

for new units the need to correct regional disparities in industrial development is borne in mind by the Government ?

Shri M. M. Shah : It is borne in mind. But, cement is an industry where usually limestone is available, we cannot instal factories.

Shri V. P. Nayar : In order to start cement factories in areas which are under-developed may I know whether any study of the availability of limestone in respect of Malabar has been made ?

Shri M. M. Shah : A continuous study about the availability of limestone is being made. As a matter of fact, a particular section is working for the analysis of limestone qualities available—quantitatively also in Kerala. Expecting the coastal areas there are not much of large deposits available there.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar : I understand that three proposals from Madras have been sanctioned. What are those proposals ?

Shri M. M. Shah : These details are generally notified by the Committee. If the hon. Member wants to know, I will find it out.

Shri Joachim Alva : Alongside Government's decision to have a State Trading Corporation in the cement business, has Government expedited the scheme of having more factories ?

Shri M. M. Shah : Yes ; that is what I am saying. From 28 factories now, at the end of the Second Five Year Plan—even at the end of the first three years, we shall have 60. As planned today, they will be producing 16 million tons of cement annually.

Shri Shivananjappa : May I know whether these schemes include the expansion of existing factories ?

Shri M. M. Shah : Over and above the 29 factories, practically all the existing factories are either doubling or trebling their capacity.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know if the target of production aimed at in the Second Five Year Plan will meet the requirements of the country ; if not, what will be done ?

Shri M. M. Shah : That is the present indication. Looking to the demand existing now, it has been estimated that the requirement of the country will not exceed 16 million tons. But there is no reason why we should always aim at self-sufficiency. If the country progresses further than that we have got to face always the scarcity.

Shri V. P. Nayar : The hon. Minister said that *prima facie* the evidence was that there is no possibility of getting limestone in the whole of Kerala. Could I know from him when the last geological survey of Malabar was made with a view specifically to find out whether the Malabar formations has limestone in them or not ?

Shri M. M. Shah : This is not a question of a particular date on which the last survey was made. A continuous survey by the Geological Survey of India is always there and from the study of the survey and geological formations one can always indicate whether there is *prima facie* limestone or not. The present indications are that large deposits of limestone are not available in the State of Kerala.

Coal Mines

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Question No. 445, Shri Sadhan Gupta.

Shri P. C. Bose : May I request that question No. 501 may also be taken up along with this question ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Has the hon. Minister any objection ?

The Deputy-Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) No. Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Both the questions may be taken up together.

*445. **Shri Sadhan Gupta :** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal Mines in West Bengal were flooded during the month of September, 1956 ;

(b) if so, the number of lives lost; and

(c) the compensation paid to the families of the workers who lost their lives ?

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

(b) 32.

(c) Rs. 2,500 has been disbursed by the Ministry of Labour as *ex-gratia* relief to the dependents of the deceased work persons of the Burra Dhemo Colliery. Information regarding compensation paid is not available.