

Shri M. M. Shah: It will come into the full pool by the end of December, 1956. For the next few months it will pay about Rs. 15 extra in view of river transport charges.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In reply to part (a) of the question, the hon. Minister said, yes. May I know what is the basis on which this reply was given?

Shri M. M. Shah: Firstly, we have been able to rationalise cross transport movements that were taking place. As such, naturally, when the question was asked whether there has been any improvement in the distribution of cement, obviously, this is some improvement that has taken place. Another thing is, Government is able to properly control all the allocations which are on priority basis. These are two obvious improvements that have taken place.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Minister is aware that at no place in India cement is available to the real consumer and if so, whether the Government will take any action in this regard?

Shri M. M. Shah: We are not aware of this. Of course, it is true that the availability of cement is rather difficult these days. We are trying to import about 7 lakh tons to meet as much of the demand of the public as possible.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is why I asked on what basis this reply is given. It is said here that there has been an improvement in the distribution of cement since the Government took over this work. Actually, there has not been any improvement. Later on, the Minister says, we are going to import 7 lakh tons. Why are such replies given on the floor of the House? Every day this is happening.

Shri M. M. Shah: The reply is factually correct and substantially so. The improvement is on the past distribution. Naturally availability both due to increased indigenous production and import has improved and also the system of distribution has at the moment improved.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister said about past distribution. Wherever there is a cement factory, the consumers of that area used to buy cement at gate sales. These consumers have been hard hit. Then it is said that there has been improvement over the past distribution system.

Shri M. M. Shah: May I submit that the word 'gate-sale, is not properly understood? Gate-sale never meant that the local consumers buy at the gate of the factory. Gate-sale was allowed of one or two bags, nor exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent or less of the total production for small purposes.

Actually, when it came to the notice of the Government that these very small sales, insignificant sales were being misused, we have stopped it.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to hon. Ministers and Members that whenever a question arises with respect to which there are differences and the actual work or working of a particular measure or article distributed, soon after the Question Hour is over, the hon. Ministers may fix up some time so that hon. Members may go and make certain representations to them in which case we will avoid a lot of time being taken on the floor of the House on these questions. Of course, this is subject to the convenience of the Ministers. Members independently also can go.

Shri M. M. Shah: I welcome the suggestion and I would be glad to meet Members.

Mr. Speaker: They may say: "We wish to have a half an hour discussion." Even in the evening I will meet Members of Parliament.

Kutub Minar

*261. **Shri B. D. Pande:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passage leading to the top of the Kutub Minar tower is too dark and dingy; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to electrify it?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.]

(b) Does not arise.

Shri B. D. Pande: Do Government know that at this place pickpockets ply their nefarious trade and women are molested? That is the complaint, and this ought to be checked.

Dr. M. M. Das: Up till now we have not received any complaint either about molestation of women or pickpockets. Moreover, there is a police constable stationed there.

Shri Velayudhan: Is there any proposal to electrify it? There is no need of complaint for that.

Dr. M. M. Das: o.

Shri Velayudhan: What is the reason for not electrifying it?

Dr. M. M. Das: Want of funds. There is no necessity. For 750 years it has been like that.

Shri B. D. Pande: 750 years before there was no electricity. Now, in modern times we must have electricity.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Apart from the question of electrification, the experience is that when we climb up there is a suffocating smell. Cannot at least arrangements be made to clean the steps?

Dr. M. M. Das: I will look into the matter.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The fact of the passage being dusty and dim has also been refuted or denied. The dust may be comparative, but nobody should deny that the passage is dark and dingy as well, and dirty also. This fact also has been denied by the Government while our experience is that everybody finds that it is dark, dingy and dirty also.

Dr. M. M. Das: We have got certain difficulties. If we want to increase the ventilation, we have to increase the windows.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The first part of the question is whether the passage is dark and dingy, and "No" has been the answer. I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether really he refutes this allegation that the passage is dark and dingy.

Shri A. M. Thomas: And dirty also.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Dirty also, but the question was whether it was dark and dingy.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has the Minister gone there?

Dr. M. M. Das: For only ten or twelve steps in the first floor it is dark and that is so because we go from light into darkness.

Mr. Speaker: There is no harm if the hon. Minister goes there again and sees for himself.

Open-Air Theatre in Delhi

*265. **Shri Kajrolkar:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to construct an Open-Air Theatre in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the site selected for the purpose and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the seating capacity of the theatre; and

(d) whether its use will be restricted to officially sponsored functions or it will be made available for non-official functions as well?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). It is proposed to improve the Open-Air Theatre already constructed at Talkatora Gardens. The estimates have not yet been prepared.

(c) The existing theatre has a capacity of 2,000.

(d) The procedure regarding the use of the theatre will be decided after the question of permanent allotment of land to this Ministry is settled.

Shri Kajrolkar: Who will manage the theatre and is it proposed to give free shows of documentary and educational films for the benefit of the poor residents in that area?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: All these questions will be considered after it has been finally decided to set up the theatre.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether anybody was sent abroad in order to study the construction of the building for this open-air theatre from the Western models or something like that?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Not with regard to the open air theatre, but somebody was sent abroad to study the plans for a National Theatre.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know how much expenditure was incurred on sending this person for seeing some theatres outside?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The hon. Member is going from open air to the National Theatre.

Mr. Speaker: We are straying away too far from this question.

Technical Personnel

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*266. { **Sardar Akarpuri:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to compile the data regarding qualified technical personnel industry-wise; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this direction?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; but the details of the proposal are still being worked out.

Life Insurance Business

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*268. { **Dr. Ram Subhas Singh:**
Shri Tulidas:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of life insurance business month by month since its nationalisation; and

(b) the special measures taken by Government or which are being contemplated by them for the expansion of life business under the Life Insurance Corporation of India?