In my reply to Starred Question No. 89 on 19th November, 1958 I have already explained that for the first few years of operation of the Durgapur Steel Plant limestone would be drawn from existing sources in the Birmitrapur-Hathibari area of Orissa. This source will also supply Rourkela, but it may not be able to supply full requirements of both the steel plants when they are expanded. Other sources of limestone are, therefore, being investigated.

Bonus to Employees of Life Insurance Corporation

*1560. { Shri Tangamani:
Shri P. C. Beroach:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation have declared bonus to its employees for the year 1957; and

(b) what is their proposal for bonus for the year 1958?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) Life Insurance Corporation have offered a Bonus equal to one month's basic salary to its employees in supervisory, clerical and subordinate cadres drawing a basic salary not exceeding Rs. 500 p.m., who agree to give up the benefit of the Free Insurance Scheme.

(b) This has not yet been considered.

India-England Agreement

*1561. Shri Dajjit Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and England according to which England will be giving financial assistance for the training of Indian engineers in steel production; and

(b) if so, the details of the Agreement?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b) There is a programme for training of 300 engineers of Durgapur Steel Project in England under the Colombo plan spread over a period of 3-4 years. The entire expenditure on the maintenance of trainees in that country including their pocket allowance and passage both ways is provided by the United Kingdom Government under the Colombo Plan.

Dowry System

*1562. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to bring in legislation to abolish the dowry system in the country; and

(b) if so, when the bill is expected to be introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Yes, sir

(b) As early as possible.

University Teachers

*1563. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 458 on the 2nd December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the report of the

Committee appointed by the University Grants Commission to consider the qualifications of different categories of teachers in Indian universities; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastav): (a) and (b) The majority of Universities having accepted the minimum qualifications to be required of persons to be appointed to the teaching staff of the Universities, the University Grants Commission accepted the recommendations made by the Committee appointed by them and agreed to adopt the draft regulations for this purpose. The draft regulations have since been legally scrutinised and are being referred back to the Commission for further necessary action.

Religious Education

*1564. { Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to set up a committee to review the proposal for religious education in all educational institutions,

(b) if so, whether this committee has been formed;

(c) whether it has started its work, and

(d) when will it submit its report?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastav): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Creation of New Posts

2465. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) Total number of new posts created because of the levy of expenditure-tax and wealth-tax; and

(b) total number of persons employed against these posts?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The administration of Expenditure and Wealth Taxes has been entrusted to the Income-tax Department. As such no posts have been separately provided for the administration of these taxes. However, some additional posts have been created to cope with the overall increase in the work load on account of the imposition of the new taxes, viz wealth, Expenditure and Gift Taxes. The number of such new posts category-wise is given below:

Gazetted.

100 posts of Income-tax Officers, Class II have been upgraded into Class I. (50 in Grade I & 50 in Grade II).

Non-Gazetted.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Inspectors | 58 |
| Head Clerks | 27 |
| Upper Division Clerks | 303 |
| Lower Division Clerks | 137 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 525 |

(b) Total number of persons employed against these posts so far category-wise is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Inspectors | 35 |
| Head Clerks | 18 |
| Upper Division Clerks | 202 |
| Lower Division Clerks | 71 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 327 |

Social Welfare Programme of Punjab

2466. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the total amount given as grant and loan to the Government of Punjab for social welfare programme and social education during 1958-59?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrinani): The information is being collected from the Punjab Government and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

Social Education

2467. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the main features of the programme for social education under execution directly or indirectly by the Government of India for the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrinani): A statement is placed on the Table. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 59.]

Naval Missions to Foreign Countries

2468. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various Naval missions sent to foreign countries during 1957 and 1958, separately;

(b) the names of countries and purpose for which they had been sent; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on each mission, separately?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Two during 1957. Nil during 1958.

(b) (i) United Kingdom. To attend the Commonwealth Naval Conference.

(ii) U.S.S.R. To witness the Navy Day Celebrations in Moscow on the invitation of the U.S.S.R. Government.

(c) (i) Rs. 20,179.

(ii) Rs. 7,448.

Taj Mahal

2469. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 109 on the 19th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether repairs to the Taj Mahal have since been completed;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred on the repairs so far;

(c) if not, the amount spent during 1958-59; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent during 1959-60?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 86,510 (Upto February, 1959).

(d) Rs. 1,16,284 subject to funds being voted by Parliament.

Pakistanis crossing into Kashmir State

2470. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani nationals who crossed into Kashmir State from Pakistan-occupied part of the State during 1958; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to minimise chances of such illegal entry of Pakistani nationals?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Members is invited to the reply given by the Prime Minister to question No. 996 in the Lok Sabha on the 26th February, 1959.

Libraries for Women and Children in Bombay

2471. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what amount has been allotted by the Central Social Welfare Board for being given during 1959-60 to voluntary social welfare organisations for libraries for children and women in Bombay?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivasthi): The Central Social Welfare Board does not allot amounts State-wise or subject-wise, in advance. The actual amount of grants for the purpose will depend on the number of applications received and amount of grants sanctioned by the Board, in individual cases, during 1959-60.

"Seizure of Smuggled Gold"

2472. Shrimati Masda Ahmed: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that twenty-nine bars of gold of foreign origin were seized by the Land Customs Officers at Teesta Check-Post near Kalimpong during the second week of January, 1959?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Yes, Sir; it is a fact that twenty-nine bars of gold were seized by the Land Customs Officers at Teesta Bazar Check-Post near Kalimpong on the 20th January, 1959. (This seizure relates to the same seizure mentioned in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1910 dated the 13th March, 1959).

Punjab Regional Formula

2473. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Regional Formula has been fully implemented; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

Wireless Station for Laccadive Islands

2474. Shri Nallakoya: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 446 on the 2nd August, 1957 and state when the wireless station will be established on the Laccadive Islands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): A Wireless Station at Minicoy Island has been functioning since 1942. The Ministry of Transport and Communications are taking up installation of wireless stations in other islands.

Houses for Scheduled Castes

2475. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide available sites for residential houses in various localities in Delhi to Scheduled Castes in order to provide them an opportunity to live in the midst of other forward classes?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): There is no such proposal under consideration; but, there is a scheme for allotment of free house-sites to members of the Scheduled Castes in certain rural areas of Delhi.

Protected Monuments of Orissa, West Bengal and Assam

2476. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the total number of monuments under protection of the Central Department of Archaeology at present in the following States:—

- (i) Orissa,
- (ii) West Bengal, and
- (iii) Assam.

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (i) Orissa 54.

- (ii) West Bengal 103.
- (iii) Assam 56.

Printing of Foreign Currency Notes

2477. Shri N. M. Deb: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the names of the foreign countries who placed order with India Security Press for printing of their currency notes in 1956?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): No foreign country had placed order with India Security Press for printing of their currency notes during the year 1958.

Training of Foreigners

2478. Shri N. M. Deb: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many foreigners were trained in different branches of our Defence Establishments in 1958 and the names of the countries they belonged to?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): 289 foreigners were trained in different Defence Establishments during 1958.

It would not be in the public interest to disclose the figures of trainees from each foreign country separately or correct to give the names of the countries without their prior-agreement.

Horses and Mules in Army

2479. Shri N. M. Deb: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the present strength of horses and mules in the Army;
- (b) the annual requirements of the same; and
- (c) when the scheme for the equine breeding of horses and mules in the Army stud farm will start?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). It will not be in the public interest to give the information asked for.

(c) A Mountain Artillery Mule Breeding Stud at Babugarh had

already been sanctioned with effect from the 10th April, 1957. Breeding of horses and General Service mules in the Studs at Babugarh and Saharanpur is expected to be undertaken during 1959-60

Training of Defence Personnel

2480. Shri N. M. Deb: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers of Army, Navy and Air Force were sent to foreign countries for higher training during 1958; and

(b) the names of the countries other than the UK. to which they were sent?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) 58 officers were sent during 1958 for higher training abroad i.e. on courses other than in the maintenance of equipments etc

(b) France, USA, Canada and Australia

Reorganisation of Secondary Education in Orissa

2481. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 287 on the 24th November, 1958 and state:

(a) the details of the 12 schemes in connection with the re-organisation of secondary education in Orissa during 1958-59, which were sanctioned for central assistance,

(b) whether the sum of Rs. 9813 lakhs proposed to be given for these 12 schemes has already been given,

(c) whether the Orissa Government has sent any other schemes with regard to re-organisation of secondary education for 1959-60; and

(d) if so, the nature of such schemes?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastha): (a) 1 Grant-in-aid to high and post-basic schools.

2 Conversion of high schools into multipurpose schools.

3. Opening of new Girls' High Schools.

4 Increase in the pay of Headmasters of 'A' and 'B' type High Schools.

5 Improvement of existing High and post-basic schools

6 Construction of quarters for teachers serving in High and post-basic schools

7 Replacement of trained I.A. by trained graduates

8 Introduction of craft in high schools

9 Training of craft teachers

10 Opening of MEd classes in both the training colleges

11 Appointment of Assistant Inspector of Schools

12 Establishment of a secondary training school

(b) An *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 10.15 lakhs has been sanctioned.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

बिधि आयोग

*२४८२. श्री सुहासचन्द्र राय क्या बिधि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पुनर्गठित बिधि आयोग के सभापति और सदस्यों को उन के मासिक वेतन और भत्तों के रूप में कितनी राशि दी जाती है ?

विधि उपन्यासी (जी ह्वारनबीस) : पायी गई जानकारी नीचे दी जाती है :-

| पद का नाम | दिया जाने वाला पारिश्रमिक |
|---|---|
| चेयरमैन (जो कि उच्चतम न्यायालय या किसी उच्च न्यायालय का सेवा निवृत्त न्यायाधीश होगा) | ३००० रुपये प्रति मास (जिसमें कुल पेन्शन सम्मिलित है)। इसके अलावा उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश को मिलने वाले बर्ष और स्तर का सुसज्जित निवासस्थान बिना किराया उस को मिलता है। |
| पूरे समय काम करने वाले सदस्य (जो कि उच्चतम न्यायालय या किसी उच्च न्यायालय के सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश होंगे) | ३००० रुपये प्रति मास (जिसमें कुल पेन्शन सम्मिलित है) |
| बोड़े समय काम करने वाले एडवोकेट सदस्य (जो कि बार से चुने जाते हैं) | प्रति सदस्य को प्रायोग की बैठकों में भाग लेने के प्रत्येक दिन के लिए १०० रुपये का धान-रेरियम दिया जाता है किन्तु पूरे बर्ष के लिए इसकी कुल रकम १२००० रुपये से अधिक न होगी और मुहरिर लेख सामग्री और डाक पर होने वाले खर्च के लिए १०० रुपये प्रति मास का कार्यालय भत्ता दिया जाता है। |
| बदले सदस्य | बहु विधायी विभाग का सचिव है और उसे प्रायोग सम्बन्धी कार्य के लिए कोई अतिरिक्त पारिश्रमिक नहीं मिलता है। |

Income-tax

2483. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of income-tax and corporation tax realised from the joint stock companies during the last 5 years, year-wise; and

(b) the total amount of refund given to the share-holders during the same period?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Separate figures for actual realisations of tax from companies are not readily available. Figures of demand raised during the last 5 years are furnished in the statement laid on the Table. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 60.]

(b) The information is given in the statement laid on the Table [See Appendix V, annexure No. 61]

Income-tax

2484. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of corporation tax and income-tax realised from companies under section 23A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 during the last 5 years; and

(b) the total number of companies from whom the tax was realised during each of the last five years?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will

be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible

Survey of Forms of Drama

2485. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Bardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 92 on the 19th November, 1958 and state

(a) whether the preliminary survey of various forms of drama found in different parts of the country has since been completed,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether organisations interested in the drama in different regional languages have been consulted, and

(d) if so, the progress made in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir

(b) Details would be available after the completion of preliminary survey which is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year

(c) and (d) The work is being undertaken by the Sangeet Natak Akademi through the regional State Akademies, wherever they exist or with the help of important theatre organisations in those areas where there are no Akademies. A correct assessment of the work done and progress made by these organisations will be possible only after detailed reports have been received and examined

Delhi Advisory Committee

2486. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the nature of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Delhi Advisory Committee held during the 1st week of December, 1958 in New Delhi?

3 (Ai) LSD.—3

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix V, annexure No 62]

Education in Union Territories

2487. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state

(a) whether the educational development programme of Union Territories in the fields of free primary, elementary, basic and women's education for the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan has been finalised, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) No, Sir, they are drawn up on yearly basis

(b) Does not arise

Welfare Extension Projects in Marathwada

2488. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state

(a) the number of Welfare Extension Projects at present in the Marathwada region of Bombay, and

(b) the location thereof?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b) At present six welfare extension projects are functioning in Marathwada region of Bombay State. Five projects of the original pattern are located, one each, in the districts of Aurangabad, Nanded, Bhur, Parbhani and Osmanabad and a project of the co-ordinated pattern is located in the Sillod Community Development Block in Aurangabad District

Survey of India Quarters at Hathibarkala Estate, Dehra Dun

2489. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent so far on the construction of quarters at Hathibarkala Estate for all classes of

employees of the Survey of India, Dehra Dun;

(b) amount realised by way of rent till 31st December, 1958;

(c) amount spent on repair or renovation work upto 31st December, 1958;

(d) whether complaints have been received from the employees occupying these quarters in regard to their dilapidated condition; and

(e) if so, steps taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Rs. 27,40,676.

(b) Rs. 8,63,655.

(c) Rs. 7,28,772.

(d) Yes, Sir. The complaints are regarding the roofs of the quarters.

(e) The work of re-roofing of the quarters is under consideration.

Industrial Workers

3490. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial workers under the Central Government are termed as Government servants;

(b) if so, whether they have been classified into various classes, i.e., III and IV; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not having this classification?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, if they are governed by the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957.

(c) Does not arise.

Staff Councils

3491. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether staff councils have been formed under the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and its attached and subordinate offices;

(b) if so, the names of the Establishments where such councils exist;

(c) whether decisions are taken only after both the parties agree; and

(d) the procedure followed in case no agreement could be reached?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 63.]

प्रतिरक्षा उत्पादन योजना समिति

२४६२. श्री अमृत वर्मान : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री ५ दिसम्बर, १९५८ के धारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ६६२ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या प्रतिरक्षा उत्पादन योजना समिति ने अपनी प्रारम्भिक रिपोर्ट के पश्चात् मुख्य रिपोर्ट को पूरा कर लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या वह पूरी रिपोर्ट अबका उसकी मुख्य सिफारिशों का विवरण समा-पटल पर रखा जायेगा ;

(ग) उन सिफारिशों पर क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ;

(घ) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर नकारात्मक हो, तो उस समिति ने अपने कार्य में अब तक क्या प्रगति की है ; और

(ङ) कब तक उस का कार्य समाप्त हो जाने की आशा है ?

संविदाओं को मजबूत (बी) पधुरानीय) :
(क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) रिपोर्टें बुकि बिल्कुल वैज्ञानिक और संशोधित हैं संसदीय प्रति सभा के पटल पर नहीं रखी जायगी ।

(ग) उसकी बहुत सी सिफारिशें पहले से ही सरकार द्वारा कार्यान्वित की जा रही हैं ।

(घ) तथा (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

कल्याण केन्द्र

२४६३. { बी) करणू पाण्डे :
बी) श्रीमोक्षर मंसूर :
सरकार इन्फॉर्मल सिद्ध :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री २४ नवम्बर, १९५८ के तारांकित प्रश्न सख्या १८० के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह कृताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकारी कर्मचारियों के परिवारों के लिये कल्याण केन्द्र स्थापित करने की योजना पर इस बीच विचार कर लिया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या उसकी एक प्रति सभा-पटल पर रखी जायेगी ?

गृह-कार्य उपमंत्री (बीमती आलवार) :

(क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) योजना की एक रूप रेखा सभा पटल पर रख दी गयी है ।

विबरल

सरकारी कर्मचारियों के परिवारों के लिये कल्याण केन्द्र

उद्देश्य : (क) सरकारी कर्मचारियों को पारिवारिक जीवन के आकस्मिक भार से राहत पहुँचाना जिससे वषट्टर के काम में उनकी कार्य कुशलता पर असर पड़ने की संभावना हो,

(ख) सरकारी कर्मचारियों के परिवारों का नैतिक स्तर ऊँचा करना,

(ग) स्त्रियों को उनके कालतू समय में हस्त और शिल्प कला सिखाना,

(घ) सरकारी कर्मचारियों के परिवारों को सुशाहाल बनाना और उनमें मिलनसारी की भावना उत्पन्न करना ।

योजना: (१) सरकारी कर्मचारियों की बस्तियों में कल्याण केन्द्र स्थापित करना ।

(२) इन केन्द्रों में निम्नलिखित विषय सिखाने के लिये कक्षाएं लगेंगी:-

(क) चित्रकारी, संगीत, सिलाई, काढ़ने और बुनने का काम ।

(ख) गृह-विज्ञान और व्यक्तिगत स्वास्थ्य के बारे में शिक्षा ।

(३) हाथ का काम कर सकने वाली और इच्छुक औरतों को हाथ का काम दिया जाएगा ।

(४) स्त्रियों और बच्चों को विल्ली के सामूहिक और ऐतिहासिक महत्व के स्थान दिखाने का प्रबन्ध किया जाएगा ।

(५) स्त्रियों और बच्चों को विशेष महत्व के फिल्म शो मुफ्त दिखाने का प्रबन्ध किया जाएगा ।

(६) कक्षाएं शनिवार और छुट्टी के असांवा दोपहर ११.३० से ४ बजे के बीच में-बो बारियों में किसी ऐसे स्थान पर लगेंगी जो हर बस्ती के निवासी अपनी अपनी गर्भों से देंगे ।

(७) कक्षाओं के लिये जरूरी सामान आदि मुफ्त दिया जायेगा ।

(८) एक केन्द्र में कमी से १५० व्यक्तियों से ज्यादा नहीं होंगे ।

(९) सँवार लिये गये मास की बिक्री के लिये एक केन्द्रीय बिक्री डिपो हीना ।

(१०) अर्थापकों को हफ्ते में एक बार रिसेन्सर फोर्स और सामाजिक सेवा की ट्रेनिंग दी जावेगी।

(११) यह केन्द्र विभागीय केन्टीनों की तरह ही गृह-मंत्रालय के एक विभाग के रूप में चलाया जावेगा।

(१२) यह केन्द्र गृह-मंत्रालय से संलग्न एक बैसिकर अफसर के प्राचीन काम करेगा। इसको सहायक धनुदान सचिवालय के कल्याण और उसकी सुविधाओं के लिये मिलने वाली ग्रांट में से दिया जावेगा।

Textile Mills, Kanpur

2494. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Jagdish Awasthi:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether some textile mill owners of Kanpur are heavily indebted to the State Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether they have requested Government for the grant of loans; and

(c) the reactions of Government thereto?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Meeraji Desai): (a) According to the information available to the Central Government, advances by the State Bank of India to all sections of the textile industry in Kanpur (including woollen and other textiles) amounted, as at the end of December, 1958, to Rs. 3.32 crores only and no advances to the dealers in the textile trade in Kanpur were outstanding on that date.

(b) No. Four textile mills have, however, applied for loans to the National Industrial Development Corporation.

(c) The National Industrial Development Corporation is an autonomous corporation and has a prescribed procedure for the consideration of these

loans. One application, it is understood, has been rejected, one has been sanctioned and the remaining two are under consideration.

Ordnance Factories Hospitals

2495. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no major operation is undertaken in the Ordnance Factories hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of patients sent to civil or military hospitals for operation by the Factory medical authorities during 1957 and 1958?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) Except for emergent life-saving surgery following accidents, no major operation is undertaken in Ordnance Factories hospitals.

(b) Surgical specialists and special laboratory facilities are not available in the small Ordnance Factory Hospitals.

(c)

| | Sent to Civil Hospitals | Sent to Milly. Hospitals |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1957 | 184 | 289 |
| 1958 | 186 | 332 |

कल्याण विस्तार परियोजनायें

*२४९६. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय समाज कल्याण बोर्ड के प्रन्तर्गत दिल्ली में १९५५-५६ में कल्याण विस्तार परियोजनायें खोलने की योजना थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इसे छोड़ दिया गया है ; और

(न) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

शिक्षा मंत्री (डा० क० प्र० श्रीवास्तवी) :

(क) १९५४-५५ में बोर्ड ने अपनी द्वितीय विस्तार प्रायोजनाओं की योजना देवा नगर में धारम्भ की। इस में दिल्ली भी शामिल है। यह योजना १९५५-५६ और इसके बाद के वर्षों में भी चालू रही।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

हिन्दी विज्ञान

२४९७. { श्री नवल प्रभाकर :
श्री प्रकाश वर्मा :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करने कि .

(क) सरकारी पदाधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों को हिन्दी विज्ञान में क्या प्रगति हुई है ; और

(ख) अब तक कितने शिक्षार्थियों को योग्यता के प्रमाण पत्र दिये जा चुके हैं ?

गृह कार्य मंत्री (श्री मो० ब० पन्त) :

(क) ५५ केन्द्रों की ८०७ कक्षाओं में २८ फरवरी, १९५६ को १६६९७ व्यक्ति शिक्षा पा रहे थे।

(ख) शिक्षा वालों को दिसम्बर, १९५८ से पहले योग्यता के ७२९७ प्रमाणपत्र दिये गये।

Dispute between Railways and Hindustan Ltd.

2498. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute between the Railways and the Hindustan Steel Ltd. regarding huge demurrage on consignments from Calcutta to Rourkela Plant has been settled; and

(b) if so, what is the amount payable to the Railways on this account?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) There is no dispute between the Ministry of Railways and the Hindustan Steel Limited.

(b) Demurrage bills amounting to Rs. 12 lakhs have been received from the Railways by Hindustan Steel Ltd., and are under scrutiny.

Interests on Loans to Hindustan Steel Limited

2499. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 328 on the 24th November, 1958 and state:

(a) the actual rate of interest charged on the loans given by the Government to Hindustan Steel Ltd. at present; and

(b) the total amount of interest paid by this company so far and the amount that is due and payable?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 44 per cent.

(b) The total amount of interest due till the end of 1958-59 was Rs. 2.51 crores and this has been paid by the Company.

Life Insurance Corporation

2500. Shri M. E. Krishna: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to utilise some portion of Life Insurance Corporation Funds for providing loans for Scheduled Castes Housing Schemes; and

(b) whether loans from this fund will also be given to Scheduled Castes for starting industries?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

(b) All applications for loans, including those from Scheduled Castes, are considered on merits by the Corporation provided they satisfy the conditions laid down in Section 27A of the Insurance Act, 1938 (as extended to the Corporation).

Smuggling of Foreign Arms

2501. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any smuggled arms of foreign make have been captured in Bombay State during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of such arms captured; and

(c) the steps taken to investigate into the matter?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Central Advisory Board for Harijan Welfare

2502. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board for Harijan Welfare to settle the landless people by allotting to them waste lands lying in the States has been accepted by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether any State Government have stepped forward to implement this recommendation;

(c) whether such facility will be extended to the Scheduled Tribes also; and

(d) if not, how Government intends to solve the land problem of the Scheduled Tribes?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). A statement showing the reaction of the State Governments who have replied so far is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 64]

(c) All the States (except those where there are no Scheduled Tribes) afford the same facilities to the Scheduled Tribes as they do to the Scheduled Castes.

(d) Does not arise.

Corruption in Government Offices

2503. **Shri Siddanti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the nature of concrete steps Government contemplate to take in 1959 to eradicate corruption in the Central Government Offices?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): The steps taken by the Administrative Vigilance Division to intensify the drive against corruption are detailed in its three Reports for the years ending 31st March, 1956, 1957 and 1958 which have been laid on the Table of the House. The Division continues to work on the lines indicated in the said reports.

Cultural Show on Republic Day

2504. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of States which took part in the cultural show and other functions connected with the Republic Day Celebrations?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): For the Republic Day celebrations 1959, 10 State Governments/Administrations contributed tableaux for the Procession and 17 State/Administrations sent Folk Dance troupes to participate in the Folk Dance Festival.

Hostile Nagas

2505. { **Shri Bimal Ghose:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether an encounter took place between the Manipur Rifles and Naga hostiles on the 8th February last;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Naga hostiles were caught while attempting to contact someone in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, whom in Pakistan they were trying to contact and for what purpose?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). There was an encounter between the Manipur Rifles and the Naga hostiles at Oinamlong in Tainamlong Sub-division in Manipur on the 7th February, 1959, in which 4 hostiles were killed and 2 captured. There was no casualty on the police side.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Untouchability

2594. Shri Eiyaperumal: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what amount was allotted to the All India Harijan Sevak-Sangh and the Bharathiya Depressed Classes League for the eradication of untouchability during the years 1952 to 1958 year-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): A statement showing the Central grant-in-aid given to the two organisations during the years 1952 to 1958 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 65]

Abductions in Delhi

2597. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reported abduction cases of married women and unmarried girls in Delhi during 1958 as compared to the figures for the years 1956 and 1957; and

(b) the number of women and girls recovered during each of the above years?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a)

| | Married Women | Unmarried Women |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1956 . . . | 10 | 3 |
| 1957 . . . | 9 | 7 |
| 1958 . . . | 16 | 4 |
| (b) | | |
| 1956 . . . | 7 | 3 |
| 1957 . . . | 7 | 7 |
| 1958 . . . | 10 | 2 |

Income-Tax Inspectors' Examination

2598. Shri Eiyaperumal: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many candidates appeared for the Income-tax Inspectors' Examination held in 1958;

(b) how many candidates were selected; and

(c) the number out of them belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Deas): (a) 11,656 candidates appeared in the Income-tax Inspectors' Examination held in 1958.

(b) 1,338 candidates have qualified in the examination.

(c) Out of 1,338 candidates, 176 belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Craft Training Centres at Agartala

2599. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial allocation has been made so far to establish a Craft Training Centre at Agartala under Education Directorate exclusively for training craft teachers for basic schools in Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that such training centre has been functioning under the Education Directorate since 1956 under a different name; and

(c) if so, the reason for this allocation?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes.

(b) Crafts teachers for basic schools were trained upto September, 1956 at the Training-cum-Works Centre Agartala. When the Centre was closed down after September, 1956, temporary arrangements were made for the training of teachers at the Experimental Model School, Agartala.

(c) It is considered necessary to set up a separate training centre on a satisfactory and permanent basis.

Educational Institutions of Tripura

2510. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) how many Educational Institutions in Tripura have now been kept under the direct control of the Education Directorate of Tripura Administration;

(b) how many posts of Deputy Directors of Education for the subjects like Youth and Women's Programme etc. have been created and filled up under the Education Directorate since 1955;

(c) whether any investigation has been made to ascertain specifically whether retention of the Education Directorate in its present set-up after handing over of bulk of educational activity to the Tripura Territorial Council has led to any administrative economy or otherwise in Tripura; and

(d) if so, what are the findings?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) 15 Educational Institutions and 378 Social Education Centres.

(b) Two.

(c) and (d). The staff position in the Education Directorate was reviewed after the transfer of educational institutions upto the Secondary stage to the Territorial Council and only such staff as is absolutely necessary for maintaining administrative efficiency has been retained. This has resulted in considerable economy in expenditure. The surplus staff has either been surrendered or transferred to the Territorial Council.

Cost of Turning and Boring Scrap

2511. **Shri K. U. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the disparity in controlled prices between Ingot Mould

Scrap which is priced at Rs. 210.00 per ton and No. I Cast Iron Scrap which is priced at Rs. 100.00 per ton under the Scrap Price Control Circular No. 5 of 1957 dated 3rd August, 1957 issued by the Iron and Steel Controller;

(b) the basis on which the controlled price for turning and boring scrap is fixed at Rs. 25.00 per ton;

(c) whether the turning and boring scrap fetches over Rs. 160.00 per ton in Japan and other countries; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to revise the scrap prices and remove the existing disparities in prices of different grades of scrap?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The difference in price is due to quality. Ingot mould is almost pure pig iron while cast iron melting scrap is inferior in quality. There is only a price difference of Rs. 75 per ton between the Col. I price of ingot mould and the C.I. melting scrap Grade I. Rs. 210 per ton mentioned by the Member is the maximum Col. III price chargeable by the Stockist and includes breaking charges and the remuneration of the stockist.

(b) and (c). The price mentioned by the Member is the ex-works selling price in India. Borings and turnings are mild steel melting scrap of much smaller sizes than those which are usually charged in the Electric Furnaces in the country. These are offered to the furnace owners in the first instance and such of stocks as are found unutilisable is licenced for export. To arrive at an estimate of the C.I.F. price in Japan, the Railway freight, cost of loading and incidental charges in the port, ocean freight to Japan and also the element of profit of the exporter have to be added to the ex-works price in India. It is not known whether borings and turnings fetch such a high price as Rs. 160 per ton in Japan.

(d) No special steps are necessary. The main end-products of melting

scrap are castings and rolled sections of steel. Any increase in the price of melting scrap will obviously reflect on the price of the end-products also.

M.E.S. Workshops

2512. Shri S. M. Bamerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether some of the M.E.S. Workshops were closed down after Partition in 1947,

(b) if so, the reasons for the closure;

(c) the number of workshops so closed in Northern and Western Commands, and

(d) number functioning in these Commands at present?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as it is available.

Families of Indian Officers in Pakistan

2513. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Indian military officers who have sent their families to reside in Pakistan as citizens of Pakistan?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): No such cases have come to the notice of Government.

Schemes for Broadbasing Primary Education

2514. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state

(a) the cut made in the original allotment to States for carrying out schemes for broadbasing primary education during the Second Five Year Plan period, and

(b) how far this cut will affect the target of literacy in different States?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Sharma): (a) The distribution

of funds amongst various Sectors, after a reappraisal of the Second Five Year Plan, has not yet been finalised.

(b) So far as can be judged at present, it is not likely to affect the target of literacy adversely.

Poppy Cultivation

2515. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total area of land under Poppy Cultivation during 1958 (State-wise)?

The Minister of Finance (Shri. Morarji Desai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the area of land under Poppy Cultivation during the season 1958-59 (State-wise).

| Name of State | Acres |
|----------------|---------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 18,907 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 34,399 |
| Rajasthan | 21,902 |
| TOTAL | 75,208 |

कुतुब मीनार के निकट बांधे गए पुराने सिक्के

२५१६ बी भक्त इब्राहिम क्या बैज्ञानिक गवेषण और सांस्कृतिक कार्य मंत्री १७ फर, बरी, १९५९ के ताराकित प्रश्न सख्या ३६३ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करने कि दिल्ली में कुतुब मीनार के निकट जो पुराने सिक्के प्राप्त हुए थे, उन के अध्ययन के फलस्वरूप क्या प्रकाश पड़ता है ?

बैज्ञानिक गवेषण और सांस्कृतिक कार्य-मंत्री (बी हुजूमतु कबीर) इन में से कुछ सिक्के कश्मीर के राठीड राजा योबिन्द चन्द्र देव ने (ईसवी सन् ११२०-६० के लगभग) बसाये थे। बाकी मोहम्मद घोर (लगभग ईसवी १२ बी शताब्दी के अन्त) के हैं। इन पर मुहन-अध-बिन-सय नाम लिखा है।

इन में से ज्यादातर बिकके बांदी के हैं पर कुछ तिककों में थोड़ा सा सोना भी है।

तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस धायीन

२५१७. श्री कल्याण शर्मा : क्या इस्पात काम और ईंधन मंत्री १२ फरवरी, १९५९ के तात्कालिक प्रश्न संख्या १४३ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के एक गांव में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस धायीन के कर्मचारियों के साथ ग्रामवासियों की मुठभेड़ में जिस बालक की मृत्यु हो गई थी, क्या इस बीच उस के माता-पिता को क्षतिपूर्ति देने के प्रश्न पर अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो उन्हें क्षतिपूर्ति में कितनी वनराशि दी गई है ?

श्रीमान् तेल और गैस (बी के० डे० प्रत्यक्षी) : (क) बालक की मृत्यु ग्रामवासियों तथा तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस धायीन के कर्मचारियों के बीच हुई मुठभेड़ के कारण नहीं, बल्कि सड़क पर हुए एक्सीडेंट के कारण हुई है जिस में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस धायीन की एक जीप भी सम्मिलित थी। सहानुभूति के तौर पर मृत बालक के माता-पिता को अनुकम्पा अनुदान (Ex-gratia payment) देने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

(ख) इस प्रश्न का कानूनी पहलू अभी विचाराधीन है और पुलिस अधिकारी इस मामले की जांच कर रहे हैं। तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस धायीन ने सहानुभूति के तौर पर मृत बालक के पिता को ५०० रुपये की राशि का अनुकम्पा अनुदान (Ex-gratia payment) दिया लेकिन उस ने यह राशि लेने से इन्कार कर दिया।

Jhum Cutting in Tripura

2518. { Shri Samrath Deb:
Shri Bangshi Thakur:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tribal families have lost

occupation due to prohibition of Jhum cutting at Jamirchara, Dhunachora, Káthachara, Demchara, Gáinermana, Gagrachara, Chaitaria in Tripura;

(b) the number of tribal families who are affected by the prohibition of Jhum cutting in those areas; and

(c) what steps are being taken to provide alternate occupations to those affected tribals?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prohibition

2519. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for introduction of gradual prohibition in Delhi has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). The existing restrictive measures in the matter of public drinking (details of which were given in reply to Starred Question No. 638 answered on 25th February, 1959) are being continued. In addition, the following proposals are under consideration:—

(i) reduction in the possession limit of foreign liquor, beer and cider;

(ii) reduction in the possession limit of Bhang;

(iii) restriction on the sale of opium to addicts only on medical grounds.

Temples at Bhavnath in Bombay

2520. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the

people of Sabarkantha, Bombay State, as declare the temples of Shiva and Surya at Bhuvanath as protected monuments; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Retirement Age

2521. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise the age of superannuation of gazetted officers of Central Government from 55 to 58;

(b) the nature of the reference made on this issue to the Second Pay Commission;

(c) what directions have been issued to stay retirement of 55 year group pending the Pay Commission's recommendations;

(d) what will be the saving in gratuity and pension by raising the age of retirement;

(e) whether retired officials will be utilised for social welfare and development schemes; and

(f) when Government expect to finalise their decision?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No.

(b) A copy of the terms of reference of the Second Pay Commission is placed on the Table of the House. No specific reference has been made to the Commission regarding the age of retirement. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 68].

(c) No directions have been issued.

(d) No information as to the possible saving or extra cost is available.

(e) wherever the services of retired officers are required in the public interest either for Social Welfare or for development schemes, they are taken on a re-employment basis.

(f) Government decided in June 1958 to make no change in the age of

compulsory retirement of Government servants and to review the question if the Pay Commission should make any recommendation on the subject.

Liquor Licences in Defence Hostels

2522. Shri Hem Barua: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether private contractors are allowed to hold liquor licences in Defence Hostels in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any complaints about misuse of these military licences from the excise authorities; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to enquire into these complaints?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A complaint was received that the Contractors in Jodhpur and Princes Park Hostels were selling liquor to unauthorised persons.

(c) In regard to the Jodhpur Hostel, it was recommended to the excise authorities that the licence for the wine shop be cancelled. The contractor has, however, appealed against the cancellation of the licence. In regard to the Princes Park Hostel, the matter was considered and the licence for the wine shop has been allowed to be effective till the 31st March 1959, when the position will be reviewed.

Sarva Seva Sangh

2523. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Central Government by way of grant or aid or through Central Government departmental organisations while putting up their exhibitions for the conference of Sarva Seva Sangh held at Ajmer recently?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): The Ministry of Home Affairs has not put up any exhibition in connection with the reported conference of Sarva Seva Sangh in Ajmer recently.

12.15 hrs.

RE: ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of some adjournment motions the substance of which fall under two heads: (1) Chinese news agency statement that Kalimpong is being used as a base for anti-Chinese rebellion; and (2) Chinese troops are near India's border. A number of hon. Members, Shri Hem Barua, Shri Vajpayee and others have given notice of adjournment motions. Now the hon. Prime Minister.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I want to say something before the hon. Prime Minister makes a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have got the statement of the hon. Member here.

Shri Hem Barua: I want to add.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Mine is not here

Mr. Speaker: I shall hang up on the notice board the names of all hon. Members who have given notices of adjournment motions (*Interruptions*).

Shri Goray (Poona): Please understand our anxiety. It is not for publicity.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that; I am not referring to that.

Shri Hem Barua: My adjournment motion is very specific; first, about the Chinese authorities' official communique to the effect that Kalimpong is the centre of the rebellion. I want to ascertain from the Prime Minister whether any correspondence was made by the Chinese Government through diplomatic channels before coming out openly with an official communique of the sort, because it establishes in a way the complicity of India in this rebellion, which is not true. At the same time, I just want to know from the Prime Minister whether on any occasion anything of this sort was communicated to the Prime Minister and, if so, whether the Prime Minister made an enquiry into it and whether

the Chinese Government was asked to give specific instances of people in Kalimpong connected with this.

Another specific issue is this. In the communique we find one thing. The communique says that the Prime Minister was not allowing a discussion on Tibet in this House. That I can understand. But what I cannot understand is this: in the same breath they say, in an indirect way, that attempting to discuss Tibetan developments in the Indian Parliament will be considered as an unfriendly act. This is rather. . . .

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated- Anglo-Indians): Impertinent.

Shri Hem Barua:..... impertinent. It may be a sort of *hauteur* on their part on what this Parliament should do or should not do; because, we have that amount of reason, that amount of sense, whether to discuss it or not to discuss it. We are the representatives of the people who are in this Parliament, presided over by you, Sir. They did not have that right. I want a clarification on these two broad points from the Prime Minister.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I wanted to mention only one thing. It is not so simple a matter. Somebody from some other country casts some aspersions on our Parliament. We are an independent country. We are a sovereign body and if some person or some agency outside says that it is not proper for us in this Parliament to discuss any matter concerning anything in the world then I think that is an aspersion on the whole country and we should not remain silent over such remarks. We should protest against these things.

Then, again this New China News Agency have circulated the news—I do not know whether that is a fact or not; the hon. Prime Minister will say something about it—that Kalimpong has been used as a commanding centre of the rebellion. The facts, as

have been disclosed by the Press, say that some 18 people of the old Government headed by the Dalai Lama have been dismissed and a new Government has been installed there. Some people sitting here in Kalimpong could not do that. It seems that the whole of Tibet has risen in rebellion. There could not be only some people in Kalimpong. It is a serious matter over which the whole country is agitated. So, we should have some sort of a discussion here. It is not that we shall be interfering in the matters of China but we shall certainly say something in view of the fact that our relations with the Tibetans have been very cordial all through, whether it was proper that we should have entered into an agreement by which the freedom of the Tibetan people was raped, as has been done today.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Sir, would you not allow some of us to make a statement?

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I submit that a new situation has arisen.

Mr. Speaker: If he is going to say the same thing then enough has been said. Is there any new point?

Shri Vajpayee: No, it has not been said. What I want to say is that the whole question of our relationship with China should be reviewed in the background of the happenings and developments that are taking place in Tibet. The garrisoning of Tibet by the Chinese troops and the establishment of airfields in Tibet constitute a direct threat to the security of India. The conduct of China in regard to Tibet can hardly be regarded as friendly to India. After the restraint displayed by the hon. Prime Minister, it was least expected from China that the New China News Agency will come out with a sinister suggestion that Kalimpong is being used as a base against the national uprising in Tibet. I think the time has come when the Government of China has got to be told that India will no longer remain a silent spectator to the tragedy that is being enacted on the roof of the world.

Shri B. C. Kamble (Nanded-Reserved-Sch. Castes): With regard to Kalimpong, I shall be very brief. The interested parties, that is, the two countries who are claiming to be friendly with each other are giving rival news. The Government of India is saying, according to the newspapers, that the Government of India had asked the Chinese authorities to cite instances whereupon the Union Government will investigate into the matter. No instances have been cited by the Chinese authorities. That is the stand taken by the Union Government whereas repeatedly the Chinese authorities are alleging that Kalimpong is made a commanding centre. Now, the position becomes worse because of the friendly relations. Both the countries are saying that we are friendly with each other. Then who is unfriendly? What exactly is the truth? Is India unfriendly or is China unfriendly? That must be ascertained. Therefore, in order to maintain the friendly relationship it is my submission that the truth must be ascertained and whosoever is indulging in false propaganda must be requested to withdraw the wrong allegations, if made either by the Union Government or by the Chinese Government.

With regard to the other observation made in the official communique of China, that is, that it would be impolite and improper to have any discussion in this country, I may submit that our discussion in this House.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow that. The same point has been made once or twice.

Shri B. C. Kamble: The question is

Mr. Speaker: There is no question. Shri Mohammed Imam.

Shri B. C. Kamble: The question is

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow repetition of the same matter, that is, whether it is open or it is not open for the other Government or somebody to say that we shall not discuss this matter. It has been said.

Shri B. C. Kamble: I will finish it. . . .

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not going to allow discussion on this point so soon. First of all, let me make up my mind whether I should give an opportunity or not. Then I would allow it.

Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug): A grave crisis has arisen on account of the fact that China has overrun Tibet and it has completely occupied this area. This entire subjugation of this territory is threatening the safety of India. To this effect I have tabled an adjournment motion. This is a very important matter as can be gauged by the concern expressed by various hon. Members of this House except perhaps one section.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member refers to the massing of Chinese troops on the south and south east borders of Tibet. That is a new thing that he refers to.

Shri Mohammed Imam: Yes, a new thing. It has also been reported that the Chinese have fanned out their troops. Their troops are massed on the south and south east frontier. Practically, they are very near India. This causes a good deal of concern. We know the history of the Communist countries in other continents and in other areas. So, this is a very dangerous situation. Therefore, what I submit is that the hon. Prime Minister must take the hon. Members of this House into confidence. This is a matter which should be debated threadbare in this House. I think hon. Members are anxious to contribute their views. They are anxious to express their concern and also help the Government and the hon. Minister of Defence because these external matters should not be a subject of controversy. It should not be a matter of party politics. We must all be united when the defence of the country is concerned. So, I submit that the hon. Prime Minister will give us an opportunity to express our views. We shall express our views in all sincerity in the interests of the country. So, I submit that the adjourn-

ment motion, if admitted either as an adjournment motion or in the form of a special motion, is certainly not in the spirit of censuring the Government. In this matter it should be left open to the House and the hon. Members must be allowed to express their views on this important matter. It is vital at present to the interests of India.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): I have again a word to say because I was in Tibet and I went to Tibet, helped by China and with a Chinese passport. I was touring all over eastern Tibet. Dalai Lama wrote me a letter. It was in 1925. Now, I have a word to say.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard him already once. On the same matter I cannot hear him again.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I take it that I should say something about these adjournment motions.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. I gave an opportunity to all those hon. Members who sponsored the adjournment motion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If you will permit me in dealing with these adjournment motions I may perhaps go slightly beyond the range of some of the questions put. I do wish. . . .

Mr. Speaker: It is clear that there is no question of censure involved in this. All hon. Members are anxious to know as to what exactly is the matter.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These adjournment motions as adjournment motions, if I may say so, can hardly arise. But so far as I am concerned, I do not wish to take shelter under any technical plea for not giving any information that I think ought to be given. Indeed, subject to certain very broad considerations to which Shri Tyagi referred, I wish to place all the information that we get before the House, as it comes in, and I propose to

do so in the future too. It is not necessary for hon. Members to demand a statement from me, but I shall do so whenever any important piece of information comes. I shall place it before the House.

At the present moment we have a mass of statements in the Press, rumours, allegations, statements of the Chinese Government, from which it is a little difficult to sort out exactly the truth of what is happening. We have one thing on which you can certainly say that there it is. There are Press communiques issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China. I do not understand why hon. Members bring in the news agency in this matter. It is a Government communique and the news agency did a completely right thing in placing the official communique before us and before the public. You may not like the wording of the communique or the content of it. That is a different matter. But it is the duty of a news agency to deal with such an important matter—not to suppress it but to place it before the public.

May I also refer to what for instance, hon. Member Shri Imam has talked about that is, the massing of troops. Now, I am completely unaware of this. In fact, I have not heard a rumour to that effect, leave out the facts. And he wants an adjournment motion because there is "massing of troops on the Indian border"!

Shri Nausahir Bharucha (East Khadesh): He said about fanning out of Chinese troops.

Shri Mohammed Imam: That is the word I used in my adjournment motion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: All kind of things are appearing in the Press which, again are based sometimes, presumably on reports not from within Tibet but from outside Tibet, whether it is Hong Kong or whether it is any other place. I do not say that any such rumour must necessarily be wrong. How can I say that?

But, normally speaking, they are not correct. Anyhow, my information is that there is no massing of troops on the Indian border, so far as I know. How can I discuss it when I do not accept that fact?

But, the major things that we have to consider are, as I said on the last occasion, the contacts of India with Tibet are very old, geographical, of course, trade, of course, but much more so, cultural and religious. Vast numbers of pilgrims go there from here and some come from Tibet to India. So that, this contact, this relationship is something deeper than the changing political scene. Naturally we are affected by it. Apart from that, as I said on the last occasion, large numbers of people in India venerate the Dalai Lama, respect him very greatly and he was our honoured guest some time ago. Because of these contacts our reaction to anything that happens in Tibet is bound to be very deep, as we see it. It is not for me to object to those reactions. But, we have to bear them in mind.

May I say that all these questions that have been recently put about giving political asylum are, probably, of no service at all to the people who might seek political asylum in India? It is no good. One has to see the difficult situation as it is and not merely create conditions which make it more difficult to deal with the situation or deal with the persons seeking political asylum. There it is. Whatever I say in regard to that will make it more difficult for these people, I say. So that, on the one side, there is this deep feeling of a certain kinship, if I may use that word, cultural kinship between the people of India and the people of Tibet.

That, of course, does not mean that we interfere in Tibet, in any way. We did interfere, not we, I mean, but the previous Government of India took an expedition to Lhasa under Col. Younghusband, 55 years ago. It very much interfered: imperialist intervention. They sat down there

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and imposed the British Government's will, acting through the then Government of India on Tibet and imposed our troops there in Tibet, in Yatung, Gyantse All kinds of extra-territorial privileges were imposed on Tibet because Tibet was weak and there was the British Empire. With some variations, we inherited these special extra-territorial privileges when India became independent.

Regardless of what happened in Tibet or China or anywhere, we could not, according to our own policy, maintain our forces in a foreign country, even if there had been no change in Tibet That was a relic of British Imperialism which we did not wish to continue We had to withdraw them back It so happened that soon after this change in the Government in China—about that time, soon after—their armies marched into Tibet What I am venturing to say is that the policy we adopted towards Tibet would have been adopted regardless of what China did, and we would have withdrawn our forces, etc That was the main thing we did

Shri Braj Raj Singh: There, everybody agrees

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Apparently people seem to imagine that we surrendered some privileges in Tibet The privileges which we surrendered in Tibet were privileges which we do not seek to have in any other country in the world, Tibet or any other It was patent from the strictly practical point of view, even apart from sentiments, that we could not do anything in Tibet either in law, constitutionally or practically

Our attitude, and historically, previously—I am not going to the past history of 500 years—the position of all previous Governments in India and elsewhere has been the recognition of some kind of suzerainty or sovereignty of China over Tibet and

Tibetan autonomy. That was normally the basis of approach. The measure of the autonomy has varied, because the strength of China, the weakness of China, the strength of Tibet, the weakness of Tibet has varied in the course of the last hundreds of years. But, that is the position Every Government in China has claimed that Many Governments in Tibet have repudiated that So, there it is Anyhow, we could not become judges or interfere or intervene either in law, or in fact, or in the circumstances, we could do nothing That is just past history

May I say one thing to the House? When the Premier of the Chinese Government came here 3 or 4 years ago or 2½ years ago, he discussed this question of the situation in Tibet with me at his own instance I did not raise it, so far as I remember He told me then that Tibet had always been, according to him and according to the Chinese position, a part of the Chinese State, that is, they have always claimed it and they have had it, according to him, but yet, Tibet was not China Tibet is not China, Tibet is not a province of China Tibet is an autonomous region which has been a part of the Chinese State—that was, as far as I remember, his words—therefore, we want to treat it as an autonomous region and give it full autonomy That is how he explained the Chinese Government's attitude to Tibet All I could say was that we had to recognise Chinese sovereignty over Tibet. But, I was glad to hear Mr Chou En-lai laying such stress on Tibetan autonomy. I said if this was fully acted upon and was well known to Tibetans, possibly the difficulties would be much less, because, I remember, difficulties had arisen already, three years ago

For nearly three years, there has been what is called the Khampa revolt in China. Khampa region, although it consists of people of

Tibetan origin, is not technically Tibet now. About 50 or 60 years ago, the Khampa region in Eastern Tibet was incorporated in China. It was never really adequately controlled or ruled by any authority, Tibetan or Chinese, because Khampas are mountain people, rather tough people, not liking anybody ruling them.

When the new Chinese Government came in, quite apart from Tibet proper, the Khampa region was in China proper. They started introducing their new reforms or changes, whatever they did in land or otherwise, in the Khampa region. That brought them into trouble with the Khampas in Tibet—not actually in Tibet, but the Tibetans in China, you may say. That trouble started 2 or 3 years ago or more than that—about three years ago, locally confined there. Then it spread and it spread to the south and south-east chiefly. Naturally one does not have details. But, it was a kind of guerilla activity which went on causing much trouble to both the parties and damage and all that. That has been continuing. When, Premier Chou En-lai talked to me, this Khampa trouble has started. It is not a kind of trouble which is of great military importance to any Government; not that; it is a nuisance and it prevents things from settling down.

That has been continuing. Nothing new has happened except that in some border some convoy has been attacked or taken away or something has been happening. The new thing, what has happened in Lhasa, may I say, has not flown from that, it is really a completely new development. The very matter was mentioned by me in this House and to the Press here the moment we heard of fighting there. Previous to that, only a few days previously, I had spoken in this House and talked about the conflict of wills there. I thought that expression was a good expression to describe what was happening there because there was no violence at that stage. Nobody

had hit anybody. But, this conflict had come out in the open in the sense of people talking in the open. It lasted 3, 4 or 5 days when actual firing began, I cannot say who began it, but it began. Normally, one would say that where it is a question of military might, the Chinese Government is much stronger than some kind of local recruits of the Tibetan Army. It is obvious. So, that has been the background of it.

Now, it is unfortunate that all this damage is done. I do not know what damage has been done, but some considerable damage has been done to some of the old monasteries in Lhasa, and maybe, some valued manuscripts have suffered thereby, and all that has happened, and our sympathies go out very much to the Tibetans.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West—Reserved-Sch Tribes) Hear, hear

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: quite apart from the actual incidents, what happened, who was to blame and who was not to blame.

In the press today, the Chinese News Agency has published some letters, which, it is said, have been written by the Dalai Lama to the Chinese Governor, the military Governor of Lhasa, just in this month. I would not like to say anything about those letters. I should like to have a little greater confirmation about them, about what they are, in what circumstances they were written, whether they were written at all. It is very difficult because all these things are being said by various parties, it is exceedingly difficult to sift the truth out of this lot of chaff. And whatever I may say, whatever the Government may do, may have far-reaching consequences.

We talk about Tibet, and we want to have friendly relations with the people of Tibet, and we want them to progress in freedom and all that. At the same time, it is important for us

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to have friendly relations with this great country of China. That does not mean that I or this Government or this Parliament or anyone else should submit to any kind of dictation from any country, however great or big it may be.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is not the point. But it also does mean that in a difficult situation, we should exercise a certain measure of restraint and wisdom in dealing with her, and not in an excited moment do something which may lead our country into difficulties. (Interruptions).

Today is the 30th of this month. It was on the 20th, the early morning of the 20th, that firing began—it is now ten days—in a country from which no news comes, except rumour. The only news that has come to us or to the wide world—I am leaving out China; they might have some special ways of getting news—the only news that came was from our Consul-General's telegrams to us. We got them pretty rapidly.

But what can the Consul-General report? Remember that too. The Consul-General reports by and large what he sees from the window of his consulate. Obviously, he cannot tell us what is happening all over Tibet. He does not know. He is in touch with Lhasa, and more or less Lhasa is what he can see from his consulate, just round about what buildings firing took place, and he can report it. He cannot even tell us all that is happening in Lhasa itself. He cannot tell us precisely and definitely what has happened to our nationals who are spread out. He can tell us definitely that our staff in our consulate is safe. He can tell us also that so far as he knows our other Indian nationals are safe, but he is not certain, because he just cannot reach them, so that all news has been cut off, and it comes to us in extremely small dribbles, news

that we can rely upon. And it becomes difficult for me to make statements or to say that we shall take some action, because of vague rumours which are obviously not always reliable.

Now, may I just say one word—I think I have answered it—about the people from Ladakh? It has been the old custom of people from Ladakh to go to Lhasa, and they do not take any travel papers or anything. They go for courses of instruction. Lhasa is in a sense their spiritual centre, their educational centre, from the Buddhist point of view. So, plenty of people go there. At the present moment, I have been informed that four head abbots from Leh are there, as well as—I forget the number,—about 30 or 40 or 50—or it may be somewhere about a hundred—monks and others who have gone there. We have not got them on our register there, because they simply come and go, and do not report to us. But as soon as I heard about this two days ago, we are making inquiries about them.

Now, I come to the statements issued, presumably by the Chinese Government. Now, those statements give a narrative of facts according to them, and I have nothing to say to that. I can neither confirm it nor deny it, because it is not in my knowledge to make a firm statement; if it was, I would make it.

As I said, so far as the letters which are said to have been written by the Dalai Lama are concerned, they are rather surprising letter. But more I cannot say; I should like to know more about them before I say.

There are two things mentioned in this statement of the Chinese authorities. One is about Kalimpong. About that, as soon as that appeared, the External Affairs Ministry, through a spokesman, contradicted that statement or corrected it. I suppose hon.

Members have seen it, but I shall read it out or part of it, if they have not.

"Asked for his comments on the description of Kalimpong as 'the commanding centre of the rebellion' in the news communique released . . . an official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs emphatically repudiated the suggestion. He said that a number of people from Tibet have been residing in Kalimpong for many years. . . ."

—many years meaning twenty, thirty, forty, fifty and more—

" . . . and among them are some who arrived during the last three or four years."

It is not many, it may be in dozens, perhaps.

"The Government of India have repeatedly made it clear to them that they should not indulge in any propaganda activities against a friendly Government on Indian soil. The last warning was given about six months ago and since then these persons have remained quiet. There have been no unlawful activities in Kalimpong or elsewhere either by these people or others. It is, therefore, entirely incorrect to say that Kalimpong is the centre of any rebellious activities. The check-posts on the India-Tibet border are adequately manned and the strictest watch is always maintained on movements between India and Tibet."

Now, an hon. Member wanted precise information as to whether the Chinese Government had complained to us about Kalimpong. I shall tell him, so far as I can remember, in the last few months, maybe, a year, there has been no complaint; but there were on two occasions perhaps two or maybe three in the last three or four years, references to Kalimpong, to some people in Kalimpong carrying on propaganda and like activities. Our position has always been, and we have made it quite clear to people

who came from Tibet, important people, that 'You are welcome to come here, but we cannot allow Indian soil to be used for subversive activities or even aggressively propagandist activities against friendly Governments.' That general policy of ours applies to every Embassy that is here; maybe, sometimes, they overstep the mark or we do not object when we might have objected. That applies to every Embassy here or every foreigner here. So, that was the rule that we followed. And on two or three occasions, some leaflet came out in Kalimpong, which we thought was undesirable, and we drew the attention of the people who had brought it out, saying 'You should not do this, this kind of thing from Indian soil'. And our instructions and warnings had effect, so far as we know. We are not aware, in fact, in the last many months, of any activity in Kalimpong; it may be in people's minds there; naturally they may have feelings; they may have sentiments. But I am merely saying that that it is wrong to say that Kalimpong was a kind or centre from which activities were organised."

Shrimati Eena Chakravarty (Basirhat): Has the Prime Minister read Elizabeth Partridge's article which has come in one of the papers where she says that she has contacted the rebels? It has come out in the papers.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not read that particular article. I do not know to which article the hon. lady Member is referring. In one or two cases, foreign correspondents have gone and talked to people there in Kalimpong or wherever it is; I do not know where, it may be Kalimpong, or it may be elsewhere, but they have not mentioned names or the place or the individuals contacted. And they have given an account from the point of view more or less, of those people in Tibet, who were on the site of the revolt. That I cannot catch, I cannot get in, but broadly speaking, it is wrong to say that Kalimpong has been the centre. Certainly, we have

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very good control of our check-posts, of people coming and going from Tibet to India, and nobody in Kalimpong can easily come or go, and you cannot control something where the movement is not easy.

I am told that when we enquired about Elizabeth Partridge's article, we found she had not gone anywhere near the border: she had written it from far away.

The second point to which reference has been made by hon. Members is to what is said in those press statements about our discussions here. It is not necessary for me to say that it is open to this House, this Parliament, and it is completely free to say or do what it chooses, to discuss any matter it chooses, subject always to the necessities of good sense and wisdom of which you, Sir, are the best judge. Nobody else outside this House is going to judge.

Unfortunately, the methods of government and the way legislatures and organisations function in China are different from ours. Perhaps it is not quite realised there, the background or the way of our functioning. Quite apart from what we do, or whether what any hon. Member says is right or wrong, he has the right to say it; he has the right to say the wrong thing, as many hon. Members on the opposite side know very well!

Shri Hem Barua: You enjoy that right equally!

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is, I suppose, a little difficult for people trained in a different tradition for a long time to understand the normal ways in which a parliamentary system of Government functions, and we should not be over-eager to find fault with somebody who does not agree with us, who describes our system in a different way, but certainly it should be made perfectly clear to all concerned that this Parliament is not going to be limited in the exercise of

its right of discussion, saying or action or anything, by any external or internal authority, whoever it may be. Having said that, obviously that right has to be exercised always with wisdom and always thinking of the consequences, and how that right should be exercised.

Shri Nath Pai: We can always claim to have done so in the past.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: This shows our Government is very weak, powerless to deal with questions all round India, north, south, east, west.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

In view of the elaborate statement made by the hon. Prime Minister, I do not think, having regard to the situation, it is necessary to allow any of these adjournment motions tabled.

The situation is delicate. Let us see. Nobody can prevent us from discussing. That much I can assure. The hon. Leader of the House also has said that it might be due to the misunderstanding of others. We are an entirely independent and free nation, and this Parliament is supreme so far as that matter is concerned, subject, of course, to the Constitution, a Constitution not laid down by any others. We lay down the Constitution ourselves. We are always watchful and ready. I will never hustle or muzzle this House so far as these matters are concerned.

Shri Nath Pai: We associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister with which we are broadly in agreement, but it will be necessary that the House gets a chance to state it, because, on such an occasion, it is necessary that you hear not merely the Government, but you hear the Opposition also, as there is a necessity to create an impression in the world that there is near-unanimity so far as expression of

sympathy for the Tibetan cause is concerned.

And one small sentence I want to bring to your notice. It has hurt us tremendously. It is that India is being bracketed with the Chiang-kai-Shek gang. There is a release today in which it is said that they were coming to India because India was going to show sympathy. These are things of which the Government should take serious note. We want friendship, and we are dedicated to friendship with China, but we are not trying to purchase it by closing our eyes, by gagging our mouth and plugging our ears and drugging our conscience. This needs to be very much impressed.

Mr. Speaker: Even if we have a discussion, nothing can prevent them from going on saying it.

12:56 hrs.

**.MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.
CRASH OF IAC AIRCRAFT**

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Shri S. M. Banerjee regarding the crash of an IAC plane.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I want to say something about this.

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): I deeply regret to give intimation to this House of an accident to an Indian Airlines Corporation Dakota aircraft which took place on the 29th March, 1959. All the four members of the crew and the 20 passengers on board the aircraft were killed. The aircraft VT-CGI piloted by Capt. S. K. Chakravarty was operating the Agartala-Kumbhigram sector of the scheduled passenger service from Calcutta to Imphal. It took off from Agartala at 10-10 A.M. IST. The last radio contact with the aircraft was at 10-45 A.M. when it reported flying in

a thunder storm. As the aircraft did not arrive at Kumbhigram, search action was initiated. A message was received by the Aerodrome Officer at Kumbhigram from the SDO, Hallakandi about 16 miles south-west of Silchar at approximately 12-30 hours stating that the aircraft had crashed at Netaji Nagar about 20 miles from Hallakandi. According to latest information received this morning, the aircraft was totally wrecked and the wreckage was found scattered along a distance of about two miles. The aircraft had crashed in a tea garden in Maneknagar, 15 miles south-west of Hallakandi. The aircraft carried 20 passengers, including three infants and four members of Crew. The names of the members of the crew and the passengers are as follows:—

Crew:

1. Pilot Capt. S. K. Chakravarty.
2. Co-Pilot Shri A. P. S. Cherra.
3. Radio Officer Shri P. R. Kar.
4. Steward Shri P. D'Souza.

Passengers:

1. Shri S. K. Patoa.
2. Shrimati Patoa.
3. Infant Patoa.
4. Shri S. K. Koley.
5. Shrimati S. Koley.
6. Shrimati P. Saha.
7. Kumari Kalyani.
8. Kumari Sabita.
9. Baby Saha.
10. Shrimati P. Barua.
11. Infant Barua.
12. Shri P. Ganguly.
13. Shrimati B. Chakravarty.
14. Shri R. C. Patroa.
15. Shri S. Talapatra.
16. Shri R. J. Singh.
17. Shri A. C. Das.
18. Shri S. K. Debrath.
19. Shri P. N. Saha.
20. Shri S. Bhattacharjee.

[Shri Mohiuddin]

The General Manager of the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Inspector of Accidents have proceeded to the site of the accident.

The Government of India have decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry to investigate the accident.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: About this particular accident, as he has said, the plane started at 8 A.M. from Calcutta, and the weather was reported to be bad, and there was a message to that effect from the plane. I want to know whether actually the weather was also bad in Calcutta, and if so, why this plane had at all flown.

The second point is whether these people, the 25 people who have died were actually insured at the time of boarding. I do not know what happened. There have been various accidents. This is the third accident I believe.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I just want to ask one question. This particular plane sent out an S.O.S. saying that the weather was very bad. I should like to know whether after receiving the S.O.S. any other aircraft was sent behind them, or whether they completely crashed immediately.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): Since a court of inquiry is to be appointed, it will be premature to discuss this matter here, whether the weather was good, or something else was sent. This is all a matter that has got to be enquired into. Beyond what my hon. colleague has read, we have no information at this time, and I think it would not be wise to discuss those things while the court of enquiry will be sitting and enquiring into them.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): May I ask for one clarification?

Mr. Speaker: Was any other aircraft sent or not? Is that such a secret?

Shri S. K. Patil: In a situation like that when the weather was so bad, surely one does not expect that another aircraft will be sent immediately after that.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): A court of inquiry is going to be appointed. I would like to know what the composition of this court of inquiry will be. Will it be like any other court, because here the accident, as you have mentioned, is of a serious nature, where the whole aircraft has crashed and 24 people have been killed. So, if they have got the personnel, let the Government inform us. We would like to know what the personnel is, on what basis they are going to have the court of inquiry.

Shri Mohiuddin: The personnel is being considered and the names will be announced later. It has not been decided yet. The full information was received only last evening.

13 hrs.

Shri A. C. Guha: It has been stated that this particular aircraft sent a message saying that it was in some bad weather. I want to know whether the Agartala Aerodrome got any previous intimation of the bad weather. If so, why was the aircraft allowed to fly?

Shri Mohiuddin: I cannot say whether there was sufficient information available to the aerodrome authorities to decide to allow it to go or not. Every aerodrome gives the briefing to the Pilot about weather conditions prevailing in that area.

Shri Prabhat Kar rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow a discussion.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): What the hon. Minister has said is nothing new. He has only stated what has already appeared in the papers.

Mr. Speaker: There is no meaning in continuing like this. The hon. Minister has only got what he has stated to the House—nothing more. There is no point in going on probing into it.

It is rather unfortunate that this accident should have happened involving the death of 24 persons. Of course, the House expresses its deep sense of sorrow at this unfortunate accident and our condolences and sympathies will go forth to the members of the families of the deceased. I am sure a thorough investigation will be made into this matter, and all available information, as soon as it is obtained, will be placed before the House.

In view of what the Minister has stated, I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES RENDERED HOMELESS IN DUST AND THUNDERSTORM IN DELHI

Mr. Speaker: There is notice of another adjournment motion from Shri S. M. Banerjee, regarding:

"Need for immediate financial assistance to all families who are rendered homeless as a result of severe dust and thunderstorm in Delhi on the 29th March, 1959...."

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to make a submission. I know the Government are prepared to give them assistance. But those residents of Purana Quila have been declared as squatters. So I do not know what will be the attitude of the Government towards these displaced persons in Purana Quila. They have suffered more. I want an assurance from Government in this connection. That was the purpose of my adjournment motion.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): So far as the sufferings of these people go, everyone, including every Member of Government, will

have sympathy with them. I understand the matter is being looked into. Whatever can reasonably be done by way of relief will, I think, be arranged. The storm was altogether unexpected, and it has caused suffering to these people. We will look into the matter and see what can be done.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: About the residents of Purana Quila also.

Mr. Speaker: In view of this, I decline to give my consent to the adjournment motion.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)—India Security Press, Nasik.

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRING BY PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS ON INDIAN CONSTABLES

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): As regards this matter, we thought that a Short Notice Question would be admitted in which case we would have been able to ask questions. Unfortunately, that is not possible in respect of a Calling Attention notice. So we should be permitted to ask some questions.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow one or two questions by hon. Members who come from that area.

Shri Vajpayee (Bairampur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance—

[Shri Vajpayee]

and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The firing by Portuguese soldiers on Indian constables on the Banda border and violation of Indian territory on the 26th March 1959."

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): What the hon. Member has stated is true. On the 26th morning, at about 10 o'clock, some of our customs people were about to stop some smugglers at the Banda border on a hill-top. At the sight of the customs police, the smugglers fled, although one headload was dropped. Soon afterwards, some 6 men of the Portuguese Army, some in *wafti* and some in uniform, opened fire on our customs police. At this region, the border is not clearly demarcated; although there are some border pillars, the actual line is not marked on the ground. As a result of Portuguese firing, one customs officer, Kalbhor, was injured on the thigh. Another man, Rane, was hit at the ankle. The Portuguese took Kalbhor with his rifle away with them. Another rifle was also taken away by them. When the Portuguese opened fire, the customs men who were not actually hit ran down the hill and escaped. Later, we understood that Kalbhor, that is, our man who was hit, was taken by the Portuguese to their hospital in Panjim. The customs police man, Rane, was taken to the hospital at the Indian side.

This is a brief narration of the events. I must say that it is exceedingly distressing that such incidents should occur, that Portuguese Army men should come across the border and shoot at our customs people or any people. We are still trying to get a little further information on this subject, so far as we can, and to take some more effective steps to stop this kind of thing, and to follow it up when it occurs.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): In view of the fact that this is not the first time that the Portuguese have ventured to violate our border on this part, and in the light of the fact that wherever we have a border—be it with Pakistan or be it with little Portugal—everybody thinks that the Indian border can be used as a practising range and our soldiers as firing targets, may we know whether Government will take adequate steps to prevent recurrence of these, and whether the border posts on the Banda border—I know the distance is about 100 yards, and it is marked, but they are very arrogant. . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): The question is whether steps will be taken to strengthen this border so that there is no recurrence of this.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): According to Press reports, the Portuguese soldiers used machine guns. May I know what our soldiers have? Are they in a position to meet machine gun firing?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our own information is also that they had light machine guns. I do not quite know, but I hardly imagine that customs people carry big weapons with them.

Shri Nath Pai: Are they being reinforced because they are often the targets?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can tell the hon. Member that steps will be taken to be able to deal with such incidents as soon as they arise. One cannot blame the poor customs people because they could not face this kind of thing.

Mr. Speaker: This is only for the future. The hon. Prime Minister has said that all precautions will be taken.

12.08 hrs.

**BENGAL FINANCE (SALES TAX)
(DELHI AMENDMENT) BILL***

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): On behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I introduce the Bill.

12.09 hrs.

****DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING—contd.**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume discussion on the Demands regarding the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and cut motions moved thereto on the 28th March, 1959, a list of which was already circulated to hon. Members on the same day. The hon. Minister may continue his reply to the debate after which the cut motions will be disposed of and the Demands put to vote.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was observing day before yesterday that while I appreciate the various criticisms made by hon. Members, in order to enable the House to judge the work of the Ministry in correct perspective, it is not sufficient to point out any shortcomings or defects alone, but I would

request the House to look to the other side of the picture also and then to judge whether the work of the Ministry or the various departments attached to it is good and has progressed. Now, I will take, first of all, the All India Radio.

12.10 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

The All India Radio is a big organisation and it is easy to point out defects here and there. Before the House passes any opinion on the criticisms expressed, I would like to draw its attention to the notable work done by this Department. It has to be remembered that this is a new department. In the year 1947, when we took it over, it had just made a beginning. We had at the time of Partition, only six radio stations. Today we have 28 radio stations. And, the number of transmitters has grown from 19 to 58. We were then dealing with only 8 languages. Now we have got 16 languages. At that time, in 1947, there was no tribal language or dialect being dealt with in our programmes. Today, 29 tribal languages are being dealt with and programmes are being broadcast. Over and above this, important dialects of the various important languages of the country—and their number is 48—are getting regular cultural expression in their various programmes. Now, the same thing will apply to the Broadcasting stations. In 1947, when we took over, 6 stations were broadcasting, in all, approximately, for about 26,000 to 27,000 hours. We are now broadcasting for more than 1,06,000 hours. The coverage is more than five times now than what it was in 1947.

This bird's eye-view will show how the Department has been trying to build itself up. In 1947 our technical

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Dr. Keskar]

experience or knowledge was not adequate, because half of the staff or more than half had gone—to the other side.

The Radio, during this decade, has tried primarily to reorganise itself and to consolidate the organisation. In order to make any real and good progress that was absolutely essential. The importance of this will be realised when hon. Members look at the rather important factor that a large part of the staff had to be recruited suddenly in 1947. Because of partition, we had to recruit new staff to replace those who had gone out. And so, we had on the staff, people recruited in every possible way. Some were recruited through the U.P.S.C. Some ad hoc appointments were made, certain ad hoc appointments, with the consent of the U.P.S.C. Some were made on contract, short-term and long-term. In fact, there were these people appointed in various ways. To consolidate all this staff into a regular cadre, regular rules had to be framed in consultation with U.P.S.C. It was a very difficult task. It took nearly five or six years to achieve this. But I may ask the House to associate itself with me in recording their appreciation of the big work that has been done in carrying out this reorganisation, and which is now complete. At present we can claim that all the permanent staff are regularised and there are regular rules not only for recruitment but also for promotion. The officers are recruited through the U.P.S.C. Once an officer is recruited through the U.P.S.C. at the lowest stage, he can go up to the highest post through regular work and promotion.

The other important task which faced us was also the integration of the Engineering staff of the Radio. The Engineering staff is very important because the work of the Radio ultimately depends on the efficacy of its equipment. That work has been taken on hand and I am sure that within a short period of time we will

be able to achieve integration of the Engineering staff also. We suffered from the handicap of recruiting engineers through the U.P.S.C. at every step which led to a kind of want of incentive in the various grades. It is now proposed to integrate all the grades together, so that any Engineer who is recruited at the lowest level can rise up to the highest grade.

The third most important point which we had to take up was the formation of a Programme Production staff. As you know, in all the important broadcasting networks in the world, programme production is a very specialised work which is given to specialists or persons who are specialised in that particular line. We have not been able to do it in 1947 because we were then just at the beginning of the development of Radio in the country; but the more we expanded, the more we began to feel the need for it, and is essential for any real progress; that work has also been taken in hand during the last three or four years. I am happy to inform the House about the progress made regarding these matters. We can now say that we have advanced sufficiently in the formation of a Programme Production Staff. The difficulty here will be realised when we look to the fact that we have to deal with more than a dozen languages and programmes in those languages. Persons who have specialised in music literature and the spoken word in that particular language had to be recruited. I have, Sir, broadly indicated the three directions in which consolidation has been taken in hand.

Some hon. Members criticise the inadequacy of development or the slow progress that we make. I would request them to take into consideration the tremendous amount of difficulties that we have had to face. We should not, and I think, it is not fair, to compare our development by taking the example of any important foreign network. Our problems are poles apart from any such ideal network. Let us take the most important difficulty that we have to face

every day. We do not broadcast much in English. In fact, this is the most important medium in the country which broadcasts the least amount of time in English and most amount of time in our languages. Now, the variety of languages is one of the greatest difficulties we have to tackle. The difficulty would have been solved and we would have arrived at a very sweet middle path had it not been for the linguistic claims and counter claims which the broadcasting department has to face. Hon. Members will be able to appreciate the position if I point out some baised facts about this. Most of our important broadcasting stations have to broadcast in half a dozen languages. Bombay has to broadcast in eight languages. Delhi has to broadcast in five languages. Calcutta has to broadcast in four languages. Madras has to broadcast in six languages. Jullundur has to broadcast in four languages. Hyderabad has to broadcast in seven languages. Gauhati has got to broadcast in half a dozen languages. For other stations also, the same thing applies. They have to broadcast in three or four languages.

Now, the difficulty does not end there. The linguistic claims go further. They insist that every variety of programme must be broadcast in that language also. For example, take the women's programme. If we have a women's programme, say, in a particular language, then the other languages also insist that there must be women's programmes in those languages also. The same thing will apply to children's programmes or any other special programmes that might be put; and most important of all to news bulletins that are broadcast.

When every station or most of the important stations have to broadcast in more than half a dozen languages and items have to be repeated in these half a dozen languages so many times during the day, hon. Members will realise that the time left for other quality programmes is very little.

Shri Hem Barna (Gauhati): What about the women's programmes? Does the demand come from women alone or from men also?

Dr. Keskar: Men can listen to women's programmes; there is no objection to that. We have been trying to find a way out of this. But, I am afraid, that it is not possible for me to do away with the linguistic claims. We claim to serve the cultural expression of all the languages and we try to meet the claims of the various language groups in all the regions as much as we could. But the resulting pressure on radio time is so great that it is not possible for us to devote time to what I call purely 'quality programmes'.

The only way of dealing with this would be that we might keep a large number of transmitters at each station so that a number of channels are available and we are able to broadcast simultaneously programmes in many languages. That desirable achievement would come, probably, after some time. But, at present, due to paucity of funds and paucity of equipment this is something which has to be ruled out.

I must confess to hon. Members that this is the most tremendous obstacle that we have and the importance of language is too well understood by hon. Members and I am sure they would not ask me to ignore the claims of the linguistic groups. In fact, during the course of the debate, some of the most vehement criticisms were made on behalf of the various language groups.

Another point which is also important, and which I would submit to the hon. House, is this. The quality or standard of the variety of programmes in the various languages will depend on the talent that we can find available in that particular language group, because, we have to remember that there are particular types of programmes which have not been existing in this country and we have built them up from

(Dr. Keshar)

scratch. In certain languages, such programmes or such kinds of cultural expressions never took place and it has fallen to our lot to do pioneer work in that particular direction. And, if, in the beginning, we are not able to give good quality, I think hon. Members would appreciate what we are trying to do to help that particular language in such cultural activities.

For example let us take what is called skits and features, Dramatic features are very popular items of radio programmes in a number of foreign countries. We are also trying to build them up. The output and quality will depend on the dramatic talent that is available and availability of dramatic features of the type if they are popular in the particular language group. In fact, we will find that in certain languages very good programmes are being produced but in others they might not be so good. We have however, to judge them by the standard of the particular language and not by any standard that we might have, taken from London or from New York or from any outside place. If we take that into consideration, I am sure that we can unstintedly say that we have made very good progress and it is to the credit of the All India Radio that it has helped in building up the cultural expression, whether it is folk song, whether it is drama, whether it is poetry, of the many languages in the country. The language specialists or the men of letters of the languages have been the first to acknowledge what the Radio has been trying to do for them.

One point which is technical and which also comes in the way of the development is the paucity of sets in the country and also the want of electricity throughout the country. Paucity of sets does affect the programme production in this way that if in an area the number of sets is very small, the incentive to have larger and greater variety of programme is also not there.

The second point regarding electricity also comes in because it is not possible to expect large numbers of people to buy battery sets. A battery set is a very costly thing and we cannot expect people to spend every month about Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 for the maintenance of the set. So, these two things also come in the way.

But, in spite of these difficulties the Radio has made tremendous improvement. During the last decade we instituted new and special items which were not there before or were there only in an embryonic stage. For example, I might refer to the rural programmes. Formerly, there were only two or three or few rural programmes; but, today there are 27 rural programmes from the various stations being broadcast. We have also a dozen of industrial programmes and we propose to increase them during this year and the next year to a much larger extent also.

There were only 4 or 5 school broadcasts but now they have gone up to 21. The women's programmes are broadcast from practically every station and children's programmes also. We have also many other special programmes which we have begun, like the troops' programmes, tribal programmes, and a number of other features. The increased variety of programmes increase the information and entertainment which comes to the listener.

There is also the newsreel feature which has been started and which tries to picturise in words various events or big projects and other things and put them before the public. This is becoming a very popular and very attractive feature. I would not say that we can increase or expand this item too much because this requires a very specialised type of talent and it is not so easy to build it up. It will take some time. But I am sure that we will expand; we have made a good beginning and that beginning has been welcomed by the listeners.

Poetic competitions, kavi sammelans, music competitions, folk music festivals and farm forums—these are some of the important items I am quoting at random—are some of the new attractions for the listener that the Radio has been trying to put forward

The comparison that many hon Members are apt to make with foreign networks is not, I submit, real. The conditions there are different, the conditions here are entirely different. And, I have mentioned before some of the difficulties we have to face here.

I would like to mention one type of critic who always comes up off and on in the debates in Parliament and we have met him in every debate. This is the BBC fan. We have been dealing with it last year. Hon friends might very well refer to the BBC and say that in comparison with it we are doing nothing and our progress is too small. I have nothing to say against the BBC which is a first-class radio network. But I may also say that the quality or the type of programme produced by the BBC cannot be compared with our programmes. The programmes in Assamese or Oriya or Tamil cannot be compared with the programmes of the BBC produced in English. The languages are different, the background is different, the literary effort of the language is different. No doubt the BBC which has a network with a large number of listeners and a lot of money at its command is able to give a larger variety of programmes. We, probably, are not able to give that much. But, I may say that if we take all things into consideration, we also are giving as much and I am sure that when we reach that stage of development we will give as much or even more. The improvement of programme production, if I may submit, is a continuous process. It is possible that an hon Member is not satisfied with the programmes. It is easy for him to point out the difficulties. But let him also compare them with what they were and how they

have improved. Then only he will be able to pay a fair tribute to what has been done. I would request the hon. Members to give a comparative judgment and not simply an absolute judgment of what they find wanting. I am myself aware of the defects in the programmes and what we ought to do. But that does not mean that our programmes are not good. They are good and we would like to make them better. As I said, the radio functions every day, it is not just a mechanical repetition of what was done yesterday where the same item has to be brought up something new and I am sure we will be able to give more and more variety to our listeners.

I would mention here one important programme that we have started—Vividh Bharati. It is the alternative channel on an All India basis that we have established for those listeners who do not like to listen to anything except a light fare which does not tax their brain. It has been undertaken as a result of the demand more especially from the urban areas and I am very glad to say that it has become very popular. Of course we maintain a certain standard in the programme and do not fall to the level of certain other networks which try to attract people by any way they like. With the standard we maintain, it has proved a very good substitute. Number of listeners is many—I would not say that they are in the majority—who would like to relax a little listening to something pleasant. By and large we have made progress and I make bold to submit that the All India Radio has during the last one decade become a major instrument of the expression of Indian culture. That by itself is an achievement which we can be proud of and I am sure it will try to go on improving itself. The statement of fact regarding the radio licences will by itself reveal what progress we have made. In 1947 we had only 275,000 licences and we have been progressing continuously and we have more than 15 lakhs on 31st December, 1958. There is no year in which we have not had an increase

in the number of licences and hon. Members would be glad to know that the greatest leap that we have made has been in 1957-58 when we have had more than 2½ lakhs.....

Shri Anwar Harvaal (Fatehpur): What about unlicensed radios?

Dr. Karkar: This increase is in spite of the fact that because of the rather faulty checking system the number of unlicensed sets must be very high. If we take that and also the number of people who listen to one set into consideration, it shows that more and more people are becoming radio-minded. There have been people who have been saying that our progress is very slow and that we should have the same number of licences, as for instance, in England or America where there is a set in every household. It is easy to blame the All India Radio for not making so much progress. We have to take into consideration a number of factors; firstly, the low economic standard in the country. A radio set which costs Rs. 200 or Rs. 250, that is, what we call, a cheap set, is too much for an ordinary middle-class family in the country. You have to think of the maintenance cost of the set. If you consider all these, you will realise that it is not easy for a middle class family to buy a radio set. There is need for a cheap set and that is one of the pre-requisites to have a larger number of sets working. We are thinking about this question and we should be able, as I pointed out, to put before the public a cheap radio set. I had also mentioned the question of electricity. That is also a very important point. In smaller towns where there is no electricity nobody will buy a battery set except perhaps a very rabid fan. Everybody cannot afford it.

If we compare the radio with the newspapers, I make bold to say that radio has made much more progress. There are people who complain of the radio not making sufficient progress and not getting sufficient number of licences. But if we compare

the circulation of newspapers, I do not think that we are in a disadvantageous position.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): On a point of information, may I know from the hon. Minister about this thing? The research section of the All India Radio was commissioned to produce a prototype of an inexpensive radio receiver. What has happened to that?

Dr. Karkar: The research section is one wing of the All India Radio. We want the manufacture of cheap radio sets. The work of the research section is to make scientific research in this direction. We are not making prototypes ourselves. In consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry we are also trying to see how much sets could be manufactured.

I was saying that the highest circulation of newspapers in this country is about 100,000 or thereabouts while in other countries like Japan, the circulation goes up to five or six millions. A newspaper is certainly much cheaper than the radio. Somebody may ask as to why there are not more newspapers circulation in this country. But if we compare this with the radio, I make bold to say that the radio has certainly made progress and people are appreciating what we have been able to do in that direction.

I am glad to make an announcement that in order to attract more listeners we are thinking of certain proposals regarding the radio licence fee. We have had a number of complaints regarding the high licence fee. This question has been examined and we have come to a decision on principle regarding this matter. As the hon. Members are aware, a person will have to pay a licence fee on any number of sets that he may have. We have found that it is hard for a person to pay the same fee for the first set and also for the additional number of sets that he has. It has been decided now that we will levy an

additional fee—a nominal one—on every second, third or fourth or any number of sets that a person may have. We also propose to have a very much reduced fee for the cheap set. The exact amount has not been decided. It will be decided very soon so that the poorer people and the middle class people who want to buy cheap sets will have greater incentive to buy. They will have to pay less for keeping in. We are taking this step in order to help those who would like to have a set but are not able to have either on account of the high licence fee....

Shri Achar (Mangalore): What will be the fee for the additional set?

Dr. Keskar: That has not been decided. It will be very much less than the fee for the ordinary set.

Hon. Members have made a number of references to the Publications Division and one hon. Member has said that its works are not available anywhere. I regret to disagree with him. During the last five years or so, our Publications Division has been completely reorganised and it is as businesslike as any other leading publishing concern. This will be visible to the Members from the facts that they will find in the report that has been given to them. Our sales have gone up from Rs. 2-3 lakhs to Rs. 16-17 lakhs last year. This year—1957-58—we hope to sell nearly Rs. 26 lakhs worth books. I may also say that our publications are appreciated everywhere and we have hardly to wait for selling out an edition. That by itself is a compliment. I may also inform the hon. Members that the type of publications which are distributed free are very few and only concern, what are called, Plan publicity.

12.39 hrs.

[**Mr. SPEAKER** in the Chair]

We are publishing a number of them which we sell to the public and the free distribution of such publications is not more than five to seven per

cent. This by itself will help the hon. Members to realise that we have improved our publications to the greatest possible extent.

I may in passing refer to two new things that the Publications Division is undertaking. One is a series of books on the builders of modern India. All the great leaders of the last one century will be taken up and readable and compact biographies of these people by eminent men who know these people well will be published in these series. The first two books in this series would be on Dadabhoj Naoroji and Ram Mohan Roy.....

An Hon. Member: In which language?

Dr. Keskar: English. Later on we propose to publish them in the other languages also. They have been taken up and we hope that within the next two or three months the two books will come out.

Hon. Members have made a number of observations. The observations are so many. I hope to be excused if I am not able to reply to all of them. I will take up the important points or some of the points that they have made, but I might assure them that I will look into all the points that they have made, find out and verify them and see what we do for them.

Shri Prabhat Kar made the largest number of points and it is very difficult for me to say something about all the points. But I might take up two points at random. First of all, he has been speaking about State awards. He was telling the House that our State awards are not functioning well. Why? Because, he says, a particular picture, to which he referred, which got an international prize was not considered worthy by the Central Awards Committee here. Now, Sir, judging pictures or paintings or works of art is a very difficult subject and it is possible that our opinions might differ. But if the hon. Member takes the trouble of looking at all the awards that have been given during the last four or

[Dr. Keskar]

five years he will find that pictures to which we have given awards have won international prizes. For examples, let me quote last year's example. We gave an award to a picture, and the whole film world criticised us saying that the picture is nothing and it did not merit an award. But immediately after that picture got the international prize in Berlin and also in America, and they all acclaimed it as a great work of art.

Now, I am not taking the place of the Central Awards Committee. But the Central Awards Committee tries to do justice, and in a major number of cases they have decided in a way which time has shown was right. It is possible that here or there the hon. Member's opinion might differ from that of the Central Awards Committee. But, then, we have to entrust the work to some committee. I hope the hon. Member does not mean to say that the members of the committee are not eminent enough. I have sufficient faith in them.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): I only want to know whether my statement was correct or not.

Dr. Keskar: Does it lead to any generalization? That is the question.

Then, he made a complaint about auditions. He said that there are many complaints against auditions. Whatever specific complaints he may have, if he brings them to my notice I will certainly look into them. But I might observe that auditions or a screening system is absolutely inevitable and essential if we want to have some choosing and selection. Otherwise, the alternative is that we leave it to the sweet will of the man on the spot who is likely to make a greater bungle. Then accusations of partisanship, this and that will come, and hon. Members will be the first to come and place them before the House. Every broadcasting system does maintain a system of audition. In fact, if I may say so, other systems, including those of Russia, are

much more rigorous in audition than what we are. They are extremely strict, and people have to pass through a number of tests before they are accepted as artists. We are much more liberal and generous. If there is any particular complaint, I would like to hear that case. When thousands of people are screened, it is possible that there may be some injustices. We have got a system of appeal. They can go and appeal. I can assure him that an appeal or any complaint that he brings to my notice would be looked into.

Shri Parmar spoke a lot about untouchability. I entirely agree with him. It is a very important subject. He said that this Ministry can do much. Well, this Ministry will try to do what it can, and I can assure him that we are not behind him in any sentiment he expressed as far as the propaganda for removal of untouchability is concerned. We will try to do whatever we can. The subject is not easy in the sense that such a deep-rooted thing as untouchability cannot go simply by the propaganda of this Ministry. But whatever we can contribute to it we will do. Our radio, our publicity department and our films division are all trying to help in this work.

I might here say that we propose to have a good film made on the question of removal of untouchability. It is not so easy as some hon. Members think, that we produce a film in which we abuse untouchability. That will not suffice. The objective is that the person who is observing untouchability should become so convinced by seeing it that he will not observe it thereafter. That is a very difficult job. But we will try to do what we can.

He had a fling at Government and its advertising department. I am, Sir, not able to agree with him. In fact, I am afraid, his facts are all wrong. He says the Press is slave to Government because Government gives advertisements to the Press.

That is a very broad submission to make. I will only try to draw your attention to the fact that the total advertisements in the country, according to commercial advertisers themselves, is worth about Rs 9 crores. Out of this the Central Government advertisements are worth Rs. 35 lakhs—that is, 3½ per cent. In the case of some individual papers it might come to 5 per cent or even 6 per cent. If you take all the advertisements issued by all the State Governments and other bodies also which have something to do with Government, it comes to 8 per cent. Now, the hon. Member surely does not claim that by this lure of 3 per cent to 4 per cent the Government is able to get the Press round to its side. I am afraid, that is a very untenable statement.

Shri P. E. Patel (Mehsana): What is the policy of Government in regard to giving advertisements?

Dr. Keskar: Our policy is to give advertisements to all papers, as many papers as we can, without regard to the paper belonging to any particular party.

Shri P. E. Patel: Is it not a fact that the recommendation comes from the States and the Central Government works upon it?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir, that is not a fact. We do not get recommendations from Central Government. We have got our own machinery.

Shri P. E. Patel: The recommendations come from the States.

Dr. Keskar: I am sorry. They do not come from the State Governments. I can even give the names of papers that belong to Opposition parties. The list runs into dozens of papers to which we regularly give advertisements. (Interruption.) It is no use the hon. Member trying to interject me. If he contradicts me, let him contradict with facts and not simply by making a statement.

3 (A) LSD.—3

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Minister mean to say that even when a paper has little or no circulation he gives advertisements to that paper.

Dr. Keskar: What I meant was, we give on the basis of circulation and journalistic standards. We judge papers on that basis, and on that basis we are giving advertisements to dozens of papers belonging to Opposition parties.

Shri Nanshir Bharucha (East Khairabad): May I point out, Sir, that the argument of the hon. Minister that out of all the advertisements Government advertisements form only 3½ per cent is not accurate? In view of what you have pointed out, out of 100 papers only 10 may get them and, therefore, the 3½ per cent is distributed among the 10 papers only.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member seriously contend that even though a paper was started only yesterday and no copy is circulated except the free copies to hon. Members, it should get advertisements? I suggest that hon. Members may consider whether they would make this suggestion if they sit on these benches.

Dr. Keskar: The argument can be carried further. What I am saying is, there is no paper, if you take individual papers, which gets more than 5 to 10 per cent in Government advertisements.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: had raised two questions. One was about permanency of staff. I may say that we are trying to make as much percentage of staff permanent as we can. As hon. Members know, the question of permanency has to be decided by the Finance Ministry. Generally speaking, the Finance Ministry allow up to 80 per cent. Only 80 per cent of the staff of this Ministry has been made permanent. We have taken it up with them. I hope, with the pressure from this House,

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I will succeed in getting that proportion raised.

She also mentioned about the work of the Central Board of Censors. I will not speak on this question here. Recently we have had, in discussing the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, a long whole day discussion about the question of censorship and it was gone into very thoroughly. I can only say that I am myself worried over this and I will certainly have this question looked into as to how we can make this censorship machinery work more effectively and strongly.

My hon. friend, Shri Manaen has come down on the AIR for film music. I do not want to repeat. The whole question of film music has been debated at least half a dozen times in this House. I can only repeat again broadly one thing. That is, we are not against film music or any type of music provided it has a certain standard of taste and decency. But we try to give a variety of music; every type of music is broadcast. If he makes an effort to listen regularly, he will find that we are broadcasting film music also. We broadcast folk music, devotional music and light music, instrumental music, classical music, all sorts of music. In fact, the Vivid Bharati programme, as I mentioned, is meant to give a higher type of music for those who do not want to listen to heavier programmes, but if he goes on to say that large numbers of listeners only want light music and film music, I am afraid I am not able to agree with him. First of all, he has quoted figures. He asked, "Why do you not take a gallup poll?" Everything cannot be decided by a gallup poll in the world. If I put up an obscene show on the street corner, I am sure I will get the largest crowd in the world. But I am not going to have that obscene show even though it might draw the largest crowd. I must observe a certain minimum amount of standard in what I give

to the public. That is where we differ from certain commercial broadcast networks who are prepared to give anything whatsoever so that they attract a large crowd. But within that limit we will try to give, and we are trying to give, to the public every variety of music.

One word more on this point. We should, rather than harping on this question of film music, see that our light music, that is, the folk music, of our people is developed to the largest possible extent. Our country is very rich in it and we have got a variety unequalled elsewhere in the world, and we should try to develop it. That will adequately give to our masses a kind of musical entertainment that they would like. It is not correct to say that light or rather film music is wanted by people in every part of the country. For example, in the South, in Tamil Nad, I have not seen any great demand for such type of music. In Bengal, in Calcutta, no demand for film music has come. It is certain areas of India, more especially the Hindi-speaking area, which demand it. There also, after an analysis of listeners, we found that by and large, it is the juvenile population which wants or prefers film music, and the adults have asked for it in a very small measure. Now, the radio cannot only be for the juveniles. Of course it might give something for the juveniles, but it must give for others also.

श्री भक्त बर्दान (गढ़वाल) : भ्रमर मंत्री
जी सारे हिन्दी क्षेत्र पर आक्षेप न कर के बिहारी
और लखनऊ क्षेत्र तक ही उस को सीमित रखते
तो ज्यादा प्रचारा होता ।

Dr. Keskar: Shri Manaen mentioned about the Film Institute, the film Board and television. He referred to them, and his condemnation showed that he has ignored the reasons why these institutions have been put up. For example, about the Film Institute during the discussion.

on this subject last time, the overwhelming majority of Members were asking why it has not been established already.

Shri Mansam (Darjeeling): What is the purpose?

Dr. Keskar: If the hon. Member reads the Film Enquiry Committee's report he can find out the purpose. He might not agree with that. But we also felt, after discussing it, that it will be a very useful thing and it will help in raising the standard of films in this country, and the hon. Member is quite wrong when he thinks that it is for the purpose of teaching how to do a make-up or how to put on a dress, etc. I have said when we put forward this question of the Film Institute, that we are going to take up the technical aspect of the question only, that is, the camera, lighting and other things first, and that the question of directorship or the stage is something which can be taken up later.

The Film Production Bureau to which he made a reference has been completely misunderstood by him, probably on account of the name. But the Film Production Bureau is a kind of voluntary pre-censorship to help producers to produce films in a direction in which the censor will have his work lightened and some of the unnecessary expenditure that he might have to entail is saved.

Shri Mansam: But it is not mentioned there, unfortunately.

Dr. Keskar: That is why I said that if the hon. Member had read the Film Enquiry Committee's report he would have known it.

Shri Mansam: What about the Nepali programme? It is an important question.

Dr. Keskar: I cannot answer every point that is raised by him. According to every Member, whatever he raises is important. There are so many of them.

Mr. Speaker: I agree.

Dr. Keskar: Shri Jagdish Awasthi raised a question which is very important on principle, and he accused this Ministry of neglecting Hindi. He said Hindi is neglected in the Films Division; Hindi is neglected in the Publication Division, and one or two other hon. Members—

Shri Mansam rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is not yielding.

Shri Mansam: With regard to the film on untouchability, why is it not being done by the Government and why has it gone to the private producers?

Dr. Keskar: I can answer that question if he comes to me afterwards and I will explain it to him.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. Minister one thing? Once he will have an official debate here, and another non-official debate in the hall so that he can give opportunities to all Members.

Dr. Keskar: With pleasure, I will do that. Now, the question of Hindi is important. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to two aspects of the question. Firstly, it is not the sole responsibility of this Ministry to take up the work of propagation of Hindi. It can do it only in certain departments with which it is concerned, and to the extent that it is necessary. Take the question of the New Division. The work of the News Division is to broadcast news bulletins. We broadcast also Hindi news bulletins rather on a big scale, because there are certain non-Hindi areas also where we have Hindi bulletins in order to familiarise the people with Hindi. But the important point to be borne in mind regarding this question is that the news sources are not in Hindi. It is all easy for hon. Members to say, "take down speeches in Hindi and then reproduce them in Hindi on the radio

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broadcast". The radio has not got a network of correspondents nor has it a news agency of its own. All our news, even from Parliament, comes through the news agencies. The verbatim reports come from the news agencies, and as they are in English, we have to do it on the English basis. When an arrangement is made for news agencies to give us the news in Hindi, then it will be easy for us to do it that way. It is not possible for us to establish our own network so that we can get it in Hindi. That is not a possibility at this stage. We would like to see that, not only in Hindi but in other languages also, we prepare our news bulletins originally in that language but that stage will come later. It is not possible now to do it. We had intended it, and the hon. Member is quite right in thinking that we had planned it. But when we found this obstacle, we could not over come it, because as long as the news agencies are not able to give us the news in Hindi, we will not be able to tackle that question. But we will try our best. I might assure him that we are as anxious as he is for the propagation of Hindi but the progress in Hindi made by this Ministry and the News Division will be commensurate with the progress in Hindi made by the Government and the country in general. This Ministry alone cannot race forward while others will lag behind. We will have to go together. It will all, therefore, depend on the All-India general policy which we also are trying to follow and do it in the best way possible.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi (Bilhaar): Your Ministry's part in this work is very important.

Dr. Keskar: We are trying to do our bit, but the question of others is also there.

Shri Bhakt Darshan referred to the question of the lexicon. As far as this question is concerned, we have already prepared 25,000 expressions,

that is, we have converted 25,000 words, but there is a difference of opinion between him and us as far as the vocabulary itself is concerned. For the sake of news bulletins, it is essential to have simple words, and it is essential that the person who listens should understand. It is not like reading a book. If a person is listening to a news bulletin, he must be immediately able to understand what is being said. Therefore, our main principle is to have simple words. Where a technical word has not been translated well, or the technical translation is very difficult, then we have the original English word or its synonym so that the listener will understand it and follow. Excepting this point I have no difference of opinion with him.

My friend Shri Hem Barua has been mentioning a number of things. He spoke so quickly and mentioned so many things that I would not be able to take up all of them. But I will certainly have a discussion with him on them, and I would only mention one or two points that he raised. One was about having two news agencies. I agree with him that we should have more than one news agency. But a news agency, as Shri Hem Barua himself will agree, will be an independent news agency. It is not the Government which can establish an independent news agency. Government's sympathy is there for the establishment of one or two additional agencies and we will try to help in the best way possible.

14 hrs.

He has been rather severe in parliamentary commentaries. For example, he was referring to the boring, monotonous and mediocre performance of the Ministers. It is possible that the performance of Ministers is mediocre, but the subjects they deal with are important and they have to be mentioned. I got some statistics and I find in the last week or so, Mr. Barua's name mentioned at least three times in the

commentary. I do not think he can complain that he has been unfairly dealt with.

An Hon. Member: Why not increase the time?

Dr. Keskar: That will be not so easy at this time. Later, when more technical facilities become available, we will certainly increase the time.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi: Why are the speeches of Ministers and the Prime Minister given undue importance?

Dr. Keskar: The public want to listen to the Prime Minister's speeches. The hon. Member may disagree with that, but I have mentioned many times in this House that the news bulletin is not a verbatim report or a kind of precis of the parliamentary debate. It is just like any other newspaper, having a selection of items of public interest. It is not possible for us to issue a directive every single day; we have to leave it to the discretion of the Director of News Services to select the items.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I may say that the A.I.R. news bulletin is one of the best.

Dr. Keskar: The hon. Member was complaining that there was no commentator. As hon. Members appear to be vitally interested, the post was advertised and I had appointed a selection committee consisting of two members of the Press Commission, so that there shall be no complaint. Of course, the officers of the Ministry were there. According to the report of that committee, none of the candidates who came could be considered as coming up to the standard of parliamentary commentator. The fact is, if I can offer very high pay—which it is not possible for the All India Radio to offer—I may be able to get a very good commentator. It is the financial difficulty which is coming in the way. So, we are forced to carry it on an ad hoc basis.

Shri Dasappa: (Bangalore): Why not select the best available candidate for the moment?

Dr. Keskar: Either I will have something which Members will not be able to criticise every day or... It is not right for us to carry it on in a way in which it will become a target of criticism here.

Mr. Das mentioned two questions. He would like a community set to be put up in every village. That is desirable; I would certainly like it to be done, but it requires a large amount of finance. It cannot be done very quickly. There the co-operation of the State Government is also very essential. With their co-operation I hope this thing will be possible.

Shri Harvani was complaining about publications not being available. I do not agree with him. It is possible that in a particular place or a particular bookshop, he was not able to get a publication. But I make bold to say that our distribution system today is many times better than what it was and it is as good as that of any commercial publisher. No commercial publisher can claim that all his books will be found in every bookshop in every place.

श्री स० न० तारिक (जम्मू तथा काश्मीर) : इतनी पब्लिकेशन्स मौजूद हैं कि कोई खरीदता ही नहीं है ।

[شہری آئے - اہم - طاریق (جمن اور کشمیر) : اتنی پبلو کیشنز موجود ہیں کہ کوئی خریدتا ہی نہیں ہے -]

Dr. Keskar: There is no book published by the Publications Division which has not been sold out and which has not gone through two or three editions. I challenge the hon. Member to come and see; the statistics are available.

I am sorry Mr. Harvani made personal mention of the Director-General of the All India Radio. I do not think it is proper.

Shri Ansar Harvani: It was not a personal reference. It is a question of policy, I never mentioned about the present incumbent of the post, for whom I have great regard. I only mentioned that a non-I.C.S. officer should be Director-General of All India Radio.

Dr. Keskar: This post is within the purview of the Public Service Commission, and any recommendation that the Member has should be given to the Commission that it should be filled by a person with such and such qualifications. I personally agree with him that we should have a person with cultural attainments. But it does not mean that in the Civil Service, there are no people of this type. He should not try to mix up the two.

Mr. Speaker: Is it reserved for the Civil Service?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir; it is an independent post filled through the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Achar has naturally mentioned about Mangalore. I do not know how he has missed it, but I might inform that Dharwar is being strengthened. The transmitted for Dharwar is in the high seas at the moment and when Dharwar becomes stronger, I am sure he will have no more cause to complain.

I have not been able to cover all the points mentioned. I would request hon. Members who are not satisfied and whose points have not been answered to see me and I will try to give them all information.

सरवार अ० लि० सहलग (जंजगीर) :
श्री श्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा कि बी० बी० सी० को ज्यादा ब्याति प्राप्त है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बी० बी० सी० को बाबकास्ट करते हुए कितना समय हो गया है और ए० आई० आर० को कितना समय हो गया है। ए० आई० आर० को करीब बारह बरस हुए हैं। अब तक उस को उतना समय

नहीं दिया जायेगा, तब तक वह उतनी ब्याति प्राप्त नहीं कर सकेगा।

Mr. Speaker: As in the case of railways and some other subjects, where a large number of people are interested—the AIR reaches every home; even the railway does not reach every home—we are not able to exhaust every kind of suggestion here. What I would suggest is, if at the end any hon. Member feels that his point has not been answered, he can pass on a chit to the Table Office. I shall pass it on to the hon. Minister and the Minister will sit once a week, on a Friday preferably, in the Central Hall and explain the points to hon. Members. If he thinks a bigger statement is necessary, he will make a consolidated statement once a fortnight in this House. Occasionally, because hon. Members are interested, he will have a debate in the Hall or here once a quarter. I have no objection; I am prepared to allow a debate twice for every important subject in the usual course.

Shri Hem Barua: Will there be music and entertainment also?

Mr. Speaker: Whatever the hon. Member wants.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): If you go to the Constitution Club, you will get it.

Mr. Speaker: Need I put any cut motion in particular to the House? Nobody presses any cut motion.

The cut motions were, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 61

to 63 and 124 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND No. 61—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 62—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,25,77,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 63—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,14,88,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'".

DEMAND No. 124—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,33,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending

the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'".

MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion on Demands Nos. 81 to 84 and 130 relating to the Ministry of Steel Mines and Fuel for which 8 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members desirous of moving cut motions may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes the numbers of the selected cut motions. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

DEMAND No. 81—MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,98,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'".

DEMAND No. 82—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,63,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Geological Survey'".

DEMAND No. 83—EXPLORATION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,10,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

[Mr. Speaker]

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas'.

DEMAND No. 84—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,81,40,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'."

DEMAND No. 130—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,06,80,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1960, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'."

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): In moving the Demand for Grants for 1959-60, I would, with the permission of the House, like to make a statement. Last year I said that, acts of God apart, 1959 should witness production along with construction and that we hoped to be on surer ground. By and large, events have justified my hopes. As the House is aware, the first blast furnaces in Rourkela and Bhilai were commissioned early in February. This

was a significant occasion. But, it was only the beginning. Though blast furnaces, by themselves, are massive and complex and represent the first fruition of our efforts, it is not iron but steel that is our goal. I am glad to report to the House that the tempo of construction achieved in 1958 has been maintained, and even improved upon. The fact that we have about 152,000 men at work in the three projects will give the House an idea of the massiveness of the work that is being undertaken. The tempo of construction warrants the hope that during 1959 the first saleable steel—billets from Bhilai and plates from Rourkela—should flow out towards the end of the year. By the time I come before this House again next year, I expect that the structural mill in Bhilai and the continuous strip mill in Rourkela will be ready for operation, if not in actual operation.

14.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

I would, at this stage, like to refer to the progress of work in the three steel projects. To begin with, I must say that the actual performance in 1958 has somewhat exceeded my own expectations. This indeed was the main reason why I had to ask for a sizeable supplementary grant, which the House was good enough to vote.

In Rourkela, 305,000 tons of equipment and material have already been received; only about 45,000 tons more remain to be shipped. On the ground, I can say that the back of the civil engineering work has been definitely broken. Two years ago, the civil engineering work in the rolling mills and the blast furnaces—both massive and complicated—were a matter of concern. I am glad to say that, thanks to the effort put in since then by all concerned, the civil engineering work in the rolling mills and the blast furnaces—and indeed in all parts of the plant—is well up to schedule. On the site, emphasis has

definitely shifted from civil works to erection of steel structures and other equipment. The work has become well organised. There is, therefore, every reason to warrant the hope that the steel melting shops, the primary rolling mill and the plate mill will be ready for operation by the end of the year. The second and third blast furnaces will also be ready for operation in good time to meet the demand for iron either for steel making or for export.

I would here refer to the production in the first blast furnace. The House will remember that I answered a question on the subject some time back. I am sorry to say that until now the actual production in Rourkela has been rather low, the rate being 400 to 500 tons a day. I am assured that this is not due to any defect in the blast furnace itself—on the contrary, the furnace is in good shape and capable of yielding the rated production at any time—but production has had to be deliberately kept down because of some minor difficulty in the functioning of the tilting system in the pig casting machine. This has been set right and in a very short time the furnace should be working at full capacity.

In Bhilai good progress in construction was made in 1958 and the high tempo achieved is continuing. Practically the entire equipment has come in. There remains to be shipped only about 38,000 tons. The civil engineering work is generally on schedule and here again the emphasis has shifted to the erection of structures and plant and equipment. A considerable part of the work is being done departmentally, the departmental organisation employing 34,627 persons. I have every reason to believe that the tempo of work will not only be maintained but increased, and I expect Bhilai steel to be in the market well before the year is out.

I am glad to say that the production of iron in the first blast furnace is going on very satisfactorily. 36,000

tons have been produced up to the end of March 1959 and despatches to consumers have begun.

In Durgapur also, the progress in 1958 was satisfactory and it continues to be so. As hon. Members are aware, the first blast furnace of Durgapur is scheduled to be commissioned in November this year and the first rolling mill in April next year. Viewed against this schedule, the shipment of equipment and the progress of construction work at site are satisfactory. Out of a total of about 250,000 tons, about 150,000 tons were shipped till the end of March. The tempo of work is also building up steadily. There would, therefore, be every reason to expect that the target dates would be maintained. Nevertheless, I am constrained to introduce a note of hesitation. It has recently come to notice that some piling foundations were defective. This means that it is now necessary to establish beyond doubt that all other piling foundations are free from defects. The matter is, therefore, being investigated thoroughly and urgently. The ISCON themselves have made a statement that a full investigation will be made and corrective measures taken without involving any delay or any additional cost to Government. I for my part will naturally insist that corrective measures should be taken to establish the safety of the foundations beyond doubt.

I hope that the brief recapitulation I have given of the progress of work in 1958-59 and the expectations in the next year will serve to elucidate the reasons for the budget grants asked for. As I said earlier, a quickening of the shipments of plant and equipment as well as an increase in the physical volume of construction work necessitated a substantial supplementary demand for 1958-59. As a result of this, the bulk of the plant and equipment for Rourkela and Bhilai would have been paid for in 1958-59. To that extent, the requirements under this head would naturally be smaller in 1959-60. The tempo of

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construction and erection work at site will, however, remain undiminished; in fact, it may have to increase. Taking all these factors into account, I have asked for a grant of Rs 122 crores for 1959-60. I believe that this would be sufficient to sustain the progress of work. But, if by further intensive effort we are able to increase the tempo of work still further, I am sure the House will only be too glad to grant further sums. This of course, would merely mean that we will be spending this year what would otherwise be spent next year. I have no reason to expect that the total estimates will require any significant revision.

The steel plants now being set up are certainly complex, costly and represent the largest of investment in any single industry in the Second Five Year Plan. This, as the House is aware, was based on the fact that steel is basic to the economy. It was an ambitious target and it represented, in a sense, an act of faith. Only when the task is fulfilled, would it be possible to get a proper appreciation of what the entire effort has meant. One should remember that it was during the few years after 1955 that vast expansion of steel output took place in almost all countries. In this context our decision to build three steel plants, all at the same time, meant the acceptance of a grave burden. One can say with some confidence that the back of the work has been broken and the fruits of our investment are coming into sight. In this process, mistakes would, no doubt, have been made and almost everyone engaged in the task would be able to say in the light of experience how things might have been done better, had he that experience earlier. I am sure the House will agree with me that our endeavour should be to benefit for the future from the many and varied experience of the past. In a sense, this is a continuous process. But it is equally important to evaluate experience properly and to draw the right lessons

from it. This cannot be done hastily or in mid-job, so to say. Let us, therefore, concentrate on finishing the job first. And we would then be better equipped to evaluate everything in proper perspective.

I have so far dealt with the plants proper. The steel plants by themselves are mighty industrial complexes and will employ large numbers. It has been estimated that the three plants would require 2,000 engineers and about 19,000 operatives and skilled workers. We have had not only to recruit and train all these but also house them. So far as training is concerned, a programme has been worked out for training all the engineers in the steel works in the USSR, USA, UK, West Germany, Canada and Australia. So far, 776 engineers and 264 operatives have been sent abroad; of these 528 engineers and 148 operatives have completed their training and are at work in the plants. To house the engineers and workers, modern townships are being built in each of the plants. Each township will, in the initial stages, consist of 7,500 houses and all ancillary facilities. In Rourkela, almost the entire number is either completed or under construction. In Bhilai, 3,000 houses have been completed and 2,000 are under construction, and in Durgapur, about 1,400 houses have been built. I am only repeating the figures to emphasise the fact that a steel town is not merely a production centre but also constitutes a living and growing community.

The progress of construction in the auxiliaries to the plant is also making satisfactory headway. The mechanised ore mine at Barsua will be, according to the present schedule, ready by the end of the year or early in 1960. Until the mine is ready, ore is being purchased. In Bhilai, however, the furnace is using float ore from Rajhara and the mechanisation of the mine also will be completed by the end of the year. For both Rourkela and

Bhilai, the limestone quarries at Purnapani and Nandini are being mechanised and in the meanwhile, the plants are using limestone quarried manually. Durgapur will draw its iron ore from the Gua region. The movement of coal to the plants has been so far satisfactory and no difficulty is anticipated in this regard. I would also like to recall to the House that we have already awarded the contract for the Dugda washery and a washery at Bhojudih will soon be settled.

Steel has been called a basic industry in more than one sense because it is the mother of many. The largest single ancillary unit yet to come up is the Rourkela fertilizer plant. This plant, which will be based on the surplus gases from the coke ovens and the free nitrogen from the oxygen plant, is massive in itself and would produce nearly 580,000 tons of nitro-limestone. Orders for the plant have been placed partly on a foreign firm and partly on Sindri. The plant will be ready in early 1962.

The House is already aware that in order to avoid import of tool and special steels, which will not be produced in the steel plants now under construction, we have decided to set up an alloy and special steels plant. We hope to place an order for the plant by the middle of this year.

I have so far dealt with mainly the plants in the public sector. But in our pre-occupation with large things, we have tried as best as we could to maintain a balance between the big and the small. As hon. Members are aware, the two basic raw materials for steel making are iron ore and metallurgical coal and while we have iron ore fairly distributed all over the country, metallurgical coals are limited to the Bihar-Bengal-Orissa area. This imbalance can be corrected to some extent by setting up furnaces which could use non-metallurgical coals. The developments in other countries are being watched carefully. It is for testing of ores and all types of coals that a pilot low shaft furnace has been set up in the National Metal-

lurgical Laboratory. We have also heard about the spectacular increases of production in China where the report shows that small plants with a capacity of 5 to 10 tons a day are being operated in rural areas. We have sent a mission to study this. In the meantime, we have also licensed a few small units where steel will be produced either by using low grade coal or with the lower grades of raw materials. All these plants are either nearing completion or in the process of being set up, and as such, we cannot at the moment say with any degree of precision how far they would prove to be economic. But if they are, they would open up a new vista for development.

I would like to refer to the prospects of the future, firstly to the limited prospects of supply of steel in 1959-60 and secondly to the larger prospects of the development of the steel industry itself.

As hon. Members are aware, the impact of some of the events which I have tried to recapitulate on the economy of this country, and particularly on steel economy, has not and will not be inconsiderable. During the last few years, the imports of iron and steel have been a burden on our strained foreign exchange reserves. Till the middle of 1957, when restrictions were placed on imports, steel was being licensed liberally. Anybody was free to import what he liked. The sizeable imports of 1957 themselves represent the flow from orders booked earlier. Arising from the restrictions imposed, we imported nearly half a million tons less in 1958 as compared to the year 1957. We spent Rs. 86 crores to do so. This certainly created some hardships, but it could not be helped. But in spite of our foreign exchange difficulties, we have tried our best not to interrupt the smooth flow of industrial production. The demand for iron and steel has been growing and though in the next year we shall not be able to meet all the demands in full, I have no hesitation in saying that the situation will

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progressively improve. The pig iron shortage which was so acute during the last two or three years is now over. We have already simplified the system of distribution and I am thinking of a further simplification shortly. We hope not only to meet all the demands for pig iron but also to export sizeable quantities. In the case of steel also the process of improvement in supplies has already started. We have been able, since the beginning of the year, to increase the allotment of raw materials, that is, billets, to the re-rolling mills and by and large the allocations made would be enough to enable production in the industry at very economic levels. In the course of the year, I expect to be able to increase the supplies to the re-rolling mills further. As hon. Members are aware, practically the entire production of re-rolling mills consists of bars and rods required by the general public. All this is essentially due to the increased production in the private sector. In Jamshedpur, where a major part of the expansion programme was scheduled to be completed by May 1958, there has been unfortunately some delay. But the programme, except for some ancillaries, is now almost complete. At Burnpur, but for the bar mill and some ancillaries, the programme is also almost complete; and what is left over should be completed by the end of the year. This does not, of course, mean that the target of production, namely, two million tons of ingots at Jamshedpur and a million tons at Burnpur, will immediately be reached to the full. As everywhere, it will take several months before each unit is tuned in to the regular operation at full capacity, but there is no doubt that production in these works will progressively increase during the course of the year and towards the end of the year, the position should improve further with the commissioning of the first rolling mills in Rourkela and Bhilai.

I have dealt with, in general terms, about the prospects of supply in

1959. I would like now to turn to the future. Being endowed with large resources of raw material, it is but natural that we should think of producing all the steel we need and even plan for small surpluses for export. The Second Five Year Plan target of six million tons of ingots was largely based on an assessment of what we need by 1960-61 and therefore in setting this target we did not deliberately plan for any exportable surpluses. It may be that, as in any other steel economy, we would have, when all the plants go into production, marginal surpluses and marginal deficits. The broad picture of the future, however, is fairly clear. The very fact that we have the raw material and that during the construction of these works, we have gathered rich experience, would warrant an increase in our productive capacity. Even the plants that are under construction are capable of expansion at comparatively lower order of costs. The original planning itself provided facilities for such expansion. It is therefore natural that we should already be thinking not only of expanding the plants but of setting up new ones. These are matters which are even now engaging the attention of Government. But how much we would expand is yet uncertain. It would depend very largely on the decisions taken as to the size of the Third Five Year Plan itself and the contemplated investments by sectors. But I have no fear that steel being, like coal, a basic industry, it would have its rightful place in the years to come.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission have intensified their search for oil. Some indications of gas reserves have been obtained from the drilling that has been continuing in the Jwalamukhi area in Punjab. A deep test well has been drilled also in the Hoshiarpur area in Punjab. Drilling will be started shortly in the Sibsagar area in Assam. Shallow drilling has been in progress in the Baroda area and, recently, there was indication of

gas and some oil. The most significant development, however, has been in the Cambay area of Bombay. In course of the drilling of the first deep well in that area at Lunej, oil under pressure was encountered in September; subsequently, indication has been obtained of several promising oil horizons. The site for the second test well in that area has already been chosen and drilling on it is going to be started shortly. Arrangements are being made for obtaining additional drilling equipment so that more test wells can be drilled in these areas, and particularly in Cambay to gauge the extent of the potential oil reserves there.

Under the Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project, in which Government have 25 per cent share, the Standard Vacuum Oil Co are continuing their search for oil in the West Bengal basin. Five test wells have already been completed, but, so far, without finding oil or gas, work is continuing on their sixth test well near Ranaghat.

As envisaged in the agreement concluded with the Burmah Oil Co, a Rupee Company known as Oil India Ltd in which Government have 33-1/3 per cent share, has now been formally incorporated on 18th February, 1959, and will be responsible for the production of crude oil from the Naharkatiya and Moran oil-fields in Assam and also for the transportation of that crude oil by pipelines to the two refineries that Government are going to set up to process that oil.

For the construction and operation of the proposed two refineries a wholly Government-owned company, the Indian Refineries Ltd has been set up. For the supply of equipment and technical assistance for the construction of the first refinery, an agreement has already been concluded with the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic on 20th October, 1958, the terms include long-term credits. Steps are also being taken to negotiate with the Government of the USSR for obtaining

collaboration in setting up the second refinery, to be located at Barauni in Bihar.

Along with oil, considerable reserves of natural gas have also been found in the Naharkatiya oil-fields. Part of this gas will be produced along with crude oil. An expert committee is being set up to determine what uses should be made of this gas.

During the year, the existing refineries maintained continuous production and, despite growing demand for petroleum products and shortage of foreign exchange, supplies were maintained.

The question of prices of petroleum products has been engaging the attention of Government. With the agreement of oil companies, an examination has been undertaken by our Chief Cost Accounts Officer about the various items that go into the price structure of the oil companies, with a view to determine what items and what quantum of each such item should be included in the new price formula that is sought to be finalised with the oil companies. The Chief Cost Accounts Officer's report has very recently been received in the Ministry and is being examined by Government after which a new price formula will be negotiated with the oil companies. The companies on an ad hoc basis gave effect from 20th May, 1958 to reductions in the basic selling prices which gave a relief of approximately Rs 10 crores per year and these reductions were mopped up for the exchequer by the imposition of additional customs and excise duties.

As previously, the work of exploration and prospecting in respect of minerals was continued by the two organisations namely, the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines. The former is principally concerned with geological mapping and mineral exploration, investigation of ground-water and with the geological aspects of the

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engineering projects. Systematic geological mapping of the scale of one inch to one mile was carried out in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Madras, Orissa, Rajasthan and UP while detailed mapping on a larger scale was undertaken in the important mineralised belts situated in these States and in Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. A provision of Rs. 4.85 crores was made in the Second Plan for the expansion of the activities of the Geological Survey of India, and in the first two years, the expenditure incurred on the plan items amounted to Rs. 88.59 lakhs only. Major expansion in its activities took place in the year 1958-59, and the tempo is being increased during the course of the coming year. It would be seen from the budget documents that as against the total provision for the current year of Rs. 1.20 crores, provision of Rs. 2.21 crores has been made for the coming year. In addition to the discovery of new coal seams and the proving of the extension of many of the known coal seams in the Raniganj area, the Geological Survey of India discovered a large deposit of gypsum at Nagore in Rajasthan and of cement-grade limestone in the Punjab. The programme of fieldwork for the year 1959 includes all items of high priority investigations relating to key minerals and fuel. Particular emphasis is proposed to be laid on investigation work in respect of base metals and for that purpose a Base Metal Wing under a senior officer has already been established in the Geological Survey of India.

The Indian Bureau of Mines takes up detailed investigation and proving with a view to exploiting the minerals on the basis of the preliminary work done by the Geological Survey of India. Under the Second Five Year Plan, the Bureau has been entrusted with proving work in respect of mainly copper, lead, zinc, gypsum, magnesite and coal. Very encouraging results have been obtained in respect of copper exploration at Khetri and

Daribo and exploratory mining has now been undertaken. At Amjhor in Bihar, 5.63 million tons of pyrites have been proved, and a scheme is under consideration for the production of sulphur and sulphuric acid. The Bureau was expected to prove a quantity of 800 million tons of coal by October 1959, and it is gratifying to note that by the end of the last month they had proved 832.7 million tons already. At Almora in UP, 2.10 million tons of magnesite have been proved already and the drilling operations are now about to be concluded.

During the course of the current year, the National Mineral Development Corporation was incorporated with an authorised capital of Rs. 15 crores. The corporation will be in a position to undertake exploitation of minerals in the public sector in accordance with the Industrial Policy Resolution. At the present moment, this corporation has been entrusted with the Kiriburu project for raising 2 million tons of iron ore annually for export to Japan starting from early 1964. The Orissa Mining Corporation which was set up two years ago expanded its activities during 1958 and was able to raise more than 77,000 tons of iron ore from Maharajpur and Tungaisuni mines. All this ore was exported to Japan through the State Trading Corporation. Efforts are being made to expand its activities.

When I spoke in the House this time last year, the total production of coal in the country had touched the record level of a little over 43 million tons per annum, and I gave the House an indication of the likely prospects of a further rise in production during 1958. I am happy to report that my expectation has been almost fulfilled. By the end of 1958, production had reached the level of 45.35 million tons per annum the private sector contributing 39.55 million tons and the public sector 5.8 million tons approximately. If I may be permitted to attempt a forecast for 1959, as I did for 1958, the performance of the

private sector is likely to improve to 41 million tons, if not more, during the year, and that of the public sector, including the Singareni collieries, to 8 million tons

The private sector has given an additional production of 5·7 million tons, when compared to the figure of 33·85 million tons for 1955. This represents a 17 per cent increase; and when compared with the additional production of 10 million tons to be reached by the end of the current Plan period, it is well over 50 per cent of the target. Production in 1958 could have been higher but for the Chuna-kuri disaster and strikes in two major groups of mines in the Raniganj field. Difficulties there are bound to be from time to time in greater or lesser degree, but I am hopeful that the entire target of 10 million tons of additional production for the private sector will be attained by the end of the current Plan period

Turning now to the public sector, the production of 5·8 million tons by the end of 1958 includes 3·5 million tons from the 11 old State collieries, 0·2 million tons from new mines opened up in virgin areas by the National Coal Development Corporation and 2·1 million tons from the Singareni collieries. So far as the old State collieries are concerned, the Plan target of additional production, which is 0·5 million tons, has already been reached and even surpassed. The production from these collieries in 1958 was 3·48 million tons against 2·8 million tons in 1955, an increase of 25 per cent. The production of 0·2 million tons from new mines is again not a mean achievement, though it may not be spectacular. New mines, whether open cast or underground, take at least four to five years to reach the full stage of development and, as I explained to the House last year, there are a whole series of difficult and time-consuming preparatory steps before the mines themselves could be projected, not to speak of the procurement of machinery and equipment, recruitment or technical personnel, civil construction and the like, which have to be taken

up after the mine plans are ready. At the same time, any complacency over a matter like this would be a dangerous thing. I have been assured that the National Coal Development Corporation are sparing no effort to see that the tempo of production picks up and goes forward with sufficient momentum during the remainder of the current Plan period.

As the House is aware, out of the Plan target of 12 million tons of additional production, 10·5 million tons are to be raised by the National Coal Development Corporation, and the balance by the Singareni Collieries Co. The field-wise pattern has been modified and the Corporation are working to the following revised targets,

Additional production

| | Million tons |
|---|--------------|
| Bihar | |
| Kathara | 1·5 |
| Karanpura | 5·0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | |
| Korba | 1·6 |
| Central India | 1·5 |
| Orissa | |
| Talcher (Balanda area) | 0·5 |
| | <hr/> 10·1 |
| Expansion from the existing 11 State collieries | 0·5 |
| | <hr/> 10·6 |

Roughly, one half of the above target is to be realised through open cast workings

Significant progress has been made in regard to the exposure of coal after removal of over-burden in the open cast mines and the drivage of inclines in the underground mines. In the open cast mines at Kathara, Saunda, Bachra, Bhurkunda and Korba, raising and despatches have already started in a small way. The figures would have been very much better than is reflected in the total of 0·2 million tons, which I had earlier quoted for 1958 if the necessary rail-way sidings had become available.

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These sidings are now expected to be ready within the next three or four months

Arrivals of machinery and equipment from abroad have been satisfactory. So far, the value of orders placed is roughly about Rs 13 crores and nearly one half of the equipment has already arrived and has been placed in position or is in the process of being conveyed to the various projects. Simultaneously, provision of workshop and repair facilities is receiving sustained attention. The proposal is to have a large central workshop and four or five regional workshops.

Against the above background, I feel reasonably confident that the Corporation would be in a position to reach a level of production, towards the end of the current Plan period, commensurate with the target of 105 million tons.

Before I pass on to other matters of interest, I would mention the Coal Washery at Kargali, the first of its kind to be put up in the public sector. This washery was brought into operation on the 1st November, 1958. Though it is still undergoing trial runs, it has been able to meet the requirements of the Bhilai and Rourkela steel projects. The quantity of washed coal produced and despatched in January 1959, was 37,000 tons. In February, the washery was fully geared to produce as much as 48,000 tons. As is usual with plants of this kind and capacity, certain teething troubles have been encountered, but these are being looked into and the washery will be formally taken over only after it is clear that it can work at its full rated capacity. For ensuring the full throughput of raw coal to the washery, steps are being taken to increase the production from the Bokaro and Kargali collieries by at least 25,000 tons per month. These are expected to bear fruit by the time the

full demand of the blast furnaces at Bhilai and Rourkela builds up.

Now I turn to the Singareni Collieries Company. Starting with a production of 1.5 million tons in 1955, the collieries have been able to raise 2.1 million tons in 1958 against the Plan target of 3.1 million tons. They have thus been able to achieve 40 per cent of the target already. The pattern of financial assistance to be rendered by the Central Government has now been finally settled in consultation with the Andhra Pradesh Government who hold 88 per cent of the shares of the company. The formal deed of agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Singareni Collieries Co. will be executed shortly. Under this agreement, the paid-up share capital of the company would be revised to Rs 300 lakhs out of which the Central Government would hold 40 per cent. A loan of Rs 285 lakhs will be advanced by the Centre to the company in addition. The House is already aware of the loan of Rs 10 lakhs granted in 1957. In terms of the present agreement, a further instalment of loan, amounting to Rs 60 lakhs has been sanctioned. This would take care of the immediate needs of the company.

The daily average loadings from the West Bengal and Bihar collieries registered a significant increase from 3,689 in 1957 to 3,910 in 1958. The railways are continuing their efforts to improve the supply of wagons still further, particularly on the South-Eastern Railway. In the matter of sand for stowing, a few individual collieries have their own schemes but these are by no means adequate. The Coal Board set up two expert committees early in 1957 to go into these questions, and they have recommended that Central schemes for the excavation and transportation of sand would have to be undertaken. The proposals are now under examination. Provision of adequate stowing facilities, particularly for the coking coal collieries in the Jharia field, is

undoubtedly of great urgency, but whether the resources needed for the implementation of the Central schemes could be made available to the Coal Board and if so, how, is an equally relevant consideration. Government are currently examining all aspects of the matter. Recently, the maximum rates of stowing assistance by the Coal Board have also been liberalised.

Very soon, Sir, the frame of the Third Five Year Plan would have to be settled. One of the principal objectives of the Plan is to develop a self-sufficient and regenerative economy, with a view to effecting a substantial reduction of our outgo of foreign exchange. The overall industrial picture that would have to emerge by 1985-86 has also to be borne in mind. In this picture, fuel is bound to have an important place. A provisional estimate indicates that the rate of increase may have to be doubled to meet the requirements of coal. To achieve a production of this order, preparatory action in certain directions has to be started even now. One of them is geological mapping and survey and detailed drilling of the new areas that are likely to be taken up for development. An order of priority for this work has been laid down already. The Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines have drafted a three-year programme each, so that the drilling data would be available for the projection of the new mines by 1962.

Now I come to the Neyveli Lignite project. As the House is aware, this integrated project occupies an important place, in the industrial development of the South. Based on an annual output of 3½ million tons of lignite from the mine, it includes the generation of 250 MW of electricity at a thermal power station and the production of 152,000 tons of urea and of 380,000 tons of smokeless carbonised briquettes for use as domestic and industrial fuel. The progress achieved under the mining scheme by the end of 1958 was ahead of schedule.

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The target of removal of over-burden up to the end of the current financial year is 7.02 million cubic yards, while the target from the commencement of the operations till the end of February, 1959, is 6.42 million cubic yards. Against the latter target, the actual quantity excavated was 6.83 million cubic yards, i.e., over 4 lakhs cubic yards in excess of the target. The development phase of the scheme envisages the removal of a total of 27 million cubic yards. The end of this phase would be reached round about December, 1960, or early in January 1961, when parts of the lignite seam will be exposed. With the commissioning of specialised items of equipment, such as bucket wheel excavators, slewable spreaders and belt conveyors, some of which are already under erection, the pace of over-burden removal will increase considerably in the months to come. The scheme for ground water control is ready, and on the basis of the various pumping tests, the specifications of the drills, pumps and casing pipes required have been drawn up and action initiated for the procurement of these items. Regular pumping under the scheme for ground water control will be called for only after the excavations in the first mining cut have reached a depth beyond 100 feet below the ground level.

The detailed project report for the thermal power station furnished by the Soviets has been accepted with some modifications. A contract for the preparation of designs and detailed working drawings has already been signed. The first unit of the power station is expected to be commissioned in the second quarter of 1961, by which time the mining scheme would be in a position to supply the lignite required.

The Neyveli fertiliser scheme was sanctioned by Government in December 1957 at an estimated cost of Rs. 21 crores, subject to credit facilities being available in respect of the foreign exchange component. Global tenders

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for the supply and erection of the plant were invited by the Corporation in May 1958. Quotations have already been received and are now in the final stage of scrutiny. Orders would be placed by the end of May next. Production of urea is expected to commence by about the middle of 1962.

As regards the briquetting and carbonising scheme. I am glad to inform the House that, in view of the shortage of fuel in the South and in the interests of the over-all economics of the integrated projects, Government have decided to implement the scheme in its entirety. The Lignite Corporation has accordingly been authorised to float a global tender at the earliest for the supply of the plant, machinery and equipment required for the scheme. The Corporation will be doing this very shortly. They are at present engaged in the completion of the detailed project report based on tests already conducted with their lignite on the pilot briquetting and carbonising plant received under the T.C.M. aid and erected in May, 1958. The intention is that this scheme also should go into operation, if possible, by about the middle of 1962 to synchronise with the completion of the thermal power station and the Fertiliser Scheme.

The entire project would thus be in full scale operation in the second half of 1962. This means a spill-over of a little more than one year beyond the current Plan period.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): May I suggest that a copy of this statement be circulated to hon. Members?

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir): May I also request that the statement he has made be circulated to Members?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I will make arrangements.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it will be indeed

highly uncharitable to recall the epithets my hon. friend, Shri Hem Barua, had employed in describing the speeches of Ministers, but I should like to say that I have listened with great patience. I am very happy that he had made a departure from the normal practice, but I wish that he had turned it to better advantage. This would have been possible if he had tried to give us something more than the report which he has presented already to the House and the explanatory notes, which go with the Demands of his Ministry. There have been some new aspects which I welcome, but I think, by and large, the speech was devoted to what is already contained in the reports of his Ministry.

I should like to say this at the very outset that there has been a notable development since we last discussed in this House particularly the affairs of the Hindustan Steel (P) Limited—I refer to the furnaces to which, of course, he made a reference in the very beginning of his speech. But I want to call it only a significant and notable development; I should have liked to call it an achievement; but an achievement means something different; it means doing a difficult job; it means surmounting what looks to be insurmountable obstacles; it means doing a job against all kinds of odds. But when the news that the blast furnaces were commissioned came, we thought that at the most they evoked feelings of relief, not of enthusiastic exultation. One said 'Good lord, at last, at last, something has been done', because mixed with these expressions was a long experience. When one said it has been done, one thought of what could have been done with much more speed and at much lower price to the nation.

When I initiated the debate on the 25th November, 1958, I had tried to draw the attention of the House to certain very disturbing features in the working of the Hindustan Steel (P) Limited. I had particularly emphasised the easily avoidable delays,

the extravagance, the lack of planning which made a mockery of the word 'planning' and many similar defects which, I had thought, could have been avoided with a little more of vision, a little more of vigour and a little more of determination.

In his very amiable but not very convincing reply, Sardar Swaran Singh—to quote him—in order not to present a picture that there is anything wrong with the steel plants, had stated something which had not very much convinced us. He insisted that there was not anything wrong. These are his words in his speech to the House on the 25th November. I had pointed out examples of colossal waste, of inordinate delays, of lack of planning. He brushed aside these mountains of evidence and, in what must remain a masterpiece of understatement at which even a born Englishman must blush, he said:

“We have not done badly, faced with a task of this magnitude”.

What a masterpiece of understatement that is, when we had submitted to this House such mountains of evidence on every point we had ventured to raise!

14.53 hrs.

[SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN in the Chair]

Since then, the 33rd Report of the Estimates Committee has been submitted to us, and seldom has a speech been upheld so much as on this occasion. In every manner of detail, even the Estimates Committee has confirmed what we had submitted to the House. After studying the Report and after going through his speeches and taking into consideration what he has submitted to the House just now, the question arises: why so much bungling, why all this messing, why all this waste? One gets baffled because one comes to the conclusion, as I said earlier, that with a little more of care, a little more devotion and a little more

diligence, much waste could have been avoided and far more and greater results could have been achieved.

Slowly, when I ask myself this question why all this bungling and waste, a picture begins to emerge. I do not know how to put it. After asking myself again and again why all this has been allowed to happen, why all this has happened and why all this has transpired, the picture comes up thus. One feels that in spite of all this waste and extravagance of public funds, there is somebody who has been benefited. It is the private sector. Contracts have been given which have appeared to be unconscionable. But the benefit has gone to certain big combines. The picture begins to emerge slowly that in spite of the profession of Government—and I know the unimpeachable loyalty of the Minister to the principle of public ownership—somebody somewhere in the administration has not taken very kindly to public enterprise. And often one gets the impression that there is a determination to discredit public enterprise. How else do you interpret, how else do you understand all this waste when repeatedly poignant references were made and attention was drawn in this House?

But it is not enough to make such a serious charge that there is a conspiracy to break and discredit public enterprise. I shall substantiate to the very hilt what I have just now submitted to you. Take the example of the two firms in the private industry, TISCO and IISCO—the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Indian Iron and Steel Company. Together, these two companies—and I am not against giving them adequate help, reasonable help, all the help we can give to bring about their expansion; I am not against it—had assistance to the tune of Rs. 100 crores, not direct loans, but some loans and some guarantees. But the sum total of the assistance made available to these two private companies was Rs. 100 crores. Contrast with this the sheer starvation for funds

[Shri Nath Pai]

of the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works in Mysore. The pretext has been made that they do not have what? A Corporation. Why should this nominal thing be allowed to come in the way of giving funds which they needed? Is it because one is owned by public enterprise and these two, to which were made available all the funds they needed, they are owned by private enterprise?

This is not enough. There is something more, much more, serious. In this House, we had asked how much was outstanding from these private firms. We were told that a colossal sum of Rs. 17 crores is due from *TISCO* and *HISCO*—to the Steel Equalisation Fund. Sardar Swaran Singh has tried to give some reply, but I am afraid it is totally unconvincing. Even the sum that has been agreed to as due has not been paid already. He agreed that Rs. 8 crores have been agreed as due to us. We must bear in mind that these funds in the possession of these two companies are a trust. They tell us that their economic conditions are bad today. That is all the more reason why trust money should be paid back to Government. It is trust money that these companies have collected, and this money must be returned when we demand it.

In the meanwhile, what is the result, as the Auditor General points out, of this extraordinary leniency shown? We know how the bailiff extorts the last pie from the ordinary debtor to the Government, but here Rs. 17 crores are outstanding and nothing is done. We are allowed to hear again and again the plea of these two companies that there is a dispute. What is the dispute? The Auditor General will point out that these sums are due and they have got to be settled—except that there is somebody who will not lift his small finger against these private companies.

There is again the indisputable figure of Rs. 1.50 crores. There is the

calculation, and there is the actual payment for transport of steel. We have now found that these two firms owe us Rs. 1:50 crores. Once again I am quoting the Auditor General, not fictitious figures. Nothing has been done.

What is the result of all this? As a result of all this, Rs. 18 crores or more money is due from these two private companies, money due, I say, in all conscience, which must be paid at the earliest instant. The nation continue to lose Rs. 35,000—Rs. 38,000 every day as interest. Whenever we come and make a plea on behalf of the under-paid-staff we are told that there is no money. But here is money going for anybody who wants it.

15 hrs.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): No interest.

Shri Nath Pai: That is why I said that as a result we are losing to the tune of Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 38,000.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How much is the H.P.L. being charged? (Interruptions).

Shri Nath Pai: I would say that this is another example of scuttling of private enterprise. We have the Hochtief Gammon Co., a German company. No satisfactory explanation has been given as to why whenever the company asked advances were made available. It is not the normal practice to do. But it is something else. Of course, it is a private company and how can we be cruel to them? They must be helped out of all their difficulties.

There is another interesting chapter to which he will reply for which time has been reserved. I am trying to draw the attention of the House to page 34 of this Report. It is said:

"Further, if the contractor completes the work prior to 36th

September 1960 he shall be paid a bonus equivalent to Rs. 2,00,000 for every complete month by which the actual completion of the work precedes the 30th September, 1960"

Indeed a great incentive! After all we are having mixed economy and incentives must be held out to private enterprise I understand that. But, what about the penalty? If he completes it before time you are going to give him a bonus of Rs. 2 lakhs. And, what if he failed? Where is the penalty? This is extraordinary that we allow such clauses to come into that

There are other things to which I shall now pay my attention Last time I had asked him a question And, though he was very generous—I say most amiable, very characteristic of the Minister—he never gave any satisfactory reply about the Rs. 14 crores paid to what is called the ISCON in London

An Hon. Member. Services

Shri Nath Pai: Services, they were called I had cited chapter and verse as to how this cannot be termed as services No explanation was given And, now I turn to that once again with your permission There is an interesting feature about this firm This is a consortium of 18 firms In the first place, why was there a necessity for that? Is it not much easier for us, for the H S Ltd., to deal with the companies individually than with this consortium? And, what is the capital of this consortium? I would like to ask this once again Perhaps they have not learnt any lesson from the jeep case The jeep case does not seem to be a kind of warning to some; but it seems to some people to be a model When we can directly deal with the members, the consortium is created I should like him to state what is the capital and who will pay if something goes wrong

We are told that it had to be created because Britain was going to help that Money was not going to come from this consortium It will be of interest to the House to know that the Rs 25 crores of help which was to come was to come from Lazard Brothers and the United Kingdom Government and not from this consortium

We have been paying fees, technical fees Is there some meaning in that. Shri Swaran Singhji will grant to me one thing that I never drop inuendoes or accuse others unless I am fully sure that something must be wrong We would like to be convinced You must remove our doubts

Who is the Chairman of ISCON? If I am not wrong, I think, it is Sir Cecil John Who is Sir Cecil John? Sir Cecil John happened to be the Finance Secretary of the Government of India who retired in 1947. Shall I be doing any injustice to anybody if I say that the greatest fraternity in the world is the Indian Civil Service in which alone the sense of loyalty remains strongest if at all it can be found in any brotherhood or anywhere else?

An Hon Member: Almost a Masonic Lodge

Shri Nath Pai: We have been paying huge exorbitant fees to them as consultants It may be not very good but still we have consultants in the country The Estimates Committee points it out I would like in all earnestness to propose to him to scrap this international construction company Now, we paid Rs 8 crores and what a mess we landed ourselves in. What did they get? At every stage we were told that this was wrong, the estimate was wrong, that calculation was wrong This was not calculated, this was not included, this was overlooked, this was ignored and they have been giving all these lame excuses We have paid Rs. 8 crores and there is a scathing chapter about it in this Report.

[Shri Nath Pai]

There is another thing to which I would like to draw his attention. I had in my last speech talked about these fabulous carpenters from Germany. Shri Swaran Singhji wanted us to be fair and not to ridicule these things I entirely endorse his statement. If we need foreign experts we should not be grudging giving them handsome pay

Of course, as an Indian living among carpenters, I was boggled at the very figure of Rs 5,000. There are very significant factors which I would like to emphasise today I can say that the German companies of G H H and John Schaefer between themselves were making Rs 1,100 as commission for every carpenter every month. We were paying Rs 5,000. But, it has never been told to the House that these two firms, between themselves were taking Rs 1,100 per carpenter per month. It comes to Rs 4 lakhs and a little more per year. We had spent on this account Rs 21 lakhs on the whole. The company was paid everything for their travel and other allowances but still from the salaries this is how the commission was deducted.

There is another thing. In this connection we have got to say something about Udham Singh Duggal and Sons. We were told by the Minister that the lowest bid was Rs 30 lakhs lower. Very good, and that is a good consideration for giving contract. I do not want to go into the other considerations at all. But, I should like to know this. When we asked why a particular contract was given, we were told that it was the lowest tender. We asked because that particular firm was censured by the Public Accounts Committee of Punjab. When we asked this we were told, apart from other things—of course the report was not available and I should be fair—that the reason was that it was the lowest and the best tender. Very good. When we ask for an explanation you say that you gave because they were lower by Rs 3 million. Then, what

happened. On page 1581 of the Lok Sabha Debates you find this:

"In addition to the expenditure on account of these foreign technicians, the company had to bear the extra expenditure on account of timber for shuttering and to pay a ways and means advance. The extra expenditure for shuttering was due to the contractor under-estimating the cost originally."

We gave him a contract because his was the best tender. And, then, by the backdoor we give him more. You once tell us that it was the lowest tender and then start giving him more because he has failed to estimate properly. Where is the sanctity of contract and where is the justification? Here you have given lakhs more for shuttering. I have nothing against any individual who cannot perhaps come to this House.

There is another interesting thing in explanation of this as to why they were brought. Shri Swaran Singhji said in the House—and I am quoting him all the time—this. The Minister for whose integrity I have got the highest regard said this:

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareilly) Is it corrected or uncorrected?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati) This is corrected very much.

Shri Nath Pai: This has been supplied to us. This is the explanation given, as to why they were brought here at all.

"By the middle of 1957, the contractor had fallen behind schedule; and even providing for some improvement and acceleration in the progress of the work as more equipment arrived at site, it was felt that the contractor would be behind schedule . . ."

Sardar Swaran Singhji tells us here—a Minister of the Cabinet rank tells

as here the Lok Sabha. There was something behind schedule; the work was lagging behind and that is why we brought them here.

But here is a certificate given on the 7th January by Mr. Ganapati, Resident Director of the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., about Udharn Singh Duggal. The Minister is complaining of unsatisfactory work and saying that the foreign carpenters were brought on account of that; and here is the Resident Director giving a certificate to Messrs. Udharn Singh Duggal. He says that their work was up to date and quite satisfactory and has not resulted in any delay in the erection of the various items of the plant.

Shri Naushik Bharucha: Where do you get that from?

Shri Nath Pai: This has got to be stopped. This House is entitled to know the truth. How often it has happened that we get contradictory explanations! When we asked the reason we were told that this was the reason; and here is a thing which runs absolutely contrary to that, which contradicts in every term what the Minister told us. The Minister says that by the middle of 1957 the contractor failed and lagged behind the schedule and even providing for some improvement and acceleration in the progress of the work he would be behind schedule. That is what the Minister told the House. But the man on the spot speaks to the country and gives a certificate to the man concerned. This is very bewildering. But in fairness . . .

Mr. Chairman: You may file the letter.

Shri Nath Pai: Yes, Sir, if you like. It has been circulated to all Members, I think.

Mr. Chairman: Then you may refer to the page. *(Interruptions)*.

An Hon. Member: That Ganapathy should be asked . . . *(Interruptions)*

Shri Nath Pai: I hope that he will realise that in fairness to the House and the country the true picture should be presented and not this kind of mutually contradictory statements. We are entitled to know the truth. There may be a mistake which can be rectified but it must be a clear admission of a mistake and it must be told to this House.

I shall come to another thing and that is about the bungling about planning. It hurts me to accuse because I know those people cannot come here and perhaps they would think that we are irresponsible and unfair. But we have weighed the words before we use them; we fully weigh them before we say them. I do not want to use the immunity which goes to the Members of Parliament in attacking the people who could not come before this House. We are in a way invulnerable. Before proceeding, I was saying how the planning was inept. The Estimates Committee points out how there has been a bungling right from the beginning. In 1952 we appointed a committee called the technical commission. They give an estimate. Within two years that estimate had to be proved wrong by five times. That means they under-estimate it five times. That estimate had to be multiplied five times to get near the actuals. Is this planning for which we are having a Planning Commission paying exorbitant fees of crores of rupees? Take another example. I will be citing some interesting things. We want machinery and it arrives at Vizagapatam. But there is no way to unload it and no provision is made for it. No cranes are thought of. What happens? We pay a demurrage of Rs. 57 lakhs. Every sentence is pregnant with a few millions of the nation's losses. In every sentence it is shown how much was lost. It could have been done. It was done in the end. The unloading facilities at the Vishakhapatnam were improved and the cranes were improved. But it was never thought of in advance. Therefore, we had to pay.

[Shri Nath Pai]

Take another instance—the site shifting at Rourkela and how much we paid for this folly as it was not properly supervised. We paid Rs. 200 lakhs. For every single mistake, the nation has to pay through its nose. We do not want the white-washing type of explanations. There is enough evidence and the Committee points out how these things could have been avoided. There is this thing again—planning going wrong. I do not know. There is a pathetic faith in the omniscience of our civil service. It is lamentable that those who always questioned it and challenged it should continue to display this faith in it. I want to ask: how on earth these mistakes would be avoidable if we continue to entrust people who are just administrators? As administrators there are many of them whom we have got to accept as of the highest calibre. But how can they be experts in everything under the sun be it a steel plant or be it anything else? It requires long training and specialised knowledge. No, he belongs to the ICS; who could be better; bring him in and give him the job. That is what they say. This kind of hocuspocus must go.

Now, I would turn to my constructive side in view of the fact that I have taken some time... (Interruptions). That does not mean that what I have said is destructive. It has got to be said.

Sardar Swaran Singh: No one has suggested.

Shri Nath Pai: If this planning has been done properly what would it have led to? In 1955–57, we imported steel to the tune of Rs. 320 crores. If there had been economy and good planning, steel would have been rolling off our mills in 1954. The report of the Makghbee company had been accepted in 1948–49, we should have taken the job very seriously. But we did not do it. It was too late when we started—like digging the well when the house was on fire. It ought to

have been known that we are going to industrialise this nation. We are not going to remain a feudal country. We want to be abreast of the rest of the world and we want to be a modern nation. Can it be done without steel? Did it require much thinking? There was a ready-made plan for that. Fees were paid to the consultants. We did not do anything about it. What cost does it mean in terms of the tears of the people? Rs. 320 crores and all the other millions of rupees to which I have referred. Do you know what it means? Last year we were told to our shame, humiliation and sadness, what we had to prune our Plan. It hurts us because we want our Plan to be more ambitious and we want our Plan to succeed. We prune that because we do not have money. In one year, we could have saved this money had we been more vigilant. This is the foreign exchange that we had been paying because of these kinds of delays, bungling and messing. Then we would have never been compelled to prune our Plan if we had been careful, and vigorous and dedicated in the implementation of this. I have to say these things. It pains us to make this criticism. I suspect that no full loyalty is being given. It is no good thing to say that. But why should these things be happening again and again when the Public Accounts Committee, this House and the Estimates Committee point to them how these things can be done and how these mistakes can be avoided. We can avoid these mistakes if we followed certain things. You followed one of the suggestions of the Estimates Committee this morning by opening the debate. It is one of their suggestions that the Minister should make a statement and then the debate should follow. There are 135 in the latest report. I hope that some of them at least will have the good luck of being seriously taken into consideration by him.

The Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited's board must be a model. There are other democratic countries which have nationalised some of their

key industries. We can learn something from them. These boards must not be staffed with civil servants only. There can be some civil servants but they must not be staffed fully with them also. Till recently, as admitted by him in reply to a question, the Chairman and Secretary happened to be the same. What happens then? May I point out a sad thing? One of the directors, K. C. Mahendra, imported steel to the tune of Rs. 30 crores. He happened to be a director. Has he got the courage to go to the Secretary of the Ministry every other day for such huge funds in foreign exchange and yet stand up to him? That is what precisely the director is expected to be—to stand there and defend on country's interests. We do not want any more of the civil servants in these national enterprises governing boards of directors. We have enough technicians in the country. We must not depend upon foreign technicians and we must make the maximum use of as much talent as is available in this country. If you are to make mistakes, let our men make them and let us learn through them rather than paying Inter. Const. and other international companies and then suffer for it.

There is another suggestion which I strongly advocate for him—that is the creation of a designing section in the Ministry—of Indians. He knows that it has got to be done but it is being postponed. We, therefore, feel worried about what may happen to the fourth plant. We want an assurance that Indian talent will be associated at every stage of the fourth plant. Let us stumble and let us make these mistakes. These are worth making. They alone will show how to prevent them and avoid them in the future. There should be no foreign association regarding the fourth plant except where it is inevitable, essential or unavoidable, where we could not simply do without them in regard to the technical know-how.

We do need an adequate laboratory better than the one now functioning at Jamshedpur to tell us what is hap-

pening in the field. This has got to be set up as early as possible. He will have to give attention to this task also by making an assessment of the requirements of the engineering industry in the country. That has not been done. Steel will be coming out and we shall absorb it. There may remain something that we shall not need. We shall have to create a machinery for State trading in steel visualising the potential of foreign markets for our steel. These are some of the things I should tell him.

There is one thing which I should like to say before I conclude. He has written a very interesting article which I was very pleased to read in the annual report of the Commerce. We try to see everything he has to say on the subject so that we benefit by it. It is very interesting how nicely we are placed if we make a determined effort. I did cite China last time and I have something to say to-day which is a correction. Sometimes the Ministers do not get the latest reports.

A NAFEN report says that China had retraced the steps with regard to the small furnaces which have appeared there. The report says:

"Peking has issued a directive urging regional authorities to dismantle or give up the numerous primitive furnaces which wasted huge quantities of materials and manpower last year."

The report goes on:

"These experts told NAFEN last week that the native small furnaces cost seven tons of coal on an average to produce one ton of iron while a modern furnace requires only 0.8 ton of coal. Moreover, iron yielded by the native small furnaces contained a considerable percentage of sulphur and phosphorus."

I am citing it because last time it was me who cited with much enthusiasm the example of China and said: "why can't we?" Now that I have other

[Shri Nath Pai]

information, I must place it before the House.

But what can we do in the matter of being a modern steel producing nation? Here is something that can be done. We have 20,000 million tons, of the best types, the highest grades of iron ore. This is almost inexhaustible (Interruption). This has been established already by experts. How do we stand with regard to the location of this wealth? Pittsburgh, one of the relatively well-placed steel centres in the United States—these are the figures of an expert, Mr. Bush—requires 804 ton-miles to get the coal, iron and flux together to make one ton of pig iron. The corresponding figures for Jamshedpur and Burnpur are 334 and 441. The Gray Works in Indiana requires 1,037 ton-miles and the Kaiser Steel Mill in Fontana 1,502 ton-miles. Compare it with our 334 and 441 ton-miles. We, therefore, can come into the world market provided we are careful.

I want him to assure us in one or two things. Some of these contracts need scrutiny and they must be gone into. The consultants' fees must be examined by some experts. A body of Indian consultants must be created as soon as possible. The designing section must be introduced. Let us benefit by the administrative knowledge of our administrators, of our civil service. But so far as these things are concerned, in steel only a steel man must be brought. Even if he is a private enterprise man, bring him, but let him be an expert, let him be an Indian, pay his dues and make him do the job. If you give consideration to these—it was very heartening to hear you say in your speech "we want to benefit from the mistakes of the past"—and if we benefit from the mistakes of the past, before long we will be a major industrialised nation, and I hope which he expressed will soon find implementation in the policies of his Ministry.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Ministry is one of the very important Ministries, because the industrial development of the country entirely depends on the success achieved by the Ministry. Therefore, the economic development of our country depends upon the progress and the achievements made by the various plants and various undertakings under this Ministry.

Having said that, I would like to refer to coal. Viewed from the targets that we have had in the Second Five Year Plan, the Minister has stated today that we are well set for the achievement of the target in respect of coal. Only a few months ago the Planning Commission in its reappraisal has stated that there will be a shortfall of 3 to 4 million tons in the public sector. But the Minister says that we are going to achieve this target.

Sir, judging from the performance of the National Coal Development Corporation for the last 3½ years, I am afraid this target in the public sector is not likely to be achieved. I would like to quote only a few figures, because the Minister has already given enough figures. It was laid down that we should raise 10.5 million tons in the public sector—that is, by the National Coal Development Corporation—and 1.5 million tons by the Singareni collieries. What we have raised is a total of 5.8 million tons. In giving the figures the Minister has very nicely said that the additional target that we have achieved is 50 per cent. or so. If we take the additional target, we have to achieve 500 per cent. After three years of the Plan period we have not even achieved 100 per cent of the additional target. That is to say, instead of raising our coal target by five times we have not been even able to double it. Does this performance indicate that we are going to achieve our targets?

The target laid down for coal in the Second Five Year Plan was very

modest, when we compare it with our neighbouring country, China. There it was 130 million tons in 1957 and 270 million tons in 1958. What we find here is that we have raised only two million tons in both the private sector and the public sector put together—this is the additional output.

Therefore, I am afraid that unless and until some effective measures are taken, unless and until some radical changes are brought about in the administration of the National Coal Development Corporation, this target cannot be achieved.

Just now my hon. friend said that Indian Civil Service men are made the directors and managing directors. I would also suggest that there is no need for ICS men to be directors or the managing director of the Coal Development Corporation. The work can be entrusted to technical men. What is happening is, by having ICS people as managing directors, those who are technically qualified—there are three Chief Mechanical Engineers in the NCDC—instead of going to the field and supervising the work of raising coal, exploiting coal and winning coal, they are sitting at Ranchi and spending their time over office files.

An Hon. Member: Is the office air-conditioned?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Then, Sir, from the point of view of foreign exchange also, being in the core of the Plan we have been successful in getting much of the machinery. For instance, machinery worth about Rs 5 crores has been received out of a total of Rs 13 crores. But in some places the machinery is lying idle. We are told that the sidings are not ready and coal has been laid bare ready for winning at any time. We suggested to the Minister some months ago that instead of waiting for sidings let us move by dumpers which are there without doing any work. There are dozens of dumpers at the coalfields. They can transport

the coal to the railways. But that is not being done. Even a simple thing as this has not been done.

At the Bokaro coalfields there are only two shifts working. We can easily raise more coal by having a third shift there. But we are told that the washing plant is not ready and until and unless the washing plant is brought into commission we cannot have the third shift there. We are again told that the washery should have gone into commission a year ago. It has gone into commission only in November last. But it has not yet caught up its full capacity. 550 tons per hour was the capacity of this washery. I do not know when this is going to be achieved. When we visited the site of work and asked responsible people as to why the washery has not been brought into commission to its full capacity, we were told that even if the coal is washed the steel plants are not ready to receive the coal. Whom are we to believe?

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): Sir, I regret I have to get up. I find that there is no quorum. I think the Ministers at least should be present. The Minister for Planning should be present in the House. The other day Mr. Speaker was pleased to observe that every Ministry should be represented here. If that is the respect that is given to the Chair, I do not know what I should say of this Government. The Minister of Planning should be here. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should be here.

Mr. Chairman: I am obliged to Shri Jaipal Singh. There is no quorum in the House. The Bell may be rung.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: May I point out, Sir, that a large number of committees are meeting. We find ourselves in great trouble. Many of our Members are also members in some of the committees. That is why there is no quorum here. I know that two or three committees are sitting now.

Mr. Chairman: The rule is very clear. As the hon. Member, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty knows, between 1.30 and 2.30 P.M. we do relax the quorum rule, but the House takes precedence over every Committee. It means so much of loss of money to the country if there is an adjournment. Ours here is the House, and the Committees will have to be so arranged, I think, as not to clash with the House. Priority will have to be given to the House.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Thank you. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has to take note of this.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): What can I do if there is no quorum? I cannot physically bring the Members here.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Sir, a point of order. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says what can he do if there is no quorum. May I point out that it is the constitutional responsibility of the party in power to see that there is always quorum maintained in the House.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: We have been trying our level best, but physically I cannot bring them in.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: You cannot shirk your responsibility.

Mr. Chairman: Fortunately, quorum is now restored. It is not very edifying for the House and for the representatives of the people to say that we are not able to meet here in sufficient numbers. It is a great trust we owe to the people at large.

What Shrimati Renu Chakravartty complained was that there are a number of committees meeting now which clash with the House. Perhaps the Minister did not hear that. She Lopes,—and I agree with that—and I think that many Committee meetings should not be held at the time when the House is on.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I was drawing the attention of the House to the capital requirements of coal. It was said by the experts committee that Rs 30 to Rs 40 has to be invested if we have to raise one ton of coal. But suddenly I find that the capital requirements of the NCDC have risen to Rs 60 a ton. That really shows that this sudden rise by 200 per cent. has to be looked into. Two years ago, I read from the report of the Committee for the Amalgamation of Small Collieries that we have got in our country about 400 collieries which raise coal to an extent of less than 10,000 tons per month. It was suggested by that Committee that efforts should be made to see that the small coal mines are amalgamated, and that if voluntary measures are not successful, legislation should be undertaken. Two years have passed, but there is no trace of any legislation coming. Every time when we ask about it, we are told that legislation is in the drafting stage, and I do not know when that Bill will be introduced.

I now come to the report of the Coal Prices Revision Committee. Two years ago, this Committee was appointed. Now, up to this day, we have not known when that report in respect of all the coal mines will be submitted. We are only told that the Coal Price Revision Committee has submitted its report concerning Bihar-Bengal and outlying parts. This is a very important point, because, in the year 1957, when the coal prices were raised to Rs 1/8 a ton, to implement the decision of the Labour Appellate Tribunal, the Government did not also consider the price structure of the coal industry properly. In the award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal, it was clearly stated that "this additional burden which we are placing on the industry could easily be met from the profits". It was stated like that in the award of the tribunal which was presided over by an eminent judge, Shri Jhjeebhoy. But the Government said, "All right;

we give you an increase, and in the meantime appoint a committee so that the whole thing can be reviewed" But after that, there has been an increase given on two occasions. On one occasion, it was 12 annas a ton, and on another occasion it was reduced. Even while giving the increase of 12 annas a ton, there was an additional dearness allowance that had to be paid to the coal workers numbering about three lakhs. Once it has been 12 annas per ton. Then, it was reduced to six annas to seven annas. This was not justified. There has been an upward revision of the price of coal three times. This is a controlled industry. But then, if the report had come earlier, all this controversy would not have been there.

Now, we hear from the President of the Indian Mining Federation and the Indian Mining Association that the coal industry is in a bad state of affairs because the report of the Coal Prices Revision Committee has not yet been made public. What does it mean? This means that to cover up the inefficiency in achieving the target, they are throwing the blame on the Government. This should be borne in mind and an expeditious decision should be taken. I do not understand why we cannot take a decision at least in regard to the Bihar-Bengal coalfields which produce 80 per cent of coal in the country. If that is settled, the other coalfields' question could be settled a little later.

Last year or the year before last the hon. Minister said that the question of the price of coal, that is, the question of having a uniform price for coal at different railheads or the destination is under the consideration of the Government, and that they are waiting for the report of the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee and the Rail-Sea Co-ordination Committee's report. Suddenly it has been given up. The recommendation made by the Estimates Committee was that the Government should consider having a uniform price at different

railheads for coal. But today what we find is that the recommendation made by the Committee has not been implemented. We are not given sufficient reasons also why that could not be implemented. We are simply told that the proposal has been dropped.

Then, recently, we had a report where it is stated that in this country there is a shortage of metallurgical coal. Our reserves of metallurgical coal which we require for our steel plants is very low and it is necessary that we should conserve as much as possible our reserves of metallurgical coal at least for these steel plants. What do we find? We observe at Kathras in a recently opened coal mine, metallurgical coal has been diverted for the use of the railways. That shows that because they have raised coal, because the washery is not able to function fully, this coal has been diverted. That also means that our policy of pegging the raising of metallurgical coal has not been done and we seem to depend more on expediency in regard to this matter.

I want to say a few words about the working of the Coal Board. What an enormous time this Coal Board takes in the disposal of applications for stowing? This is fund raised from the consumers, and is being maintained for stowing purposes. For the disposal of these applications sometimes it requires one to two years. I have known of a colliery where the applications for stowing was kept pending and some minor details were again asked for in order to cover up the delay in the sanctioning of stowing. This shows the working of the Coal Board is not satisfactory as is the working of the National Coal Development Corporation. Something must be done to rectify these things. Otherwise, the raising of coal will be largely hampered if applications for stowing are not sanctioned quickly and stowing undertaken urgently.

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

We are told that in Assam a large quantity of metallurgical coal is available and that is being used for other purposes. It cannot be used for metallurgical purposes because of its high sulphur content. I would like the Ministry to see whether by some process of washing, the sulphur could be removed and the coal used for metallurgical purposes.

With regard to staff matters in the National Coal Development Corporation, I would like to say that even though the National Coal Development Corporation has got large sums of money, it has not done much for housing the workers. Even to this day, the workers in the mines live in quarters which are unfit for human habitation. Secondly, the coal mine workers' union, which has got a good number of workers in its rolls, is not recognised whereas two other unions, which do not have a majority of workers, are recognised. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to see that this Coal Workers' Union is also recognised, because there should not be any discrimination. This union has got a larger percentage of members than the other two unions recognised by the Ministry.

About steel, I will only refer to the retention prices paid to the Tatas and IISCO. In the end of 1955 or the beginning of 1956, the retention price allowed to these two steel plants was Rs. 393 per ton. Suddenly, within the course of a year and a half, it was raised to Rs. 405 per ton. Then again after a few months it has been raised. Tatas were being given interest-free loan. When the retention price for 1956 was fixed, it was made quite plain to them that they should spend this extra amount for some of the developmental work. Not only that, an additional Rs. 20 per ton has been given. They say, this is to cover up some sales tax and other excise duties. You are allowing Tatas so many concessions, whereas in a public sector coal mine like the

Singareni, you have delayed assistance for three years. In the case of Bhadravati, you have asked them to form a corporation. But Singareni is a company managed by the State Government and you have delayed for three years, with the result that additional coal production which would have meant so much to the south of Singareni and to South India has been hampered. Luckily, there was a bank which could give Rs. 1 crore as loan and so, they could at least keep up to the targets for 1958-59. So, why this discriminatory treatment? Even if Bhadravati does not form itself into a corporation, you can give loans to them, just as you have given loan to the Tatas, and help the development of Bhadravati, without insisting on a corporation.

I have got to say a few words about the Indian Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey of India. One of the gold mines in Kolar Gold Fields is going to be closed down. They have been carrying out geological survey for a very long time in this area for finding out gold-bearing areas. The other day, I was told that they were not able to undertake drilling operations, because there are no drills available. Here one of the mines is going to be closed down. Detailed prospecting is required, but there are no drills available. I know of certain areas where they urgently require drills and they are not made available. Something should be done for strengthening the staff of the Geological Survey of India.

For the Indian Bureau of Mines also, which is carrying on a very important task, there should be efficient staff. For instance, even for the post of Director of the Indian Bureau of Mines, the U.P.S.C. called for candidates. The whole thing went on for two years. I do not know why we have not been able to get a very capable eminent Director to man the Indian Bureau of Mines. Several candidates came and they were not

selected. Suddenly, the man who was officiating was made permanent.

An Hon. Member: That is why they delayed it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: A few years ago, when I talked about the price of petroleum products, our present Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel who was then in charge of Works, Housing and Supply, said, "there is no need to undertake any study" That was four years ago I am glad that now at least a Chief Accounts Officer is going into the price of petroleum products, and to see if they can be reduced We know that they have been making enormous profits We are told in this very House that they make profits to the tune of 300 per cent or so

Regarding the Indo-Stanvac venture, they have been given a concession of 10,000 square miles They have drilled five wells, but there is no trace of oil Today for this project we have contributed Rs 12 crores and without any results I do not know why we should spend so much in this joint venture and get nothing In Jwalamukhi and other places, we have been able to get something Why should we work in conjunction with these people? I think this concession of 10,000 square miles that has been given to them should be withdrawn from the Stanvac and it should be taken up by the public sector itself

Mr Chairman, you happen to be the Chairman of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation The Minister said it is working to schedule but this is the completion of the third year of the second Plan period and we have removed only to the extent of 5 million cubic yards, whereas the target is 27 million If this is the progress, I do not know how we will be able to achieve our targets and prepare the draft outline for the Third Five Year Plan. What is it which has been preventing progress in Neyveli? On this lignite depend the thermal plant,

fertiliser plant, briquetting, providing for domestic fuel etc All these are inter-dependent Why is it that progress in Neyveli is getting delayed?

The consultants who have been appointed have no knowledge of working lignite mines at all The countries which produce lignite are East Germany, West Germany and to some extent U.S.A No consultant has been chosen from these countries But the consultant there is from U.K, who has no experience of lignite mining at all This is how things are going on, with the result that today our whole programme of development of lignite is lagging far behind the schedule

I am very glad a team has been sent to China to find out the possibilities of setting up small steel plants. In China, I believe within the course of a few years, they have been able to produce 10 million tons of steel. This year and next year, I am told they will produce about 18 million tons Here our production target is only 4.5 million tons With a view to dispersal of industries and steel plants, some smaller steel plants may be set up Experiments should be carried out in the low-shaft furnace that has been set up at Jamshedpur. Experiments on coal and iron ore available in various parts of the country should be undertaken so that you can have the possibilities of having not the gigantic plants but small plants

Then coming to Bokaro, I am told that the designing office has not been set up, but it is going to be set up in the Hindustan Steel Private Limited Having experience of setting up three steel plants in the public sector and the great expansion plans of the two private sector steel plants, when we have a fourth plant, we should do it entirely by the Indian hands If we are not going to design steel plants after gaining so much experience in the various plants, if we again go in for foreign collaboration for the

[Shri T B Vittal Rao]

fourth plant, it will be most unfortunate. Not only will it be most unfortunate but for those engineers who are working with some zeal in the Indian Steel plants it will act as a disincentive if you go in for foreign collaboration.

Lastly, I would like the Ministry to examine the possibilities of locating an integrated steel plant at Vijayanagaram in Andhra Pradesh. Because, there coal will not be far away from the iron ore mines which are very close. If we can have metallurgical coal for Bhilai, it will not be very difficult to get metallurgical coal transported to Vijayanagaram, which is surrounded by very good iron ore mines. Manganese is also available there in large quantities.

Finally, I would appeal to the Minister that with regard to coal he should not be complacent. I call it complacency because he says 'we will achieve it'. It is only if we take energetic steps from now onwards that we can achieve our target.

Shri Bhanja Deo (Keonjhar) Mr Chairman, it is very gratifying to note that we have achieved at least some concession out of the oil companies. The hon Minister for Mines and Fuel also mentioned it during the budget debate last year. Though we have not fully achieved what we wanted to, that we have made considerable progress is not a small thing, and so we all must congratulate him for the delicate negotiation which he has brought to a successful conclusion.

He has given us a very happy picture no doubt about the find of oil in Cambay and the region thereabout. But I do not know why we are not trying to work the oil areas in Assam in the public sector in places where it has already been proved, side by side with the private sector, instead of depending on the oil finds which are only indicative of

oil. We are not definite as to the quantum of oil which can be exploited to our commercial advantage.

Now I will turn my attention to coal, about which the hon friend before me has already given a vivid picture. We cannot be complacent about the production of coal in the public sector and we should try to regain the foreign markets which we were gradually losing, because Australia is trying to put low-grade coal into the markets like Ceylon, Singapore, Hongkong and other areas which were receiving our coal. If you look at the figures which have been shown in the report on the working of the Ministry, you will find that our exports to the countries which I have already mentioned have dwindled considerably and so it is high time we thought of how to recapture these markets.

Now I turn my attention to the production of manganese ore, which is a great foreign exchange earner for our country. There our export market is to the tune of 21 lakhs tons per year, out of which about 8-9 lakhs tons are of high grade ore, for which there will always be a market because of the lumpy character of this ore. But we must think in terms of the other countries as to how we should prepare our ore for going into the foreign markets by beneficiating those ores, low grade and medium grade, and also by blending. By blending nearly about 20 per cent. of our medium and low grade ore could be pushed into the markets which have recently been purchasing manganese ore from undeveloped countries like South Africa and Brazil. Due to certain advantage they have got over our ore by way of freight and other development facilities, they have been trying to gain the market which was ours. So, we have to think in terms of how best this low grade ore, which is produced

in our country, by beneficiation, could be used for ferro-manganese plants, or by blending could be pushed into the foreign markets. Of course, our Government is entering into a wheat barter deal with America which will help this industry to a considerable extent. But we have to think in terms of long-range development of this industry which is dwindling. As probably the hon. Minister is aware some mines in the area from where I come have already closed down because of the keen competition. Necessary steps have to be taken in pushing the medium and low grade ore which abounds in that area.

Besides what has happened is, there is a fear in the minds of many of the mine-owners about the State Trading Corporation coming into this market like they have come into the iron ore market. That is why many in the private sector are not willing to put up beneficiation plant, and I am sure if they are given adequate assurance they would be able to operate in the private sector side by side with State trading. Then I think many in the industry will be able to put up beneficiation plants. The reason why it will be difficult for State trading to put up beneficiation plants is, first of all, because the grade of ore varies from mine to mine. So, unless they come to a sort of co-operative mining of this particular grade of ore which could be beneficiated from one particular area, it would be very difficult for the public sector to put up big beneficiation plants unless they own the mines in those areas. While we are thinking of co-operative farming and of other things why not we also think of co-operative setting up of these beneficiation plants in areas where they produce a particular grade of ore and which could be beneficiated in that particular plant.

16 hrs.

Then, also to help this industry we have to think in terms of railway freight which has gone up consider-

ably. Though this industry has received some concessions with the doing away of the export duty but that would not be enough for this industry to compete with the foreign markets. So it should be given some concession in respect of railway freight as well as royalty. In some States, besides the royalty there is a high rate of cess on ore produced. In these areas therefore it is not possible for this industry to compete in the foreign markets.

Then we have to think of another aspect which is connected with this industry. When the Industrial Exhibition was on, I went round the Mineral Pavilion. There I was very happy to observe the research and development that our National Metallurgical Institute at Jamshedpur is doing. I was told that they have, under the guidance of Dr. Niyhawan, put up a small pilot plant for the production of electrolyte manganese which, I am told, is a substitute for the use of copper in the production of alloys. This particular electrolyte manganese is at present being produced only in America and with research if it could be developed to produce a substitute for use in the alloy industry it would be worthwhile. It would be desirable if a plant which could produce electrolyte manganese is put up in our country and we also have research as to how best this electrolyte manganese could replace the copper which is used in the alloy industry.

About ferro-manganese plant that has gone into production in our country, I submit that because of the high rate of electricity charges it is not feasible for them to compete in the foreign markets and it is time for us to think whether this particular industry should be given certain rebate as regards electrical charges are concerned so that their cost of production comes down and they are able to compete in the foreign markets.

Now, about the steel plants a lot have been said and my hon. friend, Shri Nath Pai, has very well dealt

[Shri Bhanja Deo]

with the matter that is, about the findings of the Estimates Committee and how due to certain bungling on our part or lack of vision on our part in the beginning we have lost a considerable amount of money as well as we could have saved a lot of money on the import of iron ore from foreign countries. It is gratifying no doubt that the steel plants have gone into production but at the same time we must from now onwards think in terms of utilising our products. In this regard I would like to mention what the Estimates Committee have observed in their Report. Perhaps what is more vital and important is the fact that adequate attention has not been paid to the development of engineering industries for the utilisation of the production of the plant. There is therefore the apprehension that after the three plants which have been started almost simultaneously go into production India may be facing a considerable surplus of pig iron or steel or both. It is not easy to find markets for Indian pig iron and steel unless a condition is put that importers of iron ore from India should also import a certain percentage of pig iron. In this connection, I would deviate to the negotiations that the National Mineral Corporation and the Orissa Mineral Corporation have entered into with Japan for the export of certain iron ore and also whether the very high grade iron ore that we produce at Bailadiah should be exported so that the countries which take this ore will eventually be competitors with our steel and iron market and with the finished products that we produce in the country. So, while making this contract with Japan for the export of two million tons of iron ore would it not also be worthwhile for us to come to some understanding with them so that they also import a certain amount of pig iron that our country will be producing while taking our high grade iron ore for the manufacture of steel and finished products in their country.

The Estimates Committee also has noted that the existing pattern of production and future programme of Bokaro will have the effect of concentrating steel production in one particular area about which the hon. Member, who was speaking just before me, has adequately said. We should think of the dispersal of our steel plants and should also consider whether smaller steel plants, as are being put up in China and Japan, could not be put up in our country like the type of low shaft furnaces.

Regarding the functioning of the Hindustan Steel Limited the Estimates Committee made a very useful suggestion. According to present arrangements, there is a board of directors of the Company which varies in number and consists mostly of officials. The Committee felt that according to the practice obtaining in Great Britain certain qualifications could be laid down for the appointment of persons to the board of directors of companies in the public sector and persons experienced in industry should be appointed to the Board as has been observed by Shri Nath Pai, who spoke before me.

The second suggestion made by the Committee was that the Board of Directors should appoint various committees to look after the different aspects of project work. It suggested the delegation of powers to the General Manager and in effect a decentralisation of authority to give more powers to the men on the spot. Besides, the Hindustan Steels should have the private sector also represented on the board of directors, so that we can have an integrated scheme of production in the country which will do good both to the public as well as to the private sector.

I would like to observe a little about the International Construction Co who are the consultants for the Durgapur steel project. I do not know whether it was wise on our part

to have appointed them as consultants, when for the other steel plants separate consultants had already been appointed.

Now, having finished with steel, I would like to digress a little about the functioning of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey. If we go through their report—I do not want to go deep into it, because I have very little time at my disposal—we find that practically there is duplication of work as regards the survey of the mineral ores. So, we have to consider whether it would not be wise to entrust the Geological Survey with the exploration and finding of the minerals and leave the Bureau to the other activities which have been ascribed to them, because by both trying to overlap each other's functions, they lose considerable time, and not much useful work is being done.

There is just one more point, and I would have done, and that is whether the time has not come for the appointment of a high-powered commission on the development of our mineral resources in the country, and to consider the facts and aspects of their proper development, as is done in the other countries, so that when we have our Third and Fourth Five Year Plans, we can have an integrated mineral development policy in the country, considering all the different aspects which would be conducive to the growth of our mineral resources and also how best we could compete with the foreign markets in the future.

Mr. Chairman: Now, I would call upon Shri Morarka. After him, I shall call Shri A. C. Guha.

The following are the selected cut motions relating to the Demands under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel which will be treated as having been

moved subject to their being otherwise admissible:—

| Demand No. | No. of Cut Motion |
|------------|---|
| 81. | 928, 930, 931, 937, 1042, 1128, 1129, 1127, 1210, 1211, 1213. |
| 82. | 932, 933. |
| 83. | 939, 940. |
| 84. | 934, 935, 936, 942, 943, 944, 1043, 1044. |
| 130. | 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151. |

A list indicating the numbers of selected cut motions will be put up on the Notice Board and will be circulated to Members tonight for their information.

Need to set up a low temperature carbonisation plant at Kothagudiym

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to investigate the possibilities of setting up a steel plant at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Delay in the submission of the Report of Coal Price Revision Committee

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Delay in the enactment of legislation for the amalgamation of small collieries

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Delay in laying a copy of the Report of Coal Price Revision Committee with regard to Bihar and Bengal Coal fields on the Table of Lok Sabha

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Scarcity of kerosene

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Increase in the price of kerosene

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Price of petroleum products

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Loans granted to Tata Iron and Steel Company

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Loans advanced to Indian Iron and Steel Company

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Increase in the retention price of steel of Tata Iron and Steel Company and Indian Iron and Steel Company.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to undertake a comprehensive geological survey of mineral deposits in Andhra Pradesh

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Geological Survey' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Delay in carrying out drilling operations in gold bearing areas in Andhra Pradesh and Mysore States

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Geological Survey' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to undertake survey for oil reserves in Kerala

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity to start drilling operation in Cauvery basin for oil

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for stepping up the production of Coal in the Public Sector

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Increase in the cost of Steel plants

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Need for upward revision of target for Singareni Collieries

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Question of recognition of Coal Workers' Union by National Coal Development Corporation

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100."

Appointment of officers in Coal Washery, Kargali

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Wages of the overburden workers at Kargali and Bokaro coal-fields

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Need to beneficiate Assam coal to remove its sulphur content

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Unsatisfactory method of associating Indian personnel in the Durgapur steel plant

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Way of proceeding with Alloy and Tool Steel Plant

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100"

Expansion programme of Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Progress in prospecting for ores needed for steel plants

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Loans given or underwritten by Government to the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Progress of housing in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Conditions prevailing in the Gua ore mines which will supply steel plants

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Conditions of production in iron ore mines

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the

Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

State trading in iron ore resulting in the closure of several mines

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Difficulties faced by apprentices of the Hindustan Steel Private Limited

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Grey Iron Foundry, Rourkela

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Contracts made by the Hindustan Steel Private Limited

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Durgapur blast furnace

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Priorities in stages of construction at Durgapur

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the

Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Progress of coal washeries

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Agreements with foreign countries on Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur Steel Projects

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Manner in which foreign consultancy should be secured for steel projects

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Need to appoint Indian consultants to advise the Government on steel projects

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Progress of the Design Organisation

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100 "

Question of training, employment and utilisation of Indian engineering talent for the steel plants

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs 100 "

Mr. Chairman: These cut motions are now before the House

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhumu): I am happy to be allowed to take part in the debate on the Demands for Grants of this Ministry, which, according to me, is one of the most important Ministries from the point of view of the economic development of this country in general, and from the point of view of the development of the public sector in particular.

This Ministry has under its control ten corporations, some of which are the biggest in this country. As a matter of fact, the main activities of this Ministry are carried on through the medium of these corporations, and each of these corporations deals in crores of rupees, and, therefore, it would not be improper if one were to describe this Ministry as the Ministry of Corporations and Crores. Though the Ministry is young in age, and was born only on 7th April, 1957, yet this is one Ministry which makes the largest demands on the public finances

This Ministry has a special place in the national economy as it controls the exploration, production and refining of oil, production and washing of coal, manufacture, export and import of steel, and also the exploitation of mineral resources

I shall divide my speech into three parts, in the first part, I wish briefly to point out the achievements of this Ministry. In the second part, I would like to point out some of the weaknesses of this Ministry. And in the

[Shri Morarka]

third part, I would like to make some comments on the actual Demands for Grants of this Ministry

Shri Nath Pal: Concentrate on the second

Shri Morarka: From the point of view of performance and achievements it must be admitted that this financial year which ends tomorrow has been a remarkable year for this Ministry

16.16 hrs

[SHRI BARMAN *in the Chair*]

The record of progress made by the various projects and schemes under it is not only impressive but would occupy a special place in the economic history of our country. The success which we have achieved in the exploration of oil at Lunej and a promise of a similar success in Jwalamukhi and Hoshiarpur are the guarantees of our economic prosperity in the near future.

The starting of the blast furnaces at Bhilai and Rourkela, and the coke oven plant at Durgapur are again the indications of our becoming self-sufficient and also creating some exportable surplus in a commodity which is in short supply all over the world, namely steel. The progress made by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and the oil refineries is also not unsatisfactory so far.

Besides this, the efforts of this Ministry in mopping up Rs 10 crores from the petroleum companies and in reducing the prices in the open market for iron and steel and in ensuring better and more even distribution of coal all over the country deserve special mention.

In short, the achievements of this Ministry are apt to strike any impartial observer as a perfect example of what public sector has achieved and what it is capable of achieving. So much about the achievements of this Ministry.

Shri Nath Pal: That was more than enough.

Shri Morarka: I now come to some of the criticisms.

Shri Nath Pal: Please do so quickly.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: There comes the rub.

Shri Morarka: The first point I want to make in my criticism is about the estimates. The hon. Minister gave us last year the figure of Rs 559 crores as the final figure of the cost of these three steel plants, including the township and the ancillaries. As against this estimate the exact position is that by the year ending March, 1958, we spent Rs 172 crores, and by the year that would end tomorrow, we would have spent another Rs 195 crores, making a total of Rs 367 crores. The hon. Minister has told us just now that he is providing Rs 122 crores for the next year. The total of all this comes to about Rs 490 crores, which would leave about Rs 69 crores to play about for the future years.

Now, out of Rs 120 crores, earmarked for the townships and the ancillaries, we have so far spent only about Rs 60 crores. So, out of this sum of Rs 69 crores, a major portion will have to be spent on this township and ancillaries. What does this mean? This means that either our steel plants would be ready by the end of the next financial year or that we shall have to revise our estimates. I am afraid that the second thing is likely to happen more than the first, because I have two examples before me which indicate that the expenditure on these plants has gone much beyond even the revised estimates.

The first example is in regard to the civil engineering work in the steel melting shop at Rourkela. The revised estimate for this work was Rs 40 lakhs. The payments already made on this account are about Rs 70 lakhs, and at least Rs 40 to 45 lakhs more will have to be paid. That means that

this work is going to cost us about Rs. 110 to 115 lakhs as against the revised estimate of Rs. 40 lakhs.

Take another example, and that is at Durgapur. The hon. Minister speaking this afternoon made a passing reference to this. This is about the piling work at Durgapur. I have with me a statement which appeared this morning in the *Times of India*. This matter, which the hon. Minister passed over so casually, if I may say so, is a very serious matter.

Our contractors in this Durgapur plant, namely, the Indian Steel Construction Co., known as ISCON, and our consultants, namely, the International Construction Co., are both British firms. My hon. friend from Rajapur who opened this debate wanted to know what the capital of this company was. Would you be surprised to know that the capital of ISCON IS £100—one hundred pounds?

Shri Nath Pai: That does not matter. Whom do you hold responsible?

Shri Morarka: And with this company with £100 of capital we have placed an order for a hundred million pounds. A company with a paid up capital of £100 has been given a contract, and orders have been placed with it, worth £100 million. Not only this. But huge amounts by way of advances are paid to this company. It would be poor consolation to the House to know that the shareholders of this company are very eminent people, are very big companies. After all, the liability of the shareholders is limited to the impressive sum of £100.

The point is this. The consultants there are acting on our behalf. It is their duty to examine whether the work is properly executed or not, and it is only after they are satisfied that the work is properly executed that they are supposed to issue a certificate, on the basis of which payment is made. Here, what has happened is

this. Not only in the first instance are wrong and false bills prepared indicating work which they never did as work having been completed, but even our consultants, the world famous firm of International Construction Co., has certified these bills as correct.

There is a publication in today's *Times of India*. Before this, the same news appeared in some other paper also, to which reference is made here. The complaint is about the piling work and foundation work, which, as you know, goes down into the earth, and it is very difficult to check every pile that you have piled into the bowels of the earth, to see whether the work is properly done or not. The statement issued by this company in the *Times of India* to-day, itself says:

"Early in February, 1959 a small number of defective piles was discovered in an area of the melting shop. As a result, an intensive investigation was immediately put in hand. It was found, due to bad workmanship, a few piles in a small localised area of the melting shop had not been suuk in such a manner as to carry the required loads."

I do not want to use very harsh words, but if the same thing was done ordinarily by Indian contractors and the bills were paid like this, I am sure they would be charged with cheating and fraud. Why did our consultants to whom we pay crores of rupees certify these wrong bills, and how, in the first instance, did this company, supposed to be composed of such world famous firms, make such false claims and get them passed through our consultants? This is one point which I would like to make because I feel that it is payments of this type which raise our estimates from time to time.

The next point I want to make is about the consultants. We have spent a sum of Rs. 10 crores on foreign consultants, and the advice we got in exchange for that Rs. 10 crores has

[Shri Morarka]

not been very sound. On every score we had to make changes. The site had to be changed, the estimates had to be revised, the specifications of plant and machinery had to be changed, and even the time-schedule was out. We would have the plants ready but the mines could not be ready; the water supply system has not yet been finalised. Limestone will have to come from 500 miles distance. The worst part of it is that some of these consultants are themselves the contractors, equipment suppliers and have conflicting interests in these contracts. I do not say that they have done anything wrong. But the most elementary principle of business ethics is 'do not have a person with conflicting interests in the same contract'. His advice cannot be objective and it may therefore be not necessarily in the best interests of the concern.

Now a word about the contracts. It is difficult to deal with any individual contract as the time at my disposal is necessarily limited. But I would here like to read a passage from the report of the Auditor General. He says:

"It was noticed in particular that in Rourkela planning was defective and phasing up of programme uneconomic and unimaginative, involving the company in avoidable financial expenditure. Similarly, some of the contracts were unreasonably weighted in favour of the contractors and the suppliers. Ordinary prudence was not exercised to safeguard the financial interests of the company".

Then he goes on to give examples. I think this is a very poor certificate for the managers of this company from the Auditor General who is supposed to be the custodian of public finances.

Similarly, the Estimates Committee says:

"In view of the foregoing, it appears to the Committee that as a

result of the provisions of the contract, considerable avoidable expenditure would be incurred, adding to the cost of the project".

Now this is not enough. This is not all. The values of contracts which were awarded on the basis of tenders, after firm contracts were entered into, have been increased, and increased not by a few hundred rupees but by 1400 per cent. An original contract for Rs. 3 lakhs was later on increased to Rs. 42 lakhs. This Estimates Committee has given a complete list of such contracts. Here again, I do not want to say that the work was not sufficient to warrant such increases. But the *modus operandi*, the way these increases are given, is bound to defeat and vitiate the very tender system which is so sacrosanct and on which we rely so much for our public works.

The next point I want to make by way of criticism is about managerial control. The managerial control in Hindustan Steel (P) Limited is very weak. This is a living example of our deep reverence for bureaucracy. The management of the entire Rs. 600 crore project is left in the hands of two or three superannuated government servants.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: They are the real rulers.

Shri Morarka: I have a feeling that had there been a strong managerial cadre in this concern, much of our wastage could have been saved and efficiency in these concerns could have been substantially increased. Today what is the result? What do you find in this company? Complete chaos and anarchy, both in the accounts section and in the management section. I have with me the report which the hon. Minister was pleased to place on the Table a few days ago. Here is a remark in the report of the auditors of this Corporation. It would interest you to know what they say

about the various aspects of management. Have you ever heard of a company issuing shares, allotting shares, making calls on the shares without the board of directors even passing a formal resolution?

Shri Nanshir Bharucha: That is also an achievement!

Shri Morarka: I wonder who, in the absence of the board of directors, has the authority to issue shares or to ask for the money in lieu of the shares

Mr Chairman: The hon Member must conclude

Shri Morarka: I would beg of you to give me some time more.

Mr. Chairman: Yes; five minutes more

Shri Morarka: I was saying that the shares have been issued and even the returns which must be filed with the Registrar of Companies have not been filed. What is the impressive explanation given by the Directors? The Directors say in explanation that these things have since been done. This is no explanation to such serious lapses. These are kinds of offences for which persons can be prosecuted and punished. If this is the standard of management of any company which handles Rs 600 crores, if this is the secretarial supervision which you are going to have, then God help us

Now, I would like to read a passage from the same report about the accountancy system. In this they say that this company has not got an adequate system of accountancy. The system which they have is not suitable for a type of work that this company is executing. They make a grievance that even in the last year's report they drew the attention but still nothing has been done. And they feel aggrieved that this type of thing cannot go on for an indefinite period of time and they want something should be done rather urgently

Before I come to the next point, may I draw your attention to page 39 of this Report? It has a schedule of assets. In that what do we find? I would refer only to one item and that is about motor vehicles. During the year, motor vehicles worth Rs 57,25,000 have been purchased. This company had already motor vehicles worth Rs 15,45,000 to which they added another fleet worth Rs. 57,25,000 making a total of Rs 72,70,000 (*Interruptions*). This is important because.....

An Hon. Member: Trucks or motor cars?

Shri Morarka: Motor vehicles is the description given. I cannot imagine this company having many trucks and other commercial vehicles because most of the work here is executed by the contractors and other people. Whatever that may be, this requires some explanation. (*Interruption*)

I would like to say something more about the public sector but since you have said that time is running fast, I would like to say a few points about the private sector also because this Ministry is concerned as much with the private sector as with the public sector. My first point is about the retention prices of steel. On the 15th January, 1958, the Government of India asked the Tariff Commission to examine the question of retention prices to the two main producers of steel in the country. The Tariff Commission submitted a report on the basis of which in October 1958, an increase was sanctioned by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel.

You will note the date. The companies asked for the increase in September-October 1957. The Government of India referred the question in January 1958. The Government decided in October 1958. But the increase was given from April 1955, retrospectively.

I would like to read here a letter which the Government of India wrote

[Shri Morarka]

to the Tariff Commission in this respect It is dated, as I said, 15th January, 1958 The second para of the letter says —

“The requests made by TATAS and IISCO have been carefully considered The Government of India consider that the question whether there should be any revision of the retention prices of steel for the future requires examination by the Tariff Commission in terms of paragraphs ”

It is clearly stated, for the future

In spite of this categorical term of reference, by the Government of India and in spite of the fact that both the companies TISCO and IISCO themselves asked for this only in September-October 1957, the Tariff Commission does award an increase in the retention price from 14-1955 Even the Government of India while accepting the recommendations of the Tariff Commission did not accept them totally They themselves found that the recommendations were defective in a way They say

“The Government of India have given careful consideration to the recommendations of the Tariff Commission In view of the fact that the increase in excise duty on steel ingots came into effect only from the 16th May, 1957, Government of India consider that it would not be appropriate to allow this element in the retention price for periods prior to this date”

The Government of India accepted the argument for the excise duty only The Statement which the Tariff Commission has given indicates that most of the other elements of increase also came into existence much later than the increase in excise duties in September 1957

There is one more fact and that is that the retention prices were already

increased in July, 1957 In spite of that again the Tariff Commission thought it fit to recommend it retrospectively I do not know for what reason The Government accepted the recommendation partially to give retrospective effect It may be innocuous in appearance but if you make actual calculations both these companies—TISCO and IISCO—have got crores of rupees more by way of this retrospective effect This is not the first time the Tariff Commission has done a thing like this The House would recall that in the case of the TELCO also the same generosity was shown by the Tariff Commission in respect of the increase in locomotive price This point requires very careful consideration and the Government should consider whether they should charge the Tariff Commission with a duty of this type It appears that the Tariff Commission is not equipped with the machinery to go into and examine the price structure of these various things

Mr. Chairman. His time is up

Shri Morarka: Please give me a few minutes more (*Interruptions*) I will only mention the major points. I pass on to the next point—about subsidies This Ministry again gives subsidies on the import of steel and the Auditor-General has made some observations which are not very complementary to this Ministry about the position of these subsidy accounts The Auditor-General says this

“During the course of audit of the accounts of the fund it was noticed that about 5,000 cases of ‘advance’ and ‘on account’ payments involving Rs 20 crores approximately made from 1955 to April, 1958 were yet to be finally settled The settlement of these large advance payments (by verifying original invoices and consignees’ receipts) is an important matter, as only such a check will ensure that the steel had

actually been supplied by the importers to authorised consignees at the equalised prices. It was also noticed incidentally that in a large number of cases advance payments had been made by subordinate officials without the approval of the competent authority."

Huge amounts are involved and crores and crores of rupees are given by way of subsidies and the accounts are not maintained properly. The amounts are paid without the permission of the competent authority. The Auditor-General is obliged to make these observations.

Mr Chairman: I may just tell the hon Member that the Auditor-General's observations on the accounts come up before the Public Accounts Committee for scrutiny. He may wait till then.

Shri Morarka: It is a public document and every Member of this House is supplied with the Auditor-General's audit note. You would kindly observe that these things had happened in 1955-1956 and 1957. We waited till 1959 for the Auditor-General's report to come. If you want that the House should wait longer, I have no objection.

Mr Chairman: What I meant to say is that the little time at the disposal of the hon Member may be devoted to new points if he has got any to make. Those points which have been already made or observed by the Auditor-General will come up before the Public Accounts Committee and with their remarks they will come before the House. Therefore, I think he should not spend his time on that. His time is already up. I have given him nearly 30 minutes. I cannot give him any more time.

Shri Morarka: Sir, I will come to the next point. If you look into the Demands for Grants relating to this Ministry you will find that a subsidy is given to the marginal producers of

steel and re-rollers. The budget figure for this year was Rs 1,88,00,000. As against that in the revised estimates we find that the actual amount budgeted is Rs 6 crores and odd. From Rs 1,88,00,000 the figure has gone to Rs 6 crores and odd. How this increase has taken place in this subsidy to marginal producers and re-rollers is a question for which I was anxious to receive some explanation, but in the report of the Ministry or in the Demands for Grants relating to this Ministry we do not find any explanation for that.

Mr. Chairman: He should conclude now.

Shri Morarka: As I told you, Sir, there are many other things—Sir, my mind gets disturbed by interruptions and then I have to recollect what I was saying.

Mr Chairman: You have made many points. I have given you more than half an hour. You should conclude now.

Shri Nath Pal: He is making a very valuable contribution. Normally, Sir, those who sit there go on praising the Minister, but he is making a new departure. We must encourage him.

Shri Morarka: Sir, I find that under one head, namely.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He does not appreciate your compliment.

Shri Morarka: Sir, on page 11, under the heading "Directorate of Oil and Natural Gas" the charges have increased from Rs 1,72,00,000 to Rs 3,38,00,000. Under this, the pay of officers, pay of establishment allowances and honoraria and other charges have increased from Rs 6,24,000 to Rs 1,03,00,000. Rs 6,24,000 is the revised estimate for the current year. As against that the budgeted figure is Rs 1,03,00,000. Here again my grievance is that no explanation is given in this literature which has been supplied to us.

[Shri Morarka]

Now, Sir, before I sit down I would like to make one point, and that is about the fourth steel plant.

Mr. Chairman: I cannot give the hon. Member more than two or three minutes to conclude now.

Shri Morarka: Very well, Sir. The only point I want to make about the fourth steel plant is that even if it means some delay we should wait, but we must not again appoint foreign consultants. We should not place huge orders with foreign companies. We are ourselves going to put up a heavy machinery plant at Ranchi and a heavy electrical equipment plant at Bhopal. We have consultants in this country. I hope the hon. Minister would certainly try to take advantage of this and may like to delay the starting of the work on the fourth plant till we are ourselves in a position to supply the equipment.

Sir, a point was made by my hon. friend, Shri Nath Pai about Messrs. Duggal and Co. I am afraid, Shri Nath Pai has again confused the issue. The point is, these carpenters came from Germany. The carpenters were imported at our instance. The Indian contractors, Messrs. Duggal and Company, according to a certificate which they produced, were not at fault. Then the very pertinent question is as to why the carpenters were brought. Sir, it seems to me quite clear that in order to make these foreign people earn some commission—the G.H.H. & Co., and the Schafers—these carpenters were imported and the Indian contractor was made a scapegoat.

Sir, I want to say only one thing more and that is about the oil refineries. I understand that the site for this oil refinery which was selected initially has been changed now. That has cost us some money. The entire thing has to come again from Rumania. It may be remembered that we spent Rs. 3 crores in this way for a change of site in respect of the

Rourkela plant. Again, history is repeating itself. This thing is happening in a company of which my friend Shri Feroze Gandhi is the Chairman. Just fancy what would not happen then in other corporations where the directors and the chairmen are of weaker personalities.

Then, another thing is that the Oil India Ltd., is a company to which the hon. Minister referred. I am told that it is not playing fair. Now, it is feared that our refinery would be ready but we would not have any oil to refine. Unless something is done in this direction also, things will not show results. I must thank you, Sir, for the indulgence shown to me.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: On a point of clarification. Since my name has been used, as the Chairman of the Corporation, I might clarify the position. The Corporation, as soon as it came into existence, was asked by the Government to select a site for the refineries. The Corporation appointed a very high-powered engineering team together with Rumanian experts who went to Assam and inspected the sites which the Government had asked us to inspect and decide. This expert body to which the officials of the Ministry were also attached went to Assam and decided on the particular site. That is Sillighat. This report was conveyed after approval by the Board of Directors to Government who, for certain technical reasons, decided that this was not a suitable site and that some other site should be selected. The result of this was, as my friend Shri Morarka said, the loss of considerable amount of money, and also, which is more important, considerable delay.

The clarification that I would like to make is this. In so far as the delay in the selection of the site is concerned, the Corporation has no responsibility whatsoever. The Corporation took great care to see that the

finest engineers available in the country where associated with the Rumanian technical experts, and they came to a decision, without any kind of suggestion or anything from the Corporation, itself.

The point is that when the Government decided to reject the advice of the Corporation, which experts did the Government consult before they rejected it. That is an important point, and I hope the Minister will answer that, because my Corporation had the finest team of engineers available in India and the finest experts who were available from Rumania. Their advice was rejected. I want to know the names of the experts whom the Government consulted before they rejected the advice of the Corporation.

Shri Nath Pal: On a point of personal explanation. I was accused of having confused the issue. He has only confirmed what I said. I said that Messrs Gutehoffnungs hofte and Jahn Schafeur together made per year Rs. 4 lakhs of net profit by imposing these carpenters on us. I did not attack anybody, Mr. Duggal or others. If there was any confusion it is in the administration, which I only tried to point out and asked for an explanation.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, I shall mostly confine my remarks to coal, but before going to coal, I would like to make some observations on the steel plants. It is really a great achievement that the two steel plants have started production and the third one also is expected to start production within this year. But there have been serious allegations made on the floor of this House not only once but repeatedly, and today also, though one may not accept all that has been said by Shri Nath Pal or by Shri Morarka, we cannot just ignore them. They did not make any vague allegations. They made some definite allegations and

these things deserve proper investigation. I would expect the hon. Minister to take early steps to investigate into the allegations made and if necessary take the help of these two Members. There is, I think, a general apprehension in this House that the cost of these steel plants has gone up inordinately, that the total cost including the township would come up to Rs. 600 crores, which means an increase of near about 100 per cent. over the original estimate.

As regards the production of steel, nature has put us there in a rather favourable condition and it was expected that we would be able to compete with the producers of steel in other countries in the international market, by having lower prices for our steel production. So long the margin between the imported steel and Indian steel was quite considerable, but with this high investment in the capital of these three steel plants, it is apprehended whether the price of steel coming out of these three steel plants will be able to compete in the international market.

It is not a matter for very serious concern that we have lost in this some few crores of rupees, but what is a matter for concern for us is that this investment will go into the cost structure of the steel to be produced in these steel plants. So, utmost economies should have been observed and even now should be observed. I find that the township in each of these three steel plants would cost about Rs. 14 crores. I think there should have been some scope for economy in this. Anyhow, I again repeat my request to the hon. Minister to take early steps to make proper investigation into the very definite allegations made by two hon. Members of this House. These allegations have been made not once, but repeatedly in this House. Moreover, the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee also have made certain observations in this regard particularly on the retention price and the

[Shri A. C. Guha]

equalisation fund, and these also should be properly enquired into. There is enough logic behind their observations.

As regards coal, I do not share the optimism of the hon. Minister regarding the target to be achieved at the end of the second Plan, nor am I so pessimistic about it. I still feel that it is within the possibility of achievement. One ominous thing is that last year, the tempo of production has gone down from 10 per cent. in 1957 to 4 per cent. In 1957 the rate of increase was higher than in 1958. That, I think, should be taken care of. The tempo should have increased instead of going down. But personally I have seen some of the mines opened by the National Coal Development Corporation. I think they have already opened about 10 or 11 mines and raising of coal has started in those mines. There it will be more or less mechanised raising, unlike in the old collieries. So, I hope that if this programme of achieving the target is vigorously pursued, it would be possible for the National Coal Development Corporation to reach 10.5 million tons target of increased coal output during this Plan period. As regards the private sector, their performance in 1958 is somewhat discouraging, but still I think it may be possible for them to reach the target of 10 million tons. They have already done about 5 million tons and it will be possible for them to come up to 10 million tons. But it would require some vigour, some exertion on the part of the public sector to achieve that target.

Much has been said about ICS officials. This National Development Corporation has 5 or 6 ICS men on the board. It is more or less an official body. I do not understand the utility of having so many officials on this Corporation. It is practically an official body. I think these Corporations should be left more or less

to public men, to industrialists, experts from the private sector and some other public men. These Corporations should not be left entirely in the hands of officials or retired officials.

As regards coal it is not only a question of achieving the target of raising 60 million tons. What is more important is the conservation aspect. I feel that Government or the other bodies entrusted with this task on behalf of the Government have not been doing their function quite properly as regards conservation. Conservation, I am sure the Minister will agree, is not just keeping some coal underneath which may either be lost or may be utilized by future generations. Conservation would mean the proper utilisation of good quality coal and also the maximum extraction of coal from a particular seam or a particular colliery before it is closed. From that point of view much remains to be done and should be done.

Regarding the establishment of coal washeries, these have been inordinately delayed. I hope the Government would realise the consequences of the delay in establishing the washeries. That means that good quality coal is being consumed for non-essential purposes also. I am told that about 80 per cent. of the good quality coal is being consumed by non-essential consumers. Even knowing this fact, and knowing also that we are short of metallurgical coal, still Government have not taken proper steps to set up washeries. As in the matter of establishment of washeries. In the case of blending also, practically nothing has been done. Only one washery has come up. There also the production is more or less nominal; rather, production has not started yet. I am told that some defects have been found in the plant and I think the Japanese contractors have been trying to put them right. How far it has been possible, or will

be possible to put the plant for proper utilisation up to the capacity that was expected of it, I feel the Minister will examine it and will enlighten the House on this point also. Let there be no apprehension about it here. Also, the other three washeries should be established as soon as possible. I do not expect that the other three washeries will start working during the Second Plan period. That would mean that some wrong use will continue to be made of some good quality coal which should have been saved.

Then, my hon. friend, Shri Vittal Rao has referred to the amalgamation of collieries. There are more than 900 small collieries. I am told that so far three such collieries have volunteered for amalgamation. I should say that the Government was not quite wise in waiting for two years for considering their voluntary amalgamation proposals. Government should have taken definite steps for compulsory amalgamation. The difficulty is that Government set up some committee, the report is published, but still no action is taken on that report. That committee was presided over by an eminent Member of this House. For two years the Government have taken no step to implement the recommendations of this Committee. I submit that compulsory amalgamation of these small collieries should be proceeded with and the necessary legislation should be brought before the House at an early date.

17 hrs.

Then another important thing from the point of view of conservation is grading. As regards grading, we are very much behind the necessary target and I do not know what the Government is thinking about this. The Coal Board is expected to do the grading but the Coal Board is not competent or has not been given the necessary staff or the necessary authority to do the grading. It is stated that there should be about 2,000 samples every year to be examined for grading but the Coal Board has not

been able to do anything, even up to 1,000 annually. This number of 2,000 samples to be examined every year is going to increase every year with the increase in the production of coal. So, what is the programme of the Government as regards making grading up-to-date?

There is a Bill pending before this House providing for the abolition of the Coal Grading Board and the repeal of the Coal Grading Act. I think the Coal Grading Board was not functioning for the last two or three years. It was more or less a defunct body. Now the formal abolition of that body is being proposed under the Act. But that is just a negative aspect of the thing. The Coal Grading Board was not functioning. It is good that it is now formally abolished. But then who is to do the grading? If the hon. Minister expects that the Coal Board will do it then he should reconstitute the Coal Board. I will come to that question from other points also.

I think the Coal Board requires to be reconstituted and the Act which establishes the Coal Board should also be drastically revised. I do not know except that the Ministry as such is responsible for the production of coal, if there is any other authority within the Ministry which can be called responsible for the production of coal. There is one gentleman called the Coal Controller who derives his authority not from any Act regarding coal but from an overall Act,—the Essential Commodities Act. His function under this Act is simply for the distribution of coal to the different consumers. He cannot take any steps regarding production and yet under him there is a Deputy Coal Controller for production. I cannot understand with what authority the Coal Controller or his deputy can function for production. They have got no such authority. The Coal Controller is also the Chairman of the Coal Board. That is not according to the Act. He has just been nominated as the Chairman of the Coal Board.

[Shri A. C. Guha]

Somebody else might have been nominated as the Chairman of the Coal Board. But I think the Coal Controller or whatever may be the designation of that officer should be an integral part of the Coal Board. As the Textile Commissioner is responsible for the production as also for the distribution of textiles, so, there should be an officer, Coal Commissioner or Coal Controller or whatever he may be called, who should be responsible for the production, distribution, and all other ancillary things connected with the coal industry.

There is another confusion in this respect. The confusion is that there is a lot of overlapping of authority between this Coal Board and the Chief Inspector of Mines. Under section 22 of the Mining Act, the Chief Inspector of Mines has got an overall authority on all mining affairs. He can at any time stop the mining operation in any mine including a colliery. He can cancel the certificate of a mining manager including the manager of a colliery. So, in view of this overall authority of the Chief Inspector of Mines under section 22 of the Mining Act, I think the Coal Board is simply just an impotent organisation before the Chief Inspector.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think I should get some more time. I have taken only 15 minutes.

Mr. Chairman: My difficulty is to adjust the time among different hon. Members.

Shri A. C. Guha: How can the Coal Board be made more effective? Even now, stowing is one of the important functions of the Coal Board. But what is the progress of stowing?

Particularly in the case of stowing for conservation, I think the average

that the collieries can perform, is only about 60 per cent. of what has been ordered by the Coal Board. About 40 per cent of the sand to be stowed as ordered by the Coal Board has not been stowed; only 60 per cent. is stowed by the colliery owners. That is the position in respect of stowing for conservation.

In the case of stowing for safety, of course, their performance is somewhat better, because there is the question of the Chief Inspector of Mines intervening and stopping operation otherwise. The colliery owners are afraid of the Inspector, and so, I think that for stowing for safety they take prompt action. But when the question of stowing for conservation comes the colliery owners are quite indifferent, and only about 60 per cent of the sand ordered to be stowed by the Coal Board is actually stowed. Why this is the position? This matter also should be considered by Government, and the Coal Board should be given the proper authority.

Another thing that I would like to point out is that the Coal Board is also responsible for the safety. The Act which has set up this Coal Board is the Safety and Conservation Act. The Coal Board hardly takes any interest in safety matters. Even after the Chinakuri accident, I do not think there was any inspection by the Coal Board of this area, of this colliery. If the Coal Board is to be charged with safety, then the Coal Board should be asked to discharge its work properly and should be given the proper authority and instruction to discharge that work properly.

The Coal Board should get also more inspecting staff.

Before I conclude, I should like to refer to a few other points. This Ministry has under it a number of corporations. Only under the Mines and Fuels Wing, I think the number of corporations would be six or seven.

And there is a craze for multiplying the number of these corporations. You know, Sir, that the money allotted to these corporations does not come under the strict scrutiny of Parliament. So, Parliament should be somewhat careful about the creation of these corporations. I cannot understand the justification of having two corporations more or less for the same purpose, the Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd "for the exploitation of mineral ores in the public sector", and the National Mineral Development Corporation "to undertake exploration of minerals in the public sector". More or less, the objects of these two corporations are the same. Why should there be two corporations for practically the same purpose, namely exporting ore, and that also, through the State Trading Corporation?

Sardar Swaran Singh: They operate in different areas.

Shri A. C. Guha: But they can operate in different areas under the same corporation.

These corporations, if they are at all to be set up should not be under the control and management of officers or retired officials. I do not like to put a complete ban on them, but the show should not be an official show. All these bodies are practically under the control of so many secretaries to the Government of India. Then, why should they be called the public sector and why should there be these corporations? Then, let them be run as departments of Government, so that every expenditure will come within the scrutiny of this House. I hope the House should set up some organisation or some machinery to look into the working of these corporations. Their number, by this time, I think, has reached somewhere near 60 or 70, if not more. As regards the price of petroleum and oil, last time also something was mentioned. And fortunately, our Minister in charge of oil has been able to

effect some reduction, but he gave this assurance that this was not the final reduction, and that there might be some further reduction, and the whole thing was being examined by an expert body. In today's paper, I find a report that some cost accounting experts have examined the whole thing, and I think they have also recommended further reduction in the price of petroleum oil in this country. I hope the hon. Minister will see that petroleum is made available for people at reasonable prices. The country should not be made to pay undue profit to some foreign companies.

Lastly, I come to the exploration of oil in West Bengal. I think last time also we made this suggestion, that this should be done not through any foreign company, but through the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. At present one exploration is going near Ranaghat. I do not know what the outcome of this will be, but I still ask the hon. Minister to examine this question, of exploration in West Bengal being carried out through the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and not through any foreign company.

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): In that masterly survey which the hon. Minister, the man of steel, made, there was one unfortunate omission which, I am sure, he will himself admit, there is no reference at all to the Mysore Iron and Steel Works.

Shri Nath Pai: That is what I pointed out also.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I will rectify that in my reply.

Shri Dasappa: I am very grateful to all the friends who have already spoken. My hon. friend Shri Nath Pai, Shri Vittal Rao, and Shrimati Renu Chakravartty on another occasion have all made special mention of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works.

Shri Basappa (Tiptur): You are on stronger ground.

Shri Dasappa:..... and entered a plea for it. So, I want, first of all, to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have spoken. I want the hon. Minister to take note of the fact that here is a unanimous demand for expansion of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works. I will come to it after reference to a few other matters of general importance.

I think that, when we are discussing the matter today, it may not be profitable for us very much to go over all those old and ancient things to which very legitimate exception can be taken. In fact, I do not think the hon. Minister himself will say that there have not been mistakes, acts of omission and commission, as he himself said. What is really worth while is that we should learn from those mistakes, so that those mistakes do not occur again. Therefore, I do not propose to dwell on those things.

I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee. If I were to catalogue all the objections taken by Audit, and you, Sir, are also there, I can hold this House for a whole hour or more. So, my hon. friends, instead of drawing on these Audit reports or the criticisms of the Estimates Committee, I think, would do well to resort to the other course, which Shri Nath Pai did towards the fag end of his speech, viz. to make constructive suggestions.

I would really congratulate the hon. Minister and the Ministry for the satisfactory turn they have taken of late. Whatever criticisms hon. Members were able to direct against the working of the Ministry had something to do with the past. Today we see that the plants are placed on an even keel, on the rails, and they are well ahead to reach the targets within the scheduled time.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Where do you get that from, from the hon. Minister's statement? Have you

seen the Thirty-third Report of the Estimates Committee and what they say?

Shri Dasappa: The hon. Minister said that even in other sectors, in the private sector, there has been an element of delay.

Shri Nath Pai: We must always do better than the private sector.

Shri Dasappa: I will come to that.

I do not think that the delay will go beyond six months of the target date. If it does, I am at one with the Opposition Members in trying to find fault with the Ministry. But in a huge, gigantic concern where Rs. 600 crores are involved, what are six months?

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Each day costs Rs. 30 lakhs.

Shri Dasappa: I do not think it would profit us to allow our minds to run in those directions. I would rather think of what exactly are the requirements in order to increase the efficiency of our projects. That is what I am more concerned with.

My hon. friend referred to the designing section. Certainly I think we ought to have a most up to date designing section. Secondly, there is the question of Lab. I entirely agree that our Lab. must be of first class standard and there should be no occasion for us to go to foreign countries to get any help in that direction, I would also add that we must have certain advisory councils. For instance, the Commerce and Industry Ministry has Import and Export Advisory Councils to see that the Ministry keeps in touch with the pulse of the country and gets to know of the requirements to be able to formulate a policy acceptable to the country at large. So far as import of

steel, so far as iron and steel are concerned, the hon. Minister will kindly see to it that he will have an import and export advisory council for that purpose

Secondly, what is even more important is that so far as the entire policy in regard to iron and steel is concerned, there must be a Joint Advisory Council as recommended by the Estimates Committee, composed not only for representatives of the Central projects but also of humble projects like the Iron and Steel Works in Mysore, of private companies, of re-rolling mills and so on. I would also suggest the inclusion therein of a few leading public men. That would be a very good idea. My hon. friend suggests Members of Parliament. All virtue is not confined to the floor of the House. But if there are some from here and some from outside, it would be very good.

I feel very often sad that the Mysore Iron and Steel Works has not got its due hearing at the Centre. It is a most unfortunate thing that it is not located somewhere in the north, then possibly it would have got a better hearing. I am referring to this for this very substantial reason. I want the hon. Minister to see that the Second Plan provided for, what the First Plan provided for, for the development of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works. On page 2 of the Estimates Committee Report, we find that the target was to be increased from the existing production of 30,000 tons in 1955 to 1 lakh tons in 1960. If we turn to page 149, we find the break-up of the whole thing: Spun pipe plant Rs 15 lakhs, Sintering plant Rs 30 lakhs, Ferrosilicon plant Rs 150 lakhs, expansion of steel melting capacity and extension of rolling mill capacity Rs. 300 lakhs.

What do we find in the latest report? We find the programme about the Mysore Iron and Steel Works' second plan; which comprise apart

from other things, the installation of additional steel making units billet and structural mill, that would raise the production from 30,000 tons to 100,000 tons. This is at the beginning of the Second Plan. What is stated now? 'In regard to the installation of steel making and rolling facilities alone, progress has been upto now rather slow'. This is what the Ministry says. Why should it be slow? I demand an explanation here why there should have been this retardation of the plan, virtually denying all progress during this period of the life of the Iron and Steel Works.

Shri Nath Pai: And also ask them who is responsible for it.

Shri Dasappa: That is what I am asking the hon. Minister.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not you, in any case.

Shri Dasappa: May I take it as stated in the report that in regard to this the tenders were tendered in 1956 and negotiations with the tenderers are now in the final stage? It is interesting to note that Mysore had decided to use the LD process for steel-making. I think Rourkela is also resorting to the LD process. I am glad of it. I see that the Estimates Committee had adverted to it critically—this new LD process. But, as has been stated, the world has taken to it. It was 4 million tons sometime ago and in 1959 it is 14 millions all the world over. It is the most economic way of producing steel and we have resorted to it.

I have a right to expect an assurance from the hon. Minister that this assurance which his own report contains will be made good as early as possible, and, when it comes, there should be no more explanations coming forward to prevent the early attainment of the objectives.

Then, I would like to refer to another important scheme which they

[Shri Dasappa]

themselves have provided for in the Mysore Iron and Steel Works. It is noted on page 68 of the Report of the Estimates Committee

"The Committee understand that the expansion programme of Mysore Iron and Steel Works included in the Second Plan provided for the manufacture of 15,000 tons of stainless steel"

Now, what happens? This is a thing which I initiated long ago while I was in Mysore and it was included in the First Plan, it gets included in the Second Plan; and I am afraid, it will be included in the Third Plan and also in the Fourth Plan. It will go on getting included in every Plan but

Shri Nath Pai: Never implemented

Shri Dasappa: never implemented

Here is what the Estimates Committee says

"They were, however, informed that the scheme for manufacture of stainless steel at Bhadravati has since been rejected by the Planning Commission"

They give some reason or the other. This is very important. This is what the Estimates Committee again say-

"The Committee find that on a review of the expansion scheme of the MISW included in the First Five Year Plan, it was considered that the MISW should concentrate on high priced steel rather than on mild steel products. Further, the pattern of development of these works during the Second Five Year Plan which includes a proposal to set up a stainless steel plant was drawn up on that basis and also after taking into account the opinion of TCM experts"

There has been another latest expert. I think the Fiats have also

opined that Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works are eminently suited for the manufacture of stainless steel and steel alloys. The Estimates Committee says:

"In view of these circumstances, as also in the interest of the regional development of the country the Committee feel that the feasibility of entrusting the production of stainless and other special steels to the Mysore Iron and Steel Works instead of setting up another plant for the purpose, should be considered"

Luckily, the report of the Ministry says that the position of the location of the plant will be based on the detailed project report.

I ask, is it not extremely unfair that, when the Planning Commission decided upon having this unit of alloy steel and special steel and stainless steel at the MISW, when the Government also did the same thing when it included it in the First Five Year Plan and in the Second Five Year Plan, today they want to keep it an open thing and suggest that the location will be decided later on?

I may incidentally tell how economically we function in Mysore. With hardly an expenditure of Rs 7 or Rs 8 lakhs, the manufacture of steel ingots has gone up from 30,000 to 42,000 tons, 30 per cent increase, refractories from 25,00 to 4,000, cast iron castings, 3,000 to 4,000 tons—all with an additional cost of Rs 7 or Rs 8 lakhs. We have a standard which we maintain there and I am sure anybody who sees these works will deny that it is a place eminently suited for the location of this new unit of special steel and stainless steel. I am anxious that the hon. Minister should view this sympathetically and do his best for implementing the scheme.

In the report I find no figures for Bourkela regarding the employment of

foreign experts and I also find a wide difference between Bhilai and Durgapur in this connection. In Bhilai which has got the same capacity as Durgapur I find 860 Russian experts. In Durgapur it is only 180 British experts. Possibly in Rourkela it is not even that much. I think there is some necessity to keep up a certain ratio of these foreign experts to guide us in these respects. If we can manage with 180 in Durgapur why should we not manage with as many in Bhilai? All this is paid for by us. In fact I wanted to know the information about training. I wanted to know how much it cost for training—the break-up may be with regard to each of the States—America, England, Germany, Russia and so on and also plant-wise. How much it cost us to have this training? That element is not to be seen in the figures given to us.

I am one with those friends who feel that there will be enough demand for the steel that we produce in this country. I do not think that the starting of the three steel plants was ill-advised though there is a strong opinion that instead of three, there might have been two and the money spent on one steel plant could have been diverted to fertilisers. I am glad incidentally that the Ministry is interesting itself in fertilisers. What I was saying is this. In Rourkela there is the possibility of expanding production to two million tons and in Durgapur and in Bhilai we can go up to 2.5 million tons. Then, why is it that we are planning about the 4th plant at Bokaro? In fact the Estimates Committee made it abundantly clear that it would be false economy to go on expansion by way of a new plant when we have already got enough room for expansion of the existing plants. I would like the hon. Minister to tell me what it would cost to expand the Rourkela plant or the Durgapur or the Bhilai plant by an additional one million ton capacity and what it would cost to have a new plant of one million tons. It is a wrong economy to launch on a new unit.

I think there must be a fair distribution of the re-rolling mills because they are going to help the people in the different areas and there will be the zonal advantage. We have got 700,000 tons ingots specially earmarked for re-rolling. So, when he thinks of having new units for re-rolling, the areas which are ill-served at present so far as re-rolling units are concerned must be given priority. I am told that Kerala has not even a single re-rolling unit. Certainly they deserve one. Mysore has no such unit at all, apart from the iron works. Andhra Pradesh can have one. Therefore, I suggest that he must do his best to meet the regional requirements also.

I am very glad that so far as Neyveli is concerned, every effort is being made to implement the various schemes that they have taken on hand. It is presided over by my hon. friend, Shri Pattabhi Raman, and I hope that no impediments will come in the way of the furtherance of all these projects.

On the whole, Sir, I must say that today the picture is far brighter than it ever was before. So far as the remarks, observations and criticisms made in this House are concerned, I am sure the Ministry would be glad to benefit by them and they will not feel aggrieved at them.

With these words, Sir, I am very glad to support the Demands relating to this Ministry.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Sir, the story of steel plants in India is a tragic tale of lack of planning, gross negligence, criminal extravagance and, Sir, suspicion of corruption. In the first place, it must be appreciated that these facts can be very clearly borne out by the Thirty-third Report of the Estimates Committee which constitutes a formidable indictment of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel. I do not remember in the history of Parliament there has been a more severe indictment of any department of the Government.

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

With regard to defective planning several instances have been cited already in this House. Even now defective planning continues. For instance, in Durgapur limestone of the requisite quality is not available with the result that three times the quantity of limestone has to be quarried before you get the desired results at Durgapur. Water-supply is still to be provided at Rourkela. Limestone has to be brought 500 miles because the limestone available in the vicinity is not suited to the L.D. process which is to be adopted for Rourkela. Even today the hon. Minister said that mechanisation for iron ore mines and coal washeries is yet to take place.

It is surprising why this synchronisation was not aimed at, and how is it, when we have so plentiful consultants in every field, there has been such a sad lack of planning. One point I might mention. In the case of Rourkela alone the additional expense on transport of iron ore will come to Rs. 68 lakhs a year. Even now defective planning has not stopped, because our engineering industries are not being geared up so that when our plants go into full operation all the pig iron available will be utilised by them. There is bound to be a glut of pig iron.

With regard to consultants our steel plants are suffering from a surfeit of consultants. We have got too many of them. The Krupp Demag were manufacturers and suppliers as well as consultants. It is a very strange thing. Which fool of a manufacturer and which fool of a consultant will say that the equipment that he is offering is not of the right quality, when out of this contract for Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 28 crores worth of equipment was to be supplied by Krupp Demag themselves who act as consultants. They supply the equipment, then change their label and come as consultants, and then say that the equipment is all right and receive the payment for it. I ask, is this the type of planning that we are paying for?

And, strangely enough, as consultants they receive a fee of Rs. 2.8 crores. Yet the contract for consultation is silent on some most important matters such as service with regard to civil engineering works. Why was that lacuna kept there in that agreement? Was that deliberate? I think a judicial enquiry is called for as to why this contract was so very defective and faulty, and who was responsible for it.

On the top of Krupp Demag we have a Technical Adviser for Rourkela who looks into the scrutiny of technical tenders and specifications, and, who is expected to be the prospective Chief Engineer for operations of the works? Then, as if these consultants are not enough, on the top of that you have got the International Construction Company for Durgapur where a fee of Rs. 1.8 crores is provided. Again, as if this is not enough, on the top of that you have got the Indian Steel Works Construction—ISCON—to whom we are paying a consultation and service fee of Rs. 15 crores—technical service. And, in hot haste the Government appoints International Construction Co. as consultants for six years starting from 1956. I think this is definitely 'fishy'. There is something fishy about this contract, and there must be a judicial enquiry by a judge of a High Court or the Supreme Court. It must be found out why this contract was so very defective. On the top of that, having paid the consultants so much, there was the complaint that sufficient Indians are not being associated with the work of designing and with the erection work that is in progress. Then, the hon. Minister perhaps expects that for all this I should praise him! I am afraid I cannot.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not expect that from the hon. Member at all. He need not have any misapprehensions.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Then, look into the contracts concluded by the

Hindustan Steel Company—very important contracts which they entered into. Most of them are 'fishy'. I will cite a few cases. It is not that I am citing them for the first time. These contracts have been examined by the Estimates Committee appointed by this Parliament, and what I am quoting is an analysis from that report. In the case of civil engineering works for Rourkela blast furnace, Messrs. Uttam Singh Dugal were given the contract. The contract was accepted because his tender was lower by Rs. 30 lakhs. But immediately he was given an advance of Rs. 28 lakhs. The contractor plunged into the contract without the knowledge of the risk he was taking without experience, without adequate equipment, without skilled personnel, and without qualifications. No enquiry was made into the antecedents of this firm. It is true that the report regarding the black-listing of this contractor came afterwards, but when the Hindustan Steel Company entered into this contract running into millions of rupees, was it not the duty of the Government to enquire into the antecedents of the parties, whether they are capable of fulfilling the contracts? When Rs. 21 lakhs were additionally spent for foreign carpenters, our Government readily bears the liability to pay this Rs. 21 lakhs. It is not the fault of the Government; but whether it is the fault of the German experts who did not supply designs in time or the fault of the contractors, whoever is at fault, our Government must pay! This is fishy. Who was the officer who dealt with it? I would like to know the name of that officer.

Then there is the Hochtief Gammon contract. This was a contract for the engineering works of the rolling mills at Rourkela, the largest single contract in the steel plants, costing Rs. 7.78 crores. The reasons for awarding the contract were, they promised to execute the work according to the time-schedule; secondly, their requirement of foreign personnel was less; thirdly, the construction equipment was already in India and fourthly, the

foreign exchange content in their price was about half of that of an English tenderer. This is the same party which had that antecedent in regard to the Kandla port. No enquiry about the antecedents took place even though the contract runs into nearly Rs. 8 crores. The principal details of the contract are that the contractor is to be given an imprest money of Rs. 30 lakhs and an advance of Rs. 12½ lakhs.

The Estimates Committee says that since a separate firm of consultants had been appointed exclusively for civil engineering works for the rolling mills at Rourkela, it should have been possible for Hindustan Steel to utilise their services in such a way as to remove the grounds which justified such a contract. But the Committee forgot that Hochtief are erstwhile partner of the consultants of Hindustan Steel. At one time, he was the consultant; at another time he became the contractor. They immediately left off consultant work because they found it pays them to become contractors! Then, a very peculiar contract in regard to some equipment is entered into.

This peculiar contract which was entered into was for hire of equipment, costing Rs. 60 lakhs when new. But second-hand equipment was taken and the hire charges were paid to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs. The Estimates Committee demanded a justification from the Government. The first excuse the Government gave was that they could have purchased this equipment but that the contractors were not willing to sell the equipment. Later on, after four months, another excuse is given by the Government that the cost of repairs and maintenance would have been prohibitive if the equipment were to be purchased. I would like to leave the matter to the House to consider whether the Government could give such excuses or conflicting explanations of this type for the contract. It is for the House to consider what was the real reason behind it.

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

Then we come to the ISCON. It was a package deal. The Estimates Committee was of the opinion that in future, we should not enter into such package deals, because, though the contract ran to Rs. 15.0 crores the technical know how was not provided for in it. Strangely enough, in this contract there was an escalation clause. Usually, the escalation clause provides for a range of 5 per cent, but in this case, it was 15 per cent. Why? The contract with ISCONS provides for technical services at a cost of Rs. 14 crores, but these services relate only to preparation and submission of drawings, samples and models in respect only of plant to be procured in India, valued at Rs. 20 crores. What is strange is that even provision of tables, chairs, etc. for their own offices are put down as technical services supposed to have been rendered, for which they have charged us!

Let us look to bigger aspects. The steel plants are going to be a huge flop in our economy. Mr. Chairman, I warn this House. Apart from the first estimated capital cost of Rs. 353 crores, which now stands at Rs. 439 crores, it would cost Rs. 120 crores more for a number of items which the experts forgot to take into consideration. In calculating the cost of the steel plants, do you know, Sir, what were the items which the consultants forgot to take into account? Cost of townships, ore mines and quarries, coal washeries, fertiliser plant and even the land on which the plants are to be constructed were forgotten. They even forgot to take into account their own fees. Notwithstanding that the hon. Minister may say that this is the final estimate, it is going to be much more.

With regard to the capital expenditure of the plants, we are told that the capital expenditure will be maintained at Rs. 300 crores and the rest of the expenditure will be treated as loan. Already they are committed to Rs. 280 crores. So, Rs. 260 crores would be

loan from Government to Hindustan Steel. The Estimates Committee say that they are doubtful whether the Hindustan Steel can ever repay Rs. 260 crores of loan. Why they cannot repay, I shall presently come to. Also, we do not know whether, when the plants go into operation, like the railways they will make any contribution to the general revenues. We do not know whether there will be any depreciation fund or anything will be set aside. No thought whatever has been given to the capital structure and the final disposal of surpluses.

In this connection, it is very interesting to note, when we have invested so much in the plants, what is going to be the total sale proceeds, how much will be the steel produced and what will be the cost of the steel. We are told that in the Rourkela, where the capital cost will be Rs. 220 crores and more, the total production of steel and other things will be Rs. 50 crores only per year. If you calculate interest at 6 per cent on Rs. 213 crores and even if you calculate depreciation at 5 per cent only, between the two, they will absorb Rs. 22 crores out of Rs. 50 crores. So, Rs. 28 crores will remain, out of which the wages of workers, raw materials, transport, township and everything will have to be provided. It is impossible. In other words, having invested Rs. 560 crores in three steel plants, we will find that the yield is so low and meagre that it will not suffice to pay the operation costs even. This is the position to which Parliament is being reduced. Still, the hon. Minister says today he wants Rs. 122 crores more. I say, not even a counterfeit rupee should be given unless there is a judicial enquiry into the whole matter. He simply laughs at it; Rs. 122 crores mean nothing to him, but, . . .

Shri Nath Pai: Why do you place so much faith in judicial enquiries? He will say "I disagree", as they did in the case of the Law Commission's report.

Shri Nanshir Bharucha: He may say anything, but we will know the truth. The truth is being hidden now.

What will be the cost per ton? The hon. Minister says it is too early to say. The Estimates Committee say that the experts have said that Rs 560 will be the cost per ton, out of which Rs. 260 will represent the capital charges and Rs 300 direct expenditure. If that is the position then it is obvious that our steel plants are going to be economically an unsound proposition and I want the hon. House to take that fact into consideration.

Now the estimates are increasing from day to day. So today the cost of imported steel would be definitely less in comparison to what our prices would be, finally we will have to pay much more than the present cost of import steel for our steel. Of course it is a different thing if we want to pay more in order to have our own industry, that is a different thing altogether. The estimates have increased by leaps and bounds. Only one glaring example I shall point out. The cost of the Rourkela rolling mill went up from Rs 48 crores to Rs 72 crores. What was the explanation? When the Estimates Committee have asked for an explanation for a few months no explanation was given. The Government was inventing an explanation. And even when at the last moment they gave this explanation the explanation was totally unconvincing. Rs 24 crores were added in the erection cost. There was an increase of Rs 4.62 crores on account of provision for inland transportation. That is not at all convincing. When you have a contract for rolling mills do you not include even the cost of inland transportation? It is an unheard of thing. Then they say that they did not know that the cost of Indian workers would be more by Rs 2½ crores. Then they say, we have purchased spares worth Rs 4½ crores. What type of spares? The railways used to keep spares enough to last for a century. I wonder whether the same thing is done by the steel plants.

The whole thing requires a judicial enquiry. I say that the administration of our steel plants is rotten from the top to the bottom. The Minister is too much of a gentleman to match the cunning of the contractors who can easily fool him. I submit that an enquiry is required not only for the contracts but for so many aspects, as the Estimates Committee has recommended. The Estimates Committee has rendered signal service to the country, signal service to the tax payer and yet not a word of the Estimates Committee report was heard in the one hour statement which the hon. Minister made at the beginning of this debate. Sir I submit that unless and until a fresh enquiry is ordered into all those aspects, not a single pie should be given to this Ministry.

Shri Bose (Dhanbad): The Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel is a very important Ministry in our Government, particularly in the context of our present day industrial and economic activities. The functions and responsibilities of this Ministry, as I understand, are enormous and ever increasing in magnitude. The primary function is to explore, exploit and utilize the mineral resources of the country for the economic and industrial advancement of the country. It is said that England rose to eminence before any other country because she discovered coal and iron ore at a very early age and utilized them for their advancement. We in this country also have a national plan for industrial and economic development, and the success of the Plan depends really upon the success of this Ministry. It is therefore natural that the public are eager to know the various works done and proposed to be done by the Ministry. There is a lot of criticism also both from inside and outside the House. That is also quite natural. It is, therefore, worthwhile for us to examine the activities of the Ministry as given in its Report, which are quite informative and interesting. Of the two reports issued by the Ministry, one deals with iron and steel and the other with mines and fuel.

[Shri Bose]

From the first report we understand that the target of 6 million tons of steel as fixed to be attained by the Second Plan period will be achieved in scheduled time. Of the three gigantic steel plants with the capacity of a million ton each at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur, two have already been formally inaugurated by the President and have gone into production. The third one is understood to be ready for production before the end of the year. The expansion work at Jamshedpur, Burnpur and Bhadravati also has been successfully accomplished. Other achievements in connection with the steel plants, such as, coke plants, fertilisers, power plants, various ore mines, water works and township et cetera are also not able accomplishments. There may be lapses and there may be criticism also but when we take the whole thing into account we cannot but feel proud and I personally congratulate the Ministry for its success in achieving the targets for production of steel which, I understand, will save foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 crores a year.

In respect of the steel plants I remember one of the hon. friends suggested that all foreign experts should be driven away and our own men should work even though they commit mistakes. Let them commit mistakes and learn by the mistakes. I do not agree with that suggestion because in high technical jobs every country in the world, even the advanced countries, have borrowed experts from other countries.

Shri Nath Pal: They do it after using the local talent available. First use our own talent.

Shri Bose: The late Dr. Meghnad Saha, who was a Member of the last Parliament and a great scientist, visited all advanced countries, including Russia and America. He came here and described that even today in Russia and America the best

experts are borrowed from Germany. It may be that the men at the top are local people but the working experts are from Germany because Germany actually learnt these things before others learnt it. Even in England in many factories, German experts are working today. So, it is no use to avoid getting benefit from others experience. Sb, I do not believe in that suggestion that all foreigners should be removed. It is better to have foreign help as much as possible.

Shri Nath Pal: Only when it is essential.

Shri Bose: It is essential of course, Gradually our experts will be borrowed by other countries. Even now, Nepal and other eastern countries are borrowing our experts.

Shri Nath Pal: Shri Sukumar Sen was sent to Sudan.

Shri Bose: Personally, I am taking it up because I believe that I am right in that whenever necessary we shall take advantage of others experience. Experts with special knowledge should be brought over here to help us in technical matters particularly, not in every matter.

The other report dealing with mines and fuel contains a lot of information about new discoveries of coal and other things like oil and gas et cetera and the various types of operations undertaken for their production. Coal, I must say, is the most important basic material for running locomotives, producing power, smelting iron et cetera. Besides, it contains very valuable bye-products whereas no other rival power producing material, such as, oil and nuclear energy has them.

17:55 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Coal as the cheapest material for the purposes just mentioned still retains

its premier position. Coal can never be dispensed with; of course, after its exhaustion, it will be necessary to dispense with it. It is for this purpose that the target of 60 million tons of coal was fixed to be raised by the end of the Second Five Year Plan. To fulfil this target, the Ministry, with the help of the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines has discovered new coal deposits and started mining operations in many of them. I have no doubt that before the end of the Plan period, with the help of the private sector, we will attain the target and fulfil the raising of 60 million tons.

One of my hon. friends has said that the activity is very slow, and there is no chance of fulfilling the target. But I would say from personal knowledge that in mining operations in the beginning when the mining is just opened, you do not get the raising; it takes a year or two or even three or four years to get a wider place for operation; and then you can get as much raising as you like. Immediately after opening, a mine cannot give more raising, because the working space is very narrow. But when all the gates and the galleries are open, then you get as much raising as you like. That is why, after a year you will get more raising from the same mine where you were not getting any raising at all.

I, therefore, think that there is no doubt at all that the target would be fulfilled. In this connection, I read from the newspapers that the private sector are feeling some difficulty in getting import licences for important machinery. The colliery machinery is so important that unless they get the proper type, there may be accidents. For example, the ropes by which the cages are hung are of a special type. We cannot make them here or there in our country. It is patented by some firm, and that particular firm must supply them. For

example, in the Chinakuri colliery, the rope is as long as 2000 feet, and it is tapering in shape, it is not uniform, and so, that type of rope cannot be built or manufactured here and there. It must be brought from the particular firm. So, licences for the import of these colliery machinery must be given; otherwise, there will be accidents.

Even if it be a small hook, it has to be obtained. Every pit has got two cages, and every cage has got a safety hook; the safety hook is patented somewhere; so, unless it is brought from that place, it is possible there may be accidents; it is not a very big thing, it is just a small thing, but that hook must be there; otherwise, there will be accident. So, mining machinery should have preference in the matter of import licences. Otherwise, there will be great difficulty.

As regards coal production, my hon. friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao was afraid that the target may not be fulfilled. On the contrary I understand that the private sector are apprehending over-production in a few years, and in that case, they will suffer because the coal may not be sold in the market. That aspect also has to be examined. I feel that if they cannot raise the coal and they cannot sell our coal these national assets will be permanently destroyed and permanently lost.

So, the production, when it goes up, should be examined properly and adjusted in such a way that no national asset is lost thereby.

Another achievement of the Ministry, as has already been pointed out, is the Neyveli Lignite Project, where a power-house and a fertiliser plant will be installed. Besides, coal briquettes will be manufactured, A low-shaft—blast furnace is also contemplated to be built up there. Neyveli, when completed, will remove the difficulties of South India in many

[Shri Bose]

respects I, therefore, congratulate the Ministry on succeeding in this coal project also.

18 hrs.

Lastly, I want to say something about oil and gas. The Ministry is working in this section through a commission called the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. We all know that the Commission is moving from Kashmir to Cape Comerin, and from Assam to Jaisalmer, in search of oil and gas underground.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member concluding just now? Or,

would he like to take some more time?

Shri Bose: I will take a few minutes.

Some Hon Members: No, no. Tomorrow

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should not be advised in this manner.

All right He might continue tomorrow.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 31, 1959/Chaitra 10, 1881 (Saka)

[Monday, March 30, 1959/Chaitra, 9, 1881 (Saka)]

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| 2500. | Life Insurance Corporation . | 8496 |
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| 2502. | Central Advisory Board for Harijan Welfare . | 8497-98 |
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| 2512. | M.E.S. Workshops . | 8503 |
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| 2520. | Temples at Bhavanath in Bombay . | 8506-07 |
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| 2522. | Liquor licences in Defence Hostels . | 8508 |
| 2523. | Sarva Seva Sangh . | 8508 |

COLUMNS

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

8509-32

The Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of the following nine adjournment motions given notice of by the members shown against them :

(i) Certain statements in the official communique of the Chinese Government.

(ii) Allegations in Chinese Press regarding use of Kalimpong as a base by Tibetan elements

(iii) Reported massing of Chinese troops on Indian borders.

(iv) Crash of I.A.C. plane near Hailakandi Assam on the 29th March, 1959.

(v) Financial assistance to residents of Purana Quila in Delhi affected by the dust-storm on the 29th March, 1959.

Notices by Sarvasbri Hem Barua, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, B. C. Kamble, J. M. Mohamed Imam and Braj Raj Singh.

Notices by Sarvasbri S. M. Banerjee, K. T. K. Tangamani and Braj Raj Singh.

Notice by Sarvasbri S. M. Banerjee and K. T. K. Tangamani.

REPORT OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE PRESENTED

8532

Thirty-ninth Report was presented.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

8532-34

Shri Vajpayee called the attention of the Prime Minister to the firing by Portuguese soldiers on Indian Constables on the Banda border and violation of Indian territory on the 26th March, 1959.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) made a statement in regard thereto.

| | COLUMNS | | COLUMNS |
|---|------------------|---|---------|
| BILL INTRODUCED . . . | 8535 | | |
| The Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) (Delhi Amendment) Bill. | | nistry of Steel, Mines and Fuel commenced. The discussion was not concluded. | |
| DEMANDS FOR GRANTS . . . | 8535—8674 | | |
| Further discussion on Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting concluded. The Demands were voted in full. | | AGENDA FOR TUESDAY, MARCH, 31, 1959/CHAITRA 10, 1881 (Saka)— | |
| Discussion on Demands for Grants in respect of the Mi- | | Further discussion on Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and also discussion on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. | |