

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). I place a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha giving the information required. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 100.] It appears from information received since I replied to Starred Question No. 924 on 9th December, 1957 that the mines in question were not closed in June, 1957 but in July 1956.

Barsua Iron Ore Mines

1929. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 1750 on the 12th September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement with Messrs. Hawitt Robins for the erection and putting into commission of a material handling system at the Barsua iron ore mine for the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. The orders for the plant and equipment have been placed on Messrs. Hawitt Robins.

(b) The total cost of the plant and equipment which Messrs. Hawitt Robins will supply is \$4,670,000. Payment has been arranged on deferred terms. The entire equipment is to be shipped to India before the end of 1958, and the erection is to be completed by the end of 1959.

National Coal Development Corporation, Ranchi

1930. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Coal Development Corporation at Ranchi is maintaining a Courier Service to carry mails to Delhi and Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons necessitating maintenance of such a service?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The National Coal Development Corporation at Ranchi is maintaining a Courier service to carry mails to Calcutta, but no such service to Delhi is maintained.

(b) The Courier service has been introduced for quick disposal of references and sanctions in connection with tenders, purchase of machinery and colliery stores and Accounts as well as for the safe movement of files and documents between the Ranchi Office and the Corporation's Accounts and Purchase Offices located in Calcutta.

Appointments of Officers in Manipur Secretariat

1931. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class I and Class II officers in the Manipur Secretariat whose terms of appointments have been extended beyond one year; and

(b) whether these temporary appointments were extended in consultation with the U.P.S.C.?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Seven; one officer in Class I and six in Class II.

(b) Yes, except when such consultation is not necessary under the Rules.

West Bengal Police Officers for Manipur

1932. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that importation into Manipur of police personnel from West Bengal is contemplated; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?