

and technical control we have got to terminate these sections wherever a repeater station exists. The length of these sections is only 26 miles in the case of Hijli to Lakshannath Road and 48 miles in the case of Egra to Bagwanpur. Such conditions obtain in regard to other Circles too; it is not peculiar to West Bengal Circle alone. Many lines of sub-sections of other Circles extend their jurisdiction on some other Circles.

Optical Glass Plant

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*1287. { **Shri R. P. Garg :**
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Wodeyar :
Shri Bibhuti Mishra :

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) the location of the proposed optical glass plant to be installed in the country;

(b) whether the technical man-power to man the plant is available in the country;

(c) whether any technicians have been sent abroad for specialized training to man the optical glass plant;

(d) if so, their number;

(e) whether any foreign country is willing to help in setting up this plant; and

(f) if so, on what terms and conditions?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) No decision has so far been taken.

(b) A few technicians may have to be trained abroad.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Some offers have been received.

(f) The terms and conditions are yet to be negotiated.

Shri R. P. Garg : What is the proposed cost of the plant and what would be the capacity of the plant?

Shri Satish Chandra : It is intended that the capacity of the plant should be 50 tons of optical glass and 250 tons of ophthalmic glass per year.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister for Production when he last visited Russia got some offer of help for this optical plant and if so, what is the exact offer that Russia has made?

Shri Satish Chandra : It is correct that the Minister for Production when he went to Russia visited and optical glass factory

near Moscow. A Soviet team has arrived four days ago in our country to negotiate the terms and conditions. In the long-term credit that has been given by Russia a sum of about Rs. 1,75,00,000 is included to cover the cost of this project.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether the experts committee which the hon. Deputy Minister has mentioned will also submit any report about the site and other details of the plant after conducting the preliminary negotiations about the plant?

Shri Satish Chandra : The team which has arrived here has to look into the cost of manufacturing optical glass in the country, and to discuss other details with our experts. The difficulty in this case is that the manufacture of optical glass is the exclusive preserve of a few factories in the world and we are not aware of the details. We have just to start from the scratch. We have to discuss and then draw out our plans.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार इस का स्थाल रखेगी कि यह ऑप्टिकल ग्लास फैक्टरी एक ऐसे एरिया में लगाई जाय जो बहुत ही बैकवर्ड हो ताकि गांव वालों को उससे कुछ लाभ हो सके ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : यह फैक्टरी तो ऐसी जगह लगानी पड़ेगी जो इंडस्ट्रियली बहुत डेवलपड हो क्योंकि उसमें काफी टेकनिकल सबाल पैदा होंगे । सरकार की इंट्रूमेंट्स फैक्टरी और दूसरे शीसे के बड़े कारखाने ज्यादातर जहाँ तक में समझता हूँ कलकत्ते या उसके आस पास में हैं और यहाँ वहीं लगेगी ऐसा मेरा अन्दाज है ।

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether any people have been selected for training abroad and the countries to which they will be sent?

Shri Satish Chandra : In the main answer I have said that this question does not arise at this stage.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know if Government have compared the manufacturing methods and the products of the Russian factories with the celebrated glass manufacturers of Austria and Germany?

Shri Satish Chandra : I visited the only big optical glass factory in West Germany when I was there. My impression is that they are not interested in collaborating with us in the manufacture of optical glass in this country.

Mr. Speaker : There is a team which has come; let us wait and see what the team says. Next question.

Purchase and Development Board

*1288. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha :**
Shri Shivananjappa :

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to form a Purchase and Development Board as recommended by the Stores Purchase Committee; and

(b) what will be its composition and functions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) No, Sir. Instead Government have decided to set up a Standing Committee to advise the Central Purchase Organisation with particular reference to development of indigenous industry to meet Government requirements of stores which are hitherto wholly or partly imported.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 22].

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : Is it a fact that one of the causes of delay in the purchases made by the various Ministries is the centralisation of purchases in the hands of the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals? If so, may I know how far this Standing committee will remove the difficulties of the various departments?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : The actual progress with regard to any particular purchase proposal will remain the administrative responsibility of the Purchase Organisation itself. The Standing Committee, as will be clear to the hon. Lady Member from the lengthy statement placed on the Table of the House, will advise the Purchase Organisation and the Government about general matters of policy and the like.

Shri Velayudhan : May I know whether the purchase missions abroad will come under this and also whether it is a fact that many officials want to go or prefer to go to these purchasing missions? If so, what is the reason?

Sardar Swaran Singh : I think many people here and outside also prefer to go out, if they can get an opportunity.

Shri Velayudhan : I am referring to the purchase missions abroad.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister says that not only in this case, but in other cases, also, people prefer to go out.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The postings to the foreign purchase missions in London as well as in Washington are made by rotation; people are sent there on deputation and then they come back. This process continues.

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

*1289. { **Pandit D. N. Tiwary :**
Dr. Satyawadi :

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports from the State Governments about the number of houses constructed under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme; and

(b) whether the target under the scheme has been achieved during the First Plan period?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reports indicating progress on construction of houses sanctioned under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme are received at regular intervals.

(b) Out of a sum of Rs. 25 crores earmarked for the construction of houses under the Scheme during the first Plan Period, a sum of Rs. 22.32 crores (both in the shape of loans and subsidies) was sanctioned for construction of 78,029 houses. Construction of 43,831 houses was completed during the Plan period.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know, after the construction of the subsidised housing in industrial areas, how far the housing situation in those areas has been eased?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : It is bound to ease. As to the percentage, it is anybody's guess.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know how far the housing problem in the coal fields has been solved, because we always hear complaints from there?

Sardar Swaran Singh : That is being handled by the Labour Ministry. They have undertaken the construction of some houses. This is a problem about which one cannot say it has been solved cent per cent; but, very visible effects of improvement are there.

Shri Gadlingana Gowd : May I know the number of houses constructed in Andhra State with the loan granted to the Andhra State?