

India and without delay to the Project.

A very large scale investigation, carried out to satisfy all parties concerned, has been made all over the site. It has included inspection of piles and ground conditions and, also, numerous load tests. The investigation has been made without cost to the Government of India and without delay to the Project.

ISCON now states, with complete confidence, that all the foundations of the Project containing bored piles will be adequate for the purpose and will comply with every requirement of the contract.

As an expression of their confidence, ISCON undertakes to rectify, at their own expense, any damage to the Works caused by settlement of foundations containing bored piles for a period of ten years."

Apart from the investigations carried out by ISCON themselves, investigations have been carried out by the Consulting Engineers as well as by a team of Indian Engineers experienced in piling foundation work. This team consists of Shri K. N. Subbaraman, former Chief Engineer, Bhilai Steel Project, Shri S. D. Kungar and Dr. K. L. Rao of the Central Water and Power Commission, Shri T. M. Malkani of the Calcutta Port Commissioners and Shri O. S. Murthy, Director, Railway Board. The team has studied the methods of investigation, observed the investigation, scrutinised the results, studied the remedial measures already taken and proposed to be taken and has also suggested certain additional investigations. The final report of the team is expected as soon as the additional investigations are completed.

From the statement they have made to me, ISCON are satisfied that with the necessary remedial measures, the foundations will be adequate and will comply with all requirements. Their guarantee for a period of ten years is the result of their confidence that this will be so. I have no doubt that any further remedial measure that may be found to be necessary will be taken in terms of this guarantee.

I have also reviewed the progress of work in Durgapur. The first battery of the coke ovens is expected to be heated up before the end of this month. In spite of the additional strain caused by the execution of remedial measures, ISCON is very hopeful that the blast furnace will be ready for operation by November, as per schedule.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN PONDICHERRY

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Mr Speaker, Sir, the other day some hon. Members of the Opposition made allegations that in Pondicherry elections are being interfered with and candidates are arrested and are not given bail and that all sorts of disturbances of law and order have occurred which would make fair elections difficult, if not impossible. At that time the hon. Prime Minister promised to make an enquiry from our Chief Commissioner in Pondicherry and report to the House the state of affairs there.

Firstly, on his behalf, I would deny that any candidate was arrested or kept in prison so that elections may not be fair. The fact of the matter is that one of the Communist members, Shri Ramalingam, was arrested three months ago for causing grievous hurt and was convicted in the lower court. He appealed to the High Court and his appeal was rejected. Therefore, he is in jail custody. At the request

[Shrimati Lakshmi Menon]

of Shri Subbaiah, he was allowed to interview him in jail and so he was able to file his election papers as a candidate. Shri Subbaiah interviewed him twice. We have even requested him to make an appeal for bail and most likely the court might grant him the bail so that he may be free at the time of election. It is not possible for us to ask the judiciary as to what the judiciary should do because that would be interfering with the work of the judiciary.

Regarding the other things alleged, they are very vague allegations in which all sorts of interference have been attributed to the Police, such as, partisan attitude of the Police etc. All these things have been found not correct.

I want to assure this House on behalf of the Prime Minister that every effort is being made to have fair and free elections in Pondicherry, and our Chief Commissioner is keeping us constantly in touch with what is happening there and is himself taking care to see that fair and free elections are assured.

12.10½ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): Sir, on behalf of Shri V. K. Krishna Menon I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, as amended by the National Cadet Corps (Amendment) Act, 1952, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of

their election subject to the other provisions of the said Act and of the National Cadet Corps Rules, 1948."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, as amended by the National Cadet Corps (Amendment) Act, 1952, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of their election subject to the other provisions of the said Act and of the National Cadet Corps, Rules, 1948".

The motion was adopted.

12.1½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. K. Patil.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Sir, before the hon. Minister moves his motion, I would like to draw your attention to one matter. You told us that the question relating to the prices of sugar will be taken up this week. But in the agenda for this week announced by the Government there is no mention of that.

Mr. Speaker: On a motion by the Government itself?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Yes, Sir, that is what you gave us to understand.

Mr. Speaker: I will find out. The hon. Minister will take note of what he has said.