

matter of fact, we have succeeded in contracting for 25,000 tons; and another contract for about 75,000 tons is under consideration.

With regard to the second part as to what quantity we can make available, in order to earn more foreign exchange we have to export even at the cost of current domestic consumption and we are determined to export more. In the case of cement, production is rising so fast that this contingency may not arise.

As for the third part of the question, the cement cost in our country in some cases is lower than that in other countries in the world but as far as the big and large-scale cement-producing countries are concerned, our cost is still higher.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Just like sugar and cement, may I know whether the Government is considering to improve the export of tea also, considering the growing competition from China, East Africa and Japan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be a different question.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether we have already disposed of the stocks of cement that we imported last year which were lying in the godowns?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is entirely incorrect. Nothing is lying in godown today. The stocks in the factories are cleared leaving only 3-4 days' production and it is quicker as compared to clearance in the past when the production was much lower.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: My question was about the imported cement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that nothing is lying in the godowns.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: He said that there was nothing in the factories.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even in the factories, there is only a stock of 3-4 days. Next question.

Working Journalists' Wage Board

*125. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. C. Jain:
Shri Kalka Singh:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 2074 on the 7th May, 1958 and state:

(a) whether discussions have since been held by Government with representatives of Working Journalists and Newspaper managements on the judgment of the Supreme Court regarding Working Journalists' Wage Board;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether a committee has been set up to fix the wages of the Working Journalists; and

(d) if so, what are its terms of reference?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Yes. It has not been found possible to come to an agreement during the discussions held with the representatives of the working journalists and newspaper employers.

(c) and (d). A special committee has been set up on the 14th June, 1958 under the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Ordinance, 1958 for making recommendations to the Central Government in regard to the rates of wages to be fixed for working journalists.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that recently a resolution was passed against the new wage board committee in a meeting of the newspaper employers and may I also know whether the decision of the new wage committee would be legally binding on the employers?

Shri Abid Ali: Such a resolution has been passed and communicated to us. The work of the committee is going on and the newspaper establishments are co-operating with the committee.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether any meeting of this committee has been held and whether both the groups were invited to this meeting?

Shri Abid Ali: Several meetings of the committee have already been held but groups have not yet been invited because the representations have been invited and they are now examining them. After this part of the job is over, then the representatives will be invited by the committee.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know which of the newspapers are not co-operating with the committee and what the Ministry is going to do with them so far as the representation is concerned?

Shri Abid Ali: We have received about 150 representations from the interests concerned

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In certain cases, the wages of the working journalists paid as a result of the wage board decision were recovered. May I know whether the employers have agreed to pay back or stop such recoveries?

Shri Abid Ali: This question does not arise out of the main question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is a simple question arising out of this question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Both the hon. Members have begun to decide whether it does arise or not. In fact, I am the person who should decide on this.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is very simple. He says that there is a committee appointed. In the past there had been huge recoveries from the journalists.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question might be put. Then alone I can decide.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is whether the employers are agree-

able to this, whether this much has been agreed as a result of the talks.

Shri Abid Ali: Separate notice is necessary.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Special Committee which was set up on 14th June 1958 as per the Ordinance has at least fixed wages for some of these newspaper concerns?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): The work of the committee has not advanced to that stage that they can make any fixation. They are going into the written representations submitted by the various establishments and the other parties and then there will be some kind of an oral examination.

श्री: भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, चूकि यह विषय ऐसा है जिसके कि नय होने में वयों लग गये है और चूकि यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण है इसलिये क्या उस कमेटी को यह हिदायत दी गई है कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी अपना कार्य समाप्त कर दे ?

श्री नन्दा . जी हा ऐसी हिदायत दी गई है ।

Shri Mahanty: In view of the fact that there is now a *de novo* enquiry in the light of the capacity of the newspaper units to pay remuneration to the working journalists, may I know why this question was not referred to the same wage board which was constituted and why this committee has been staffed only by Government servants?

Shri Nanda: That has been done in the interest of expeditious settlement of this very much vexed question which has been there for so many years.

Shri Mahanty: My point is this. Why was this not referred to the same wage board? We want to know the reasons.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The answer may not be satisfying to the hon. Member but he has given the answer that it is for the purpose of expedi-

tious disposal and this was a vexed question. So, Government has thought it fit to appoint this committee.

Shri Mahanty: Can we understand that a special committee with Government employees alone will help in expediting matters?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This would be entering into an argument.

श्री यादव क्या कोई समय निश्चित किया गया है जिसके कि भीतर इस कमेटी को अपना काम पूरा कर लेना है ?

श्री मन्दा : उनको अपना काम जल्द पूरा करने के लिए कहा गया था, तीन महीने का समय लगने का खयाल था मगर मालूम होता है कि कुछ ज्यादा समय लग जायगा ।

Iron Ore

*126. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any separate agreement has been reached with the Japanese interests for the export of iron ore from Tamaka iron ore mines in Sukhinda in Orissa;

(b) whether the Orissa Government has made any reference to the Government of India for facilitating the export of iron ore from these mines; and

(c) whether the Government of Orissa have approached the Government of India for any kind of assistance for loading of iron ores in Paradip Port?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the State Government in consultation with the different Ministries of the Government of India and the State

Trading Corporation decided to start the export of 50,000 tons of iron ore between December 1957 and May 1958 and whether this quantity has been exported?

Shri Kanungo: There was no amount fixed. In November last year, we tried to ship them but unfortunately because of weather conditions, the ship could not be loaded and they had to go back.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the State Government approached for any financial assistance for exporting this iron ore so that they may get power vessels? What was the amount asked for and given?

Shri Kanungo: For the export of ores, no financial help is necessary.

Shri Panigrahi: For power vessels.

Shri Kanungo: No such request was made to this Ministry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I would like to know whether the export of iron ore from Tamaka has been held up because of the difficulties we have encountered in finalising the contract for selling iron ore to Japan?

Shri Kanungo: There is no holding back on that account or any other account.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: In view of the fact that the ports in the eastern coast are overcrowded and there is difficulty in exporting ore from the ports there, would the Government consider utilising the ports on the western coast?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri P. K. Deo: Pending construction of the railway line between Sambalpur and Titlagarh for the transport of Rourkela iron ore through the Vizag port, are the Government considering the export of iron ores from the Sukhinda mines through Paradip Port?