

than one occasion. So far as movement 'above Moghulsarai' is concerned, the total transport that can be organised 'above Moghulsarai' is limited. The track capacity itself is such that it cannot move more than a certain number of wagons, whether coal or any general traffic.

There is limitation on transport facilities above Moghulsarai. In 24 hours a certain maximum number of wagons can be moved. Within that, the share for coal has to take its turn in the overall number of wagons that are available.

Mr. Speaker: I understood the hon. Member to say this. Wherever there is such a bottleneck and transport of coal is not so easy why should there not be dumps created so that from the reserves they can be drawing coal from time to time, even when the wagons are not available. That is his suggestion.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I greatly value his suggestion. Actually steps are being taken in consultation with the U.P. Government to establish such dumps because the movement to the dumps becomes easier and there could be local dispersal. That is exactly the direction in which steps are taken to move coal to the dumps.

Shri Tyagi: The situation is most confusing, Sir. Every time this question comes up before this House, we are puzzled. We do not know whether the difficulty is on account of the shortage of coal at the pit-heads or lack of transport. It is a fact that in many places the industries are practically on the verge of stoppage. Dumps could not be created unless the transport problem is solved. When the day-to-day supply is not possible, how can they have surplus wagons for purposes of dumping?

Mr. Speaker: There is the busy season and the non-busy season . . . (Interruptions.)

Shri Braj Raj Singh: They can create dumps by transporting coal in box wagons.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I ask one question?

Mr. Speaker: I will give her an opportunity on some other question.

I.A.F. Personnel in Naga Custody

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218. { **Shri Assar:**
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made towards getting the release of four Indian Air Force Personnel who are under the custody of hostile Nagas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). No, Sir. It is not in public interest to give any details of this matter.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, there is no question of public interest in it. We must get the information whether they have been released or not.. (Interruptions)

An Hon. Member: A question has been answered on this subject.

Shri Tyagi: We have got the right to know about each citizen's safety in the country. How could it be against public interest to disclose it?

Shri Nath Pal: Every time there is failure on the part of the Government, they take shelter behind this

'public interest'. Sir, you should not allow that.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): The question is not whether they are released or not. The question is about the details. That, in the present circumstances of the situation in the Naga Hills, it is not possible to disclose. They had not been released but I cannot here say when they will be released, what steps are being taken and what the prospects are without going into details.

Shri Nati. Pai: Then tell us about their security. Are they safe? We are very anxious.

Mr. Speaker: This matter has been coming up for a long time. I remember sometime back the hon. Minister saying that a plane had gone so far and so on. Now, the point is whether any progress has been made or not? It is open to the hon. Minister to say: yes. He need not give the details of the progress. If four of our people are there, the House is anxious to know what exactly is happening, whether they are alive or dead, etc.

Shri Krishna Menon: Sir, how can I answer whether progress has been made if the people are not here. There are four people in enemy custody. It happens in any conflict or war action. Either we have got to go and rescue them or wage a war to get them released or there must be some exchange of prisoners or something of that character... (*Interruptions*). These are matters which I am quite prepared to come and explain to you. Every effort is being made.

Mr. Speaker: Are they alive or dead?

Shri Krishna Menon: So far as we know, they are alive.

Mr. Speaker: The House wants that every assurance should be given to it that every effort is being made—

details need not be given now—to get them released as early as possible. That is what the hon. Minister says.

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that at the time when the subordinate officers—not exactly officers but subordinate persons who were engaged on air dropping of grain bags, etc. were released, the army was about to reach the hide-out of the Naga rebels where these four officers were detained? What happened after that in the course of the negotiations with those rebels so that they got an opportunity to take these four officers to another place and now the Army is not in a position to reach them?

Shri Krishna Menon: First of all these captains were in two different batches. One batch went from a place and has come back. I have difficulty in answering this question because the hon. Member refers to negotiations. We are not dealing with an enemy country. How can Government speak about negotiations in the House with citizens of India?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: By negotiations, I mean this. When the Army was about to reach there, some one or two officers went there and got those junior officers released. At that time, advantage was taken by the Naga rebels to remove those four officers to another place. May I know what happened to the persons who were not actually negotiating but talking with the Naga rebels to get them released, whether those one or two officers have come back and if they had come back what is the report that they have given?

Shri Krishna Menon: The first part is not correct because after the plane crash they were taken in two separate batches. One batch was released. I have already said that it is difficult for me to answer that we are negotiating with the citizens of this country in regard to certain matters: it is not the proper thing to do. That is why it is not possible to disclose

details. I am not in a position to say what officials went, who spoke to them or things of that character. All we know is that at the present moment they are alive and every effort would be made to get them released.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether, when the plane was shot down and the initial effort was made, the responsibility of getting the crew released was shifted on to the hands of the civil administration and the civil administration deputed an IFAS officer with Rs. 50,000 to be incurred as expenditure in this peace mission? If so, is an enquiry made into the conduct of this officer and into the failures of the civilian administration? Ultimately, it so happened that the Army gave up its activity and handed over the responsibility to the civilian administration.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The facts or rather the suggestions made by the hon. Member are based on completely incorrect facts; they are not facts at all. There is no question of handing over responsibility from one to another; first of all, it was never done. Secondly, this question of Rs. 50,000 is not correct at all; we know nothing about it. Somebody may have talked casually here and there and the moment we heard that there was some irresponsible talk we stopped it immediately. The hon. Member's third point is about enquiry. Enquiry in regard to what? Naturally, we enquired as to what all this loose talk was about. We found that these reports had been grossly exaggerated. It was not true; some underlinks had talked about it. We warned them. Nothing like this should be done or could be done. There is no question of any further enquiry.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the five persons who were released and about which the hon. Minister made a statement last time, belong to the ejection staff and they

were employed in air dropping of food and all that and that they were released by the hostiles themselves after being detained for six days? Why is it that the other officers could not be released if these people could be released? My own information is that these five persons were released not because of our operations or activities but because the hostiles wanted to release them.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is true that the hostiles released them. I cannot give the reasons for their release, whatever they might be. They did release them, certainly, and the other four persons were not released by them and they are still with them.

Shri Hem Barua: Were the Naga areas combed by our combatant forces? (*Interruption*).

Shri Tyagi rose—

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Petroleum Coke

*213. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the country's requirements of Petroleum coke is now being produced in India; and

(b) what are the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the entire requirement of this material from indigenous production?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Present annual requirement of Calcined coke for industrial use is estimated at about 20,000 tons, which could be processed out of approximately 27,000 tons of Green Petroleum Coke. Indigenous production of Green Petroleum Coke is of the order of 12,000 tons,