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Dated 27/1/20

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

4477

4478

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 9th April, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-55 P.M.

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—Contd.**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Demands for Grants Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84 and 132 relating to the Ministry of Production.

Members and Leaders of Groups may hand over the numbers of the cut motions which they select, to the Secretary in fifteen minutes as usual.

I shall now place the Demands before the House.

DEMAND No. 81—MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,91,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Ministry of Production'."

*Moved with the previous sanction of the President.

75 P.S.D.

DEMAND No. 82—SALT

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,93,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Salt'."

DEMAND No. 83—OTHER ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production'."

DEMAND No. 84—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Production'."

DEMAND NO. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF
THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,29,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Production'."

I have now got the numbers of the cut motions which the hon. Members may formally move.

3 P.M.

Policy regarding industrial production

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta—North-West): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Prevention of premature compulsory retirement of Coal miners of Giridih

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Withholding of wages for 26th January (Republic Day) of contract labour of Bermo Colliery (Giridih)

Shri Nambiar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Non-utilisation of bye-products of Sindri Fertiliser Factory

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Restrictions on workers to meet M.Ps. during their visit to factory

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Working of shipbuilding yard at Visakhapatnam with reference to foreign experts

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for establishing testing laboratories in all salt factories

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to develop salt industry

Shri K. K. Basu: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Lack of proper facilities for transport of coal

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Working of Coal Commissioner's Office adversely affecting small collieries against big collieries

Shri K. K. Basu: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Discussion may now proceed on the Demands as well as the cut motions which are placed before the House.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): I am very much thankful to you for giving me the earliest opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Production. The Ministry of Production came into existence only about two years back; it came into being in May 1952 and it is still a child. It is on the work with which this Ministry deals that the hopes and aspirations of the future, strong and prosperous India depend. The House is already aware that the Ministry is in charge of many items of work, namely, industrial undertakings, which number ten or eleven. Besides that, it deals with salt, coal and refineries. The State undertakings that are placed under the charge of the Ministry are Sindri National Instruments Factory, Nahan Foundry, Hindustan Housing Factory, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Penicillin Factory, D.D.T. Factory and the new company, Hindustan Steel Ltd., which is to come into operation shortly. Our food position had been very acute during the past and the Sindri Factory has done very good service to the country by placing ammonium sulphate for intensive cultivation, as a result of which the production of food has very much increased. While we took up the programme of rice cultivation by the Japanese method, the Sindri Fertilisers were of great help to the country. There has been a consistent demand for the by-products of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory and really the House would be glad to know that these by-products are being used, and there are schemes to produce by-products to the maximum extent possible. A cement factory has been installed there for which an agreement has been already entered into. Besides, there is going to be a coke oven plant which go into operation during this year. There is a scheme for the construction of a by-product plant to manufacture benzene, naphthalene, tar, etc. The scheme is proceeding according to schedule. We hope that with the development of by-products, the price of the fertiliser will be further

reduced and that it will be available to the agriculturists at a cheaper rate.

I must mention one thing. Though we have gone far ahead in the production of fertilisers, enough attention has not been paid to the publicity and public relations side. They have been issuing a monthly magazine in English. Looking to the large Hindi-speaking population in the country, immediate steps should be taken to publish its counterpart or a translation in Hindi as well so that the people may know the benefits of the use of fertilisers and they may become more popular in the country.

We have got some old factories, for example, the Hindustan Housing Factory. The scheme of prefabricated housing was not successful and so it had to be given up. This factory has been transferred to the Production Ministry. They have to change the design and make the best use of this factory. There were technical difficulties and so, the factory had to give up that work. Now, they have explored new avenues for putting the factory to profitable use. It has been decided to produce there foamed-concrete roofing, pre-stressed concrete slabs, wood work in standardised pattern and do also steel fabrication work. An agreement has been made with Messrs. Basakha Singh and Wallenborg Ltd., in equal partnership with a paid-up capital of Rs. 1 lakh. We have already spent lakhs of rupees on this. At last, a way has been found to make the best use of this factory. The factory has been reconditioned and repaired. The existing plants have been re-equipped so as to make them suitable for taking up the new lines of manufacture. The company has already produced nearly 30,000 feet of pipe lines. It has received orders for other items also. It is hoped that production on these lines of manufacture will be in full swing during this year. This year ushers in an era of bright future for the country inasmuch as the State undertakings, the Hindustan Cables Ltd., the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., the Penicillin Factory and the D.D.T.

[Shri Radhelal Vyas]

Factory are all going into production this very year.

With more than 2000 miles of coast-line and with our trade with foreign countries, and our own requirements in the country, there is great need for increasing our shipping industry. For that a shipyard is very necessary. We are glad that this Ministry has taken steps to fulfil our target under the Five Year Plan to produce more ships in the country. Very shortly, the capacity of the shipyard, at Visakhapatnam will go up from 2½ vessels per year to 6 vessels per year.

श्री श्री० एन० राजभोज (शोलापुर—
रहित—अनुसूचित जातियां) : देखा है ?

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : आपने देखा है
वही हमारी है ।

Now, I come to the Hindustan Steel Ltd. This is very essential for the requirements of our country. There have been bottle-necks in the various engineering industries in our country. Unless we produce steel, we cannot go ahead with the industrialisation of our country. The Ministry has proceeded very cautiously in this matter. An agreement has been made with a German firm of reputation and the site also has been selected after great care and without giving room for indignation to the various States. The manner in which the Ministry has proceeded gave satisfaction to all and we hope that very soon we shall be producing more steel in our country which will go a long way towards industrialisation of our country, and enable us to dispense with the imports on which we have to depend at present.

Next, I come to salt. This has got a history in our country. It is most gratifying to see that from a deficit country, we have become a surplus country in salt. We are now exporting to the tune of 80 lakh maunds

every year. As regards rock salt, we have been deprived of it by the partition of the country. I had been recently to Mandi and I saw the salt mines there. Drilling operations are going on and I may say that they have been very successful. I hope Government will take early steps to exploit the rock mines there and make the best salt available to the people in the country. There is one thing that needs immediate attention of the Ministry. There is a stream of brine water which flows into the river: at least 36,000 gallons of brine water out of which 600 maunds of salt could be manufactured. I learn that the Mining Engineer is badly in need of 600 feet of galvanised pipes of 3" diameter. If that is supplied, immediately, he could take up the manufacture of fine salt. It would cost only Rs. 2-8-0 per maund whereas Sambhar salt is selling at Rs. 6/- a maund. I hope that this need which is strongly felt will be immediately supplied. I learn that orders were placed with a Calcutta firm last year for the supply of these pipes, but they have not yet been supplied and the matter should be enquired into as to why they have failed. Further, it should be requisitioned from other sources and made available immediately.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are only two hours allotted for this Ministry. Therefore I cannot allot more than ten minutes to any Member.

Shri Meghnad Saha: As my predecessor has said, this Ministry of Production is the newest child on the other side. It has been in existence for only the last two years. It has taken up the production of a number of very important commodities. I need not go into them, but it is a very welcome move because the Government has moved away from their favourite slogan of mixed economy. Mixed economy means that we do almost everything through the private sector, but the protagonists of mixed

economy ought to understand that there are certain very important things which cannot be done by the private sector in this country.

Even in the most capitalistic countries like America which gets everything done by the private sector, atomic energy development is entirely a Government responsibility. That is because atomic energy requires an amount of capital which even American firms which command billions of dollars cannot find. What is true in America of atomic energy is true in this country of a large number of industries.

Take, for example, the iron and steel industry which requires a capital of Rs. 100 crores. It is well known that no industrialist firm in this country, nobody in the private sector, can raise this amount of capital. Therefore, it is a welcome measure that the Government has taken the responsibility for this industry within recent times. But I am sorry that they have not extended their activities to other fields. There are lots of other industries which cannot be undertaken by the private sector in this country.

There is the aluminium industry. Of course we have got an aluminium industry in this country but that is very small and very inefficient, because the aluminium is produced in this country at nearly two times the price of aluminium in other countries. If we want to have an aluminium industry in this country, this ought to be done in a proper fashion. Nearly five years ago the German aeroplane designer Messerschmidt was brought into this country to advise the Government on the manufacture of aeroplanes, and he said that we must have an aluminium industry yielding about 50,000 tons per year. Now, this can be done on account of the development of the power resources of this country, but at present it is being done in a very haphazard manner. The aluminium is produced near Ranchi. It is taken to Alwaye, and the aluminium ingots are brought to Calcutta to be processed into circles and squares and

so on, and we pay about Rs. 700 for one ton of aluminium product in freight alone. That is a very wasteful method of manufacture. I think this Ministry of Production might take up the production of aluminium in the Damodar Valley or near the Hirakud area where bauxite is available in quantity and where you will have cheap electric power.

In this connection, I would say that the Government's industrial policy has been very confused in the past. As I have just now remarked, their activities have been completely paralysed by the slogan of this mixed economy and they have not gone into details in this matter. Most of the capital goods industries in this country cannot be undertaken by the private sector. Iron is one. Aluminium is another. Heavy chemicals is another; then you have soda ash and others. Unless these industries flourish in this country, the industrial production cannot be increased. How backward we are in industrial production will be apparent if we take the figures as given by the Government. Our total agricultural production is Rs. 4,300 crores. Our industrial production is only Rs. 1,500 crores—one-third of that, while you find in a country like England that the industrial production is seven times that of agricultural production. Unless our industrial production is increased by ten to twenty times the per capita income in this country cannot be increased.

The Minister of Finance the other day informed us that the index of industrial production has gone up to 133 per cent. of the figure in 1950. With due deference to him I would say that this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Industrial production ought to have gone up much higher. It is quite apparent why industrial production does not go up. I will illustrate this by means of a figure. Supposing you have got a number of small canals to irrigate your fields, the small canals cannot irrigate the fields unless there is water in the big river which supplies all these canals. So, no consumer

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

industry in this country can flourish unless you have sufficient iron and steel, aluminium, fundamental chemicals, heavy machinery and so forth. I wish the Government would take up courage in their hands and formulate a new industrial policy and announce to the public that they will henceforth be responsible for the production of all the capital goods on the industrial side.

Our position is quite similar to that of Russia before the first Five Year Plan, and in spite of what the Finance Minister has said, which was quite misleading, the Russian First Five Year Plan insisted on the capital goods industry. They said: "We should economise in our consumer goods, and we should suffer for a number of years till we have sufficient capital goods, so that we can organise our other industries, we can organise defence, we can organise production of consumer goods satisfactorily."

There is another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this House. That is about technical autonomy. At the present time, whenever we want to introduce a new industry, we have to fall back upon foreign countries. We have to take experts from outside. The latest illustration is the iron and steel industry. But one cannot understand why this should be so. We have got an integrated iron and steel plant operating in this country. At one time it was the biggest plant of its kind in the world and in spite of that it is very surprising to learn that there is no technical staff in this country who can design an iron and steel plant, who can manufacture the machinery required and who can erect it. We had to pay Messrs. Krupps and Demag Rs 2 crores as consultation fee, besides giving many other advantages worth several crores. I think, therefore, it is very necessary that we should raise in this country a technical staff which will be able to design, construct and

erect the next iron and steel plant. This is not impossible.

I may again take the example of Russia. During their first Five Year Plan their iron and steel industry simply did not exist. It was destroyed almost completely. They had one iron and steel plant in Magnitogorsk in the Urals which was built by American experts, another somewhere else which was built by German experts. But after that, they had Russian technicians trained up in this business, and within the next five years they had 41 blast furnaces producing nearly five million tons. All that was designed and erected by Russian technicians. This is a very important matter which you are completely ignoring at the present time. We cannot go on depending upon German or American firms for all times to come. Otherwise, we shall be in the same position as Iran. Let me dwell a little more on this point. As you know, the main industry in Iran was the oil industry, and that was developed by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Rightly enough, the Iranian people did not like it. They thought that the wealth of their country was being drained away to other countries, and so there was a movement, which ultimately nationalised the whole industry. But what was the result? They did not have sufficient technicians to run the industry themselves. The economic position of the whole country worsened, and ultimately they had to bring in foreign technicians and foreign domination. Therefore, it is not a very practical proposition—it is not wise at all—to depend, for all time to come, on foreign technicians.

I think the hon. Minister will consider seriously my suggestion of having a bureau of iron and steel technologists, from out of Indian technicians. It is not difficult to form such a bureau. Unfortunately, whenever Government consult the experts on these lines, these so-called experts

are not experts, but financiers, whose motive is quite different. Some of them do not want that there should be any machinery industry in this country, because they have got private business of their own, and they make money by importing machinery from the companies on which they are directors. This evil circle should be broken. Therefore, I would suggest in all seriousness that there should be a bureau of iron and steel technologists, composed of Indian experts, who are available from the two steel companies which are in existence now, and they should be attached to the German firm, and be associated with them, in the designing, planning as well as the erection of the proposed steel plant. At the same time, an attempt should also be made to find out what amount of machinery can be constructed in this country for the second plant, which, I hope, will be set up very soon.

The capital which we have to invest for an iron and steel industry is enormous, being of the order of Rs. 100 crores for an one million ton plant, and if, in the next few years, we have to erect five or six more plants, we shall be requiring about Rs. 500 to 600 crores. This is an enormous drain on the public finances. We can effect considerable economy, if the designing, erection, etc. could all be done by Indian technicians, and if Government also take the trouble of having a heavy machinery industry in this country, as was planned by the Director of Industries, Dr. J. C. Ghosh, a number of years ago. If the hon. Minister of Production just makes a search through his archives, he will find that plan there.

I have said all that I wanted to say. I want that this Ministry of Production should go on, and do good amount of work and take charge of all the capital goods industries, on behalf of Government, in spite of the criticisms which might be offered by the capitalists of this country. I cannot understand why the management

of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory has been made over to a number of very reactionary industrialists, whose only business is to make their own two pies out of it, and create trouble between the management and the labour. I could not also understand why the Managing Director of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory, who has done a very good piece of work, and who was sent outside to gain experience in starting a number of new industries, such as urea and so on, should, after his return with a lot of experience, have been transferred to be the Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation a subject in which he had no experience. Again, he has been sent from there to some other place. These are measures which are beyond the comprehension of the ordinary man. We take so much trouble in training up a man, but when he is trained, suddenly to put him on to some other entirely new work is a very wasteful process. Are our officers like matter in liquid state, so that they can be put into any bottle, and take its shape? It is a very very unwise step.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Chittoor): The Ministry of Production is the nucleus round which the industrial enterprises in the public sector are built up, and I am sure, in the years to come, the activity of this Ministry will grow to such an extent that the industrial activity in the private sector will be insignificant compared to the activity in the public sector.

I am very happy to note that there are very few cut motions in respect of the Demands relating to this Ministry, and I take it that the whole House is in agreement with the policies that are being followed by this Ministry. I also feel very happy that the House has been very temperate in its criticism of this Ministry.

We find in this country, the industrialists that we have now are very chary of investing their capital in real nation-building activities. If we want a steel industry, it is Government that have to come to the rescue

[Shri Viswanatha Reddy]

of the private sector. Similarly, if we want to build any other big industry, again, it is Government that must come and invest all the capital. Even in regard to technical knowledge, we are obliged to get this from countries abroad, and our industrialists in this country are not a bit helpful to us in this direction. Therefore I would plead with hon. Members that the sphere of activity of this Ministry must be enlarged from year to year, and we should be able to establish, as has been suggested by Shri Meghnad Saha, all the capital goods industries in this country.

Also, we have been trying for some time, to evolve a pattern of organisational set-up to manage our industrial undertakings. There has been a lot of controversy over this, and even in countries like England, which have launched a sort of nationalisation of most of their enterprises, there has been a difference of opinion in regard to the organisational set-up, in respect of all the state industrial undertakings. However, we have been able to evolve a very happy synthesis in the limited companies that we have set up for the management of all the undertakings in which the state has got a large interest.

There is no reason to feel that this organisational set-up has done anything bad or is not efficient. On the other hand, we find that all the advantages of a business organisation are incorporated in this type of organisational set-up and, at the same time, there is enough control that can be exercised by the Government over the finances as well as other administrative matters pertaining to these industries.

Next, Sir, I would like to submit to the House some of the criticisms that have been raised against our State undertakings and the Ministry of Production particularly, not only in this House from time to time but also outside the House through many

papers and journals. The most common criticism that has been advanced with regard to this Ministry particularly is that a number of technicians are being imported from abroad. Sir, we are at present embarking on a policy of industrialising this country as quickly and as efficiently as possible. In this context how we can avoid getting technical aid from abroad is a matter which I really cannot comprehend. I personally feel that there must be unanimity of opinion with regard to the fact that we must have technical assistance at least in the initial stages from abroad. Whether we are getting this technical aid from one group of countries or the other is a matter of controversy or a matter of opinion. But that we should get technical aid must be so obvious that every one must be agreed on that point. Otherwise, we do not have any experience with regard to the industrial undertakings, or our technicians have not seen at all the latest developments in this direction in various countries. Therefore, why we should get technical aid from abroad is a matter which needs no elucidation at all.

Secondly, there has been criticism that the production schedules as well as the time schedules of various undertakings of ours have not been kept up. There is some truth in this criticism. But all the same, we must realise that for most of the capital goods and machinery and even technical 'know-how', we have to depend upon foreign countries and we have to take all these things whenever they are available in those countries and whenever we are able to get from them. Therefore, we are, to a great extent, dependent upon the conditions in other countries with regard to our own production and time schedules in our undertakings. So in my opinion, the delay of a few weeks or a few months in these industrial undertakings must not be taken serious notice of, and I can assure the House that the Ministry is doing its best to see

that these schedules are kept up as much as possible and only when it is inevitable, delays are occurring.

Again, Sir, it has been suggested by Shri Saha just now that the consultation fee that has been given to the firm of Krupps and Demag for erection and maintenance of the new steel factory that is going to be put up in Orissa is a little on the high side. Sir, everywhere the opinion has been expressed, and even surprise has been shown, how the Government have been able to get this consultation so cheaply. In fact, this Rs. 2 crores consultation fee represents only about 3 per cent or 2.5 per cent of the total value of the project, and in addition to submission of blue-prints, it also includes actual erection, the training of our men in the factory and also an assurance that the quality of the steel produced shall be up to international standards and even that the standards are guaranteed. When we consider all these factors, the consultation fee of only 2.5 per cent or a little more need not be very alarming at all. Therefore, I wish to assure the House on this occasion that the steel factory that is going to be put up in Orissa is going to change the very industrial basis of our country to a very great extent and that whatever we are paying as consultation or collaboration fee, by way of interest or even profit, is going to return to us at least a hundred-fold, if not a thousand-fold.

Now, Sir, with regard to the heavy electrical industry, I find from the report that this industry is to be set up in the Plan period. But the Government have only just now gone through or called for project reports from various firms abroad. These reports are likely to come in probably a few months. I need not emphasise at great length the importance of the heavy electrical industry for our country. Not only for strategic reasons, but also because we are going to develop hydro-electric energy during the Plan period to a very great

extent, we will be in great need of motors, armatures, transformers and other heavy electrical equipment. Therefore, the establishment of this industry in this country at a very early date, positively within the Plan period, is a great necessity and is going to be of great help. So I would appeal to the House to lend its full support to the Government in the matter of the erection of this industry at an early date.

Shri Nageswar Prasad Sinha (Hazariabagh East): To cook our food every morning and evening, we require coal and to eat the food, we require salt. I am glad to say that this Ministry is in charge of both. As time seems to gallop with me, I shall put the issues before you straight.

I will deal only with some of the problems of Coal because I come from a coal area and I can talk something about it. The first thing that I would like to mention will be in respect of the policy laid down by the Government in the Plan. The policy of the Government under the Five Year Plan is to encourage the most effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources. This has been applied to coal also. Early in 1952, the Government came out with a policy of "Conservation of Metallurgical coal", and to achieve this the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act 1952 was enacted. A Coal Board was set up to deal with all matters relating to coal from a comprehensive point of view. The first act of this Board was to effect a pegging on output of metallurgical coal upto Grade II.

Now, Sir, I will briefly examine how this policy of pegging has operated. The first result has been a drop in the production, naturally—because it aimed at that. This fact is also supported by the brochure that we have received from the Ministry. It says in page 22, para 2:

"The total raisings and despatches of coal in India during

[Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha]

the year 1953 amounted to 35·8 million tons and 30·7 million tons respectively, as against 36·2 million tons and 31·1 million tons in 1952. Production in Bengal and Bihar fields showed a slight decline during 1953..."

This information has been put down here. I expected that the accumulation, or the total tonnage of coal at the pit-heads, for those years, should also have been given, but that has not been given. I have, however, found that out and it is like this. The stock of coal at colliery pit-heads in 1952 was 29,76,253 tons and in 1953, 31,93,853 tons. So, we find from this that Production is declining, Despatches are also declining and the pit-head Accumulation is rising. The effect of this on the industry is obvious. The incentive for production is fading out and most of the colliery owners are finding it almost uneconomic to run their collieries. They are retrenching labour and they are creating an additional weight on unemployment. They are themselves facing crisis and frustration.

I am not opposed to the principle of pegging, but, of course, I am opposed to its way of application. Let there be targets; fix targets for each colliery, but, this process should not create new problems of dissatisfaction and discontentment and also unemployment.

In this connection, I would like to invite the attention of the Ministry to one relevant comment that has been made in the India's Coal organ, which is a weekly named the *New Sketch*, published from Dhanbad and which is reputed for its balanced criticisms and constructive suggestions. Sir, I read a few lines of its issue which clears up the policy. It says:

"In 1952, the Board fixed an over-all target of 7·9 million tons for Selected Grade Coking Coals but the actual output was 7·7 million tons only. Similarly, in 1953, the Board fixed an over-all

target of 7·86 million tons but the actual production, as reported by the Board in their bulletin, was 7·17 million tons or thereabout. This clearly shows that some Collieries had too liberal targets which they failed to reach. That some Collieries should have targets beyond their capacity to reach while other Collieries should be rendered uneconomic or feel frustrated because of the pegging is not at all desirable."

Sir, I agree with this and I may invite the attention of the hon. Minister also to this aspect of the situation and I request him to deal with it in a manner which may, of course, remove most of the grievances of the colliery owners.

Another point is with regard to the accumulation of stocks of Coal at the pit-heads. What are the reasons for these accumulations, when there is coal famine in Northern, Western and Southern India, when people have been burning cow-dung, which could have been utilised best as a fertiliser, when people have been devastating forests for fuel, in spite of the fact that Government want to develop and protect forests? Why lakhs and lakhs of tons of coal should remain accumulated and idle at the pit-heads? What steps for rationalisation have been taken? This is not rationalisation. Of course, there are tall talks by the Coal Board. There are constructive suggestions, attractive Bulletins, and there are Rotary speeches also, but they lead the colliery owners and the industry nowhere. The industry today is distressingly facing shortage of wagons, facing price reduction on a certain grade of coal, facing increase in cesses, enhancement of production costs, narrowing of markets and shrinkage of export due to Australian competition, and I should say, all sorts of adverse circumstances. Apart from all these factors, a certain class of owners enjoy a priority in

wagon allocation, whereas small producers of lower grade coals, who can supply fuel for food cooking, for brick burning and for other small and urgent domestic affairs, do not get the importance they deserve. Why should there be this disparity? I would request the hon. Minister to examine it and to see that there is proper rationalisation and that a fair share is given to each one who is engaged in this industry.

One or two small points and I will finish. Prior to April 1, this year, the Ministry of Production was concerned with the ownership of the Government Collieries only. But, after that, it has taken charge also of their control and management. I should say it is now all in all. It has also abolished the contract system. It is gratifying to note that the financial results of the working of the railway collieries during the year 1952-53 showed a profit of Rs. 61 lakhs and this year, 1953-54, will also follow suit. It does not matter whether a particular colliery is working at a loss or not. The Government is concerned with the overall earnings and it has been making profits. Why then, this policy of retrenchment of labour, I ask? In the Giridih group of collieries, from where I come, 558 coal miners were retrenched.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): When? Recently?

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Yes Sir, in course of a year or a little over. I understand that permission from the Industrial Appellate Tribunal was also taken and the Tribunal gave a finding like this,—'last come first to go'. But, this was not followed. Nor are the retrenched workers given alternative employment, when the Hetla pit, Jatkuti Hills and other seams have been re-opened. My point in inviting the attention of the hon. Minister is that when these persons have been retrenched and when new avenues are being explored, these

hands should be employed immediately.

There is again a proposal to retrench surplus labour according to the recommendations of a Committee known as the Fact Finding Committee. Much water has flowed down the rivers Jumna and Ganges since then. Times have changed. We have already adopted the principles of a deficit financing under the changed economic climate. I strongly appeal to the Government and to the hon. Minister of Production to throw the report away, to throw it to the winds now, and not to create grounds for further unemployment. The report is now a story of the past and I wish it could be buried ceremonially and peacefully.

A few words about the employees and I finish. So far as the employees are concerned, of course, I was very much happy to know from the answers given to me the other day by Mr. Dubey, the Parliamentary Secretary, that their terms and conditions of services would remain unaffected and that if there was anything worthy of discussion, the matter would be discussed freely and frankly across the table. I have got the questions and answers here with me and I hope the Government has given those answers after due consideration and that it would abide by it.

Paadit S. C. Mishra (Monghyr North-East): Sir, to a back-bencher or even to a middle bencher like me, this House has always remained an enigma and the deity which mostly presides over the destinies of this House still more so. For example, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, if you try twenty times to catch the eye of the Chair you fail to do so, but when you feel you do not catch the eye, you catch it. I know that absolute blindness has been said to be the attribute of justice.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on the Production Ministry.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: ...but here, even absolute blindness seems to have become qualified blindness here. Therefore, it becomes far more difficult for us to find out the ways and methods. Whenever a man finds that he can contribute to the debates of the House he always attempts to speak but he rarely finds a chance. For example, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I wanted....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I won't allow all irrelevant talk here. What I often find is this. I do not know to which particular party or group the particular Member is attached. The position is nebulous. There are a number of groups, the Communist group, the National Democratic group, the Praja Socialist group and so on, and there are also unattached Members. I do not know to which particular party the hon. Member belongs. He has been changing sides so often. Only today I find that his name has been given and I have called him. When I do not call him there is a complaint and when I call him there is also a complaint. I do not know how he would be satisfied. Let him proceed with the topic on hand. Otherwise, he may resume his seat. I am not a target of attack: I am not a Minister. I won't allow all this.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: I feel quite satisfied when I learn that the name would be called. When names are handed in, sometimes they are called, sometimes they are not. Therefore, we do not know when we will be called. Unless we become omnipotent, omni-present and omni-knowing, we cannot be doing justice to all the Ministers and the Ministries. The Ministry of Production, which ought to have been the most important Ministry, looks to me as the most neglected, and most relegated Ministry in the Cabinet.

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: I will be very glad if that 'No' is really a 'No' and that the Ministry is really something and producing something. From the reports that we find, there are certain huge sums placed against the projects—Steel Plant Rs. 71 crores, Sindri Plant Rs. 23 crores and several others—totalling Rs. 120 crores, and this huge amount seems to be tied up with the Ministry of Production. Of course, when we ask why the Ministry is producing nothing in spite of this huge amount placed at its disposal, we are advised to have patience and we hear every year that the Housing Factory and so many other factories will come into production this month or this season, but none of them ever come into production. It looks to me that this capital of Rs. 120 crores is tied down and producing nothing. It seems to me mostly that the Ministry is not treated on par with the other Ministries and so I urge that it should be manned by stronger people. I have no complaints against the Minister, but against the Ministry I have huge complaints.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakha-patnam): What is the difference between the two excepting that between tweedledum and tweedledee?

Pandit S. C. Mishra: I can say that the Ministry is not doing adequate justice to the country. Dr. Meghnad Saha is an expert who can give opinion on these points but I have always seen that whenever the Head of the Cabinet is here, he flares up whenever opinions are given. I hope the Ministry will take note and push up matters. I know that there can be no production without capital. The hon. Minister of Finance is now sitting here. If there is no finance in a country and if it cannot invest very much on instruments, etc., would it not be advisable to go into production even with these bare hands? You are tying up not only Rs. 120 crores, but also 300 million pairs of hands. I

know that with machines we can produce very much. Supposing there is no machine, should we sit tight and idle? With whatever we have got, with whatever little or primitive instruments we have got, even with our pair of hands let the whole country go into production. If that is done, then I think the Ministry is doing something and the Cabinet is doing something in the matter. What is the use of sitting idle till we get enough money for capital formation? These two hands are a capital in itself and they can produce very much. Why should the Ministry sit down invoking this and invoking that? On the one hand, we should exert our best to make capital investment or raise capital, and somehow or other, we must find some means. I appeal to the Finance Minister—and had the Minister of Production been here, I would have appealed to him also—to go to the help of the Minister of Production. **Let them put their heads together** to find out how to make the best capital formation and for that let them take the advice of the capitalists round about, please them, placate them. On the other hand, we should draw up a scheme with which not one pair of hands should remain idle in the country. Once they go into production, the country will go forward and only in that way can a country like ours produce and go forward. **But, what are you doing now? You are trying to keep so many hands idle although you are putting only a few people into production.** I request the Finance Minister and the Production Minister to put their heads together on this important question and try to take the country forward. I appeal to all the other Ministers also in the same way although I do not find all of them here.

श्री हेम राज (कांगड़ा): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का आभारी हूँ कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया है। मेरे से पहले जो भाई बोल रहे थे वह तो यह ख्याल कर रहे थे कि मानों

हिन्दुस्तान में आज तक कुछ बना ही नहीं। मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस तरह से जॉर्डिस वाले को हर चीज पीली मालूम होती है उसी तरह उन महाशय को देश भर में कोई चीज बनी हुई नजर नहीं आती उन्हें हर चीज पीली नजर आती है। मेरा ख्याल है कि वह लाल टोपी भी डाँढ़ आए हैं, अन्ध-ब्रह्म शैली टोपी खना कर आते तो उनको सारी चीजें नजर आतीं। उनको भ्रातृत्वर पर नजर आ सकता है कि जहाँ तक उन किसानों का मामला है उस सम्बन्ध में जो सिवरी फर्टिलाइजर्स फैक्टरी बनाई गई है उसने अपना प्रोडक्शन का काम यह रिपोर्ट जाहिर करती है कि २९ अक्टूबर सन् ५२ में शुरू किया और सन् ५२ के दो महीनों में उसने ७४४५ टन कैमिस्ट्राफी आइसोलाइज्ड, सन् १९५२ में उसकी मिक्रोदार ९७२,५९४ टन पहुँच गई और सन् १९५२ में यह १,१५,७०४ टन पहुँच गई है। मैं जर्ब कर रहा था कि उनको प्रोडक्शन की फील्ड में यह बड़ोपी नजर नहीं आती, उनको तो बस एक चीज नजर आ रही है कि हिन्दुस्तान में कोई चीज नहीं बनी। मैं अपने मिनिस्टर महोदय को इस प्रोग्रेस के लिये बधाई देना चाहता हूँ लेकिन उसके साथ साथ मैं उनका ध्यान अपने पहाड़ी इलाके की तरफ भी मजबूर कराना चाहता हूँ। जिस वक्त हमारे देश का बंटवारा नहीं हुआ था, उस वक्त यह राक साष्ट या प्रोधा नमक वह सारा का सारा पंजाब से आया करता था और वह ख्योड़ा खान से नमक निकला करता था लेकिन जिस वक्त हिन्दुस्तान की तकसीम हुई और खेदरा पाकिस्तान में चला गया, उसके बाद जब सारे भारतवर्ष में सिर्फ मंडी की खानें ही सेंधा नमक की खानें हैं और यह खानें तीन ब्रह्म गंगों, दरंग और मंगल में ही फई जाती हैं। मंगल में खारी पानी के चरम भी हैं जिनका पानी नालों में बह कर व्यर्थ जाता है। यहाँ पर जो नमक पाया जाता है उस की खपत खास तौर पर हमारे पहाड़ी इलाके में है। यह जो नमक है यह पहाड़ से नहीं निकलता बल्कि वहाँ खारी पानी के कुछ चरम हैं और जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने पहले बयानाया मैक्स का चरम है और वहाँ पर नमक का पानी

श्री हेम राज]

बढ़ रहा है और इसके मृतालिक साल्ट एक्स-पर्ट कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखा है :

"There are also valuable brine springs which are running to waste at present. An attempt is being made to manufacture salt by evaporating this brine in shallow cement pans, but the pans are very small and the quantity produced is negligible. The brine being free from all impurities, can yield salt of 99 per cent purity and above. We estimate that if all this brine could be utilised, nearly 10,000 to 12,000 tons (2,72,000 to 3,26,600 maunds) of salt of the highest purity could be produced annually from it. This quantity would be at least twice as much as that quarried or mined in the three mines together at present and would be preferred in areas which are accustomed to the good quality rock salt from Khewra."

मैंने इसके मृतालिक कुछ सवालात भी इस सदन में रखे थे और उनके उस वक्त माननीय मंत्री ने जो जवाबात दिये उन से मुझे एंसा मालूम होता है कि उनको इन माइन्स के निकालने के लिये और इनको तरक्की देने के लिये कुछ ज्यादा उत्साह नहीं है। मेरे एक सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने यह फरमाया था कि :

"So far the attempts were made to have the core drilling operations on three occasions, but unfortunately due to certain difficulties, the boring had to be stopped last year. In December 1952, the drilling was undertaken and it went on upto the middle of July. By that time there were bore-holes, but in one case the casting broke down, in another case, other difficulties came up and now a new programme has been undertaken by Government and the work is in progress."

It is difficult to say by what time the programme will be finished."

4 P.M.

मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आज तीन साल हो गए हैं और आपने अपने फाइव ईअर प्लान में भी इन मंडी माइन्स को डेवलप करने के लिये एक करोड़ रूपये का प्राविजन रक्खा है। और उसके बाद जो आपने ५२, ५३ में प्राविजन किया था और ५२, ५४ में प्राविजन किया था, एक बार एक लाख और दूसरी बार १० लाख उसमें से २५,४२४ रूपया १२ आना ६ पाई और १६,५१५ रूपये १२ आना ६ पाई खर्च किया गया। इससे पता चल रहा है कि इन मंडी माइन्स को डेवलप करने की आपकी मिनिस्ट्री की रफ्तार बहुत सुस्त है और बहुत ज्यादा कमजोर है। आपने नमक की प्यूरिटी ६२ और ६४ पर सेंट के बीच में रखी है। मगर यह मंडी माइन्स का नमक आबको ६६ प्रतिशत प्यूरिटी का मिल सकता है। इसीलिये मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि इसके मृतालिक ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान देकर आप इन माइन्स को डेवलप करें।

मुझे आपके एक सवाल के जवाब से एक शक पैदा हो गया है। आपने एक सवाल के जवाब में फरमाया था कि :

"In regard to rock salt Government are satisfied on expert advice that refined salt which is available in sufficient quantity is as good as rock salt for all practical purposes."

आपके जवाब से यह पता चल रहा है कि जो आपका नमक का टारगेट था वह तो पूरा हो गया है। गालिबन इस वजह से मंडी माइन्स को डेवलप करने का आपके दिल में ज्यादा जोश नहीं है। इसके साथ साथ मैं एक बात की तरफ और आपकी तवज्जह दिलाना चाहता हूं। वह यह है कि आपके जितने भी साल्ट के कारखाने हैं वहां पर आपने मजदूरी बर्गोरहहर एक चीज का अन्दाजा लगा कर नमक की कीमत मुकररे की है। मगर जहां तक मंडी माइन्स का ताल्लुक है आपने किसी चीज का अन्दाजा नहीं लगाया और राक साल्ट का दाम २ रूपया मन और ब्राइन

साल्ट का दाम ४ रूपया मन मुकर्र कर दिया। यह कांगड़ा वॅली, कॢलू वॅली, हिमाचल प्रदॢश और काशमीर का इलाका बहुत गरीब इलाका हैं। यहां के लोग गरीब हैं। इसके मुताबिलक में ने आप को याददाहानी के लिये एक बिदॢठी भी भंजी थी कि नमक के प्राइस स्ट्रक्चर को फिर से एग्जामिन किया जाय और उसके बाद कीमत मुकर्र की जाय।

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BEARGAVA
in the Chair]

एक और चीज की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिसाना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि इस समय तक भी आप का नामिनी सिस्टम जारी है। जब नमक के लिहाज से हिन्दुस्तान पूरे तौर पर अपनी जरूरतों को पूरा कर सकता है। साथ ही आप ५० लाख मन नमक बाहर भी भेजने के काबिल हो गये हैं। फिर पता नहीं चलता कि अब भी यह नामिनी सिस्टम क्यों जारी है और क्यों हर एक को इजाजत नहीं दी जाती कि वह खुला नमक मंगवा सकता है और बेच सकता है।

मुझे आशा है कि मेरी इन बातों पर आप ध्यान देंगे और इन मंडी माइन्स को जल्दी से जल्दी डबलप करने की कोशिश करेंगे। अब तो जोगेन्द्र नगर तक रेलवे लाइन खुलने वाली है। इस्लिये अगर यह मंडी माइन्स डबलप हो जायेंगी तो इनका नमक पंजाब, पेंसू और हिमाचल प्रदॢश का जो सारा इलाका है उसको मिल सकेगा। यह चीज आपके यहां की साल्ट कमिटी की रिपोर्ट में भी दी हुई है कि इस इलाके के लिये इस नमक का हासिल करना जरूरी है।

अभी हमारे सौदिया साहब ने कहा कि उनको दवा के लिये राक साल्ट की जरूरत थी और वह उनको नहीं मिल सका। तो अगर आप इसको डबलप करेंगे तो यह दवा के काम में भी इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा।

Shri P. C. Bose (Manbhum North):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Production Ministry, although very recently formed, has already assumed a very great

responsibility in the economic life of our nation. Not only the new factories, including the big factory of Sindri, but also a large number of collieries, about one-fourth of the coal industry of India, are now under this Ministry. With the proposed Iron and Steel Factory and some other factories, I think the Production Ministry will be the biggest employer of labour. I, therefore, think that this Ministry should be run on very sound lines; otherwise there may be various troubles.

I do not wish to go into individual factors; I would like to develop only one point. Our Government has got a fancy for mixed economy. They are forming Corporations for all the factories they have started. For Sindri there is a corporation in which there are some outside capitalists. The Board of Directors is constituted of Government representatives and some employers who have got some vested interest. I have some experience of this mixed economy and mixed Board. I think it is a very dangerous thing and may result in disaster unless the concern is run soundly and cautiously. When the coal industry was being worked by contractors, the Whitley and other Commissions found that there was a sort of dual ownership. The contractors were not under the management. They were having their contract signed by the directors and the managers were in a helpless position when they found the contractors working in a wreckless and illegal way. The labourers were suffering because they were under dual control. They did not know whom to approach for the redress of their grievances. This mixed economy and mixed Board may create difficulties of a like nature. In a particular firm, I know of a case where a Manager got supply of wagons on a cold wintry night. He could not get labourers to load the wagons. If he were to detain the wagons he would have to pay demurrage. So, he went to the labourers and told them that he would pay them one rupee extra per wagon load, if they loaded the wagons in the night. The labourers at last agreed and they

[Shri P. C. Bose]

worked in the night. The manager sent the extra bill of one rupee per wagon for sanction to the Head Office. But, the Directors refused to pay this money. The head of the department said that this money could not be paid because he had not taken sanction beforehand. The labourers were not paid. On the contrary, action was taken on the manager as to why he proposed to pay one rupee more for loading. The result was that the manager was to be dismissed because he had not taken prior sanction. Later on, the labourers threatened to go on strike if they did not get the money. Somehow, the contractor and the Directors agreed and the money was paid. The manager's job was also saved. I am afraid this kind of thing may happen in some of these works also. Because, as I see, at present, nobody is really responsible for the management of the works. The Works Manager thinks that he has no power to appoint or dismiss and arrange for new things. The Government thinks that there are good businessmen in the Board of Directors and that they will do whatever is necessary. They think that the Government is the owner, the Secretary is the Chairman, why should we take care of all these things? We are not coming across these things now. Gradually, these will crop up. I have already noticed that there are some difficulties in these works. Perhaps they may assume bigger proportions. Therefore, I would ask the Government to see that some sort of a new formula is evolved, to see that control is kept in the hands of the Government and that the local man get the initiative in carrying on the things. Otherwise, some day there may be great trouble. I am told that there was a labour union before and now there is a regular union and that the two unions are fighting. They do not know whom to approach. As I said, the local manager thinks that he has no power to handle these things. Government thinks that there are big expert business people in the Board of Directors. The chairman has got very little time to go into these things. I hope this Ministry in charge of production will

also take notice of the political aspect of this business. I hope they will take up this matter seriously and pay attention to these things. That is my point.

Shri Maniswamy (Tindivanam): I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister a few facts about small-scale manufacturers of salt in our country. It seems that the present rules applicable to salt factories do not seem to be uniform in regard to both to the big-scale manufacturers and small-scale manufacturers. I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister some of the concrete cases, especially in the Madras State.

In the South Arcot district, near Tindivanam, there is a place called Marakkanam where more than 1000 acres are used for salt manufacture. There are some small-scale manufacturers. They are hardly hit by the rules that are at present followed in that State. In 1953, a sample analysis was made by the Superintendent of the South Arcot district. In making the analysis, there is no uniformity of practice by the officers. For example, in 10 platforms sample analysis was taken. Salt in extension platform was made fit and salt taken in the other nine platforms was made fit. Soon after, the matter was represented to the Assistant Commissioner, Tuticorin, who came to the spot. The case was investigated and 50 per cent of the salt manufactured was allowed to be marketed that is 50 per cent of the salt which was first prohibited, was allowed later for marketing. The rest of the salt was not allowed for marketing and no reasons were given. I would like the hon. Minister to know specially that in platforms 3, 8 and 9, salt which was once prohibited for marketing was allowed to be marketed in the case of the big scale manufacturers; but for the small scale manufacturers, it was not allowed and no reasons were assigned. I would request the hon. Minister to take note of these concrete cases.

In the case of analysis, officers who come to the spot, go to the biggest

manufacturers first and they ask the licensees to bring the samples. The licencees bring the sample and bottle them and give them to the officers. They are not sealed. Nobody knows what will happen later. This is not the correct method. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Assistant Commissioner, Tuticorin, he came to the spot and explained how the analysis should be made. Samples from eight heaps were taken and they were put in a bag and then three or four samples were taken from gunny bags and final analysis was made. There were many representations made to the Ministry by the manufacturers of the South Arcot district. I request the Minister should immediately go into the case.

I am told that the channels, platforms, the head sluice and the roads are not maintained well. There is another grave injustice to the small-scale manufacturers. It seems that even with the notice of the Government, some persons are manufacturing salt in unassessed waste lands and they come as competitors to the licence-holders. It seems that no action has been taken till now by the Government officers. The licence-holders cannot compete with these persons who manufacture salt in the unassessed waste lands.

Now, I would like to say a few words about lignite mines at Nelveli in the South Arcot district. It has been stated in the report for 1952-53 supplied to us that certain heavy evacuating machinery belonging to the Indian Mining and Construction Co., to enable the State Government, have been sent for quarrying. I am surprised to see in the report published by the Madras Government in April 1954 the following statement:

".....delay in obtaining spare parts required for the machinery loaned by the Government of India and obtaining delivery of the equipment donated by the TCA. Even now the shovels from

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the TCA grant capable of lifting two tons of earth every minute are due to arrive."

"As soon as they arrive it is expected that the excavation will be completed within six months."

This is the report published by the Madras Government in April, 1954. It is for the same purpose that it is said in the report of 1952-53 that some of the excavating machinery had been made available. I have been to the place myself and seen that the work is not in progress. When a question was put in the House, the hon. Minister was pleased to state that some of the spare parts and machines were supplied to the lignite mines. If he has occasion to visit the place he would know that no progress has been made.

Another difficult problem is the question of labour. They have been publishing many pamphlets and distributing them in the district as well in the State stating that labour is hard hit. When a question was put to the Minister he said that it was a provincial matter. It is high time that the Central Government should take immediate steps to take over the administrative control of the mines instead of leaving it to the State Government, in view of the fact that this industry is a great asset to our country.

It is said about the lignite mines that it is estimated that the pilot quarry which was calculated to yield 20,000 tons of lignite may yield four times as much which will appreciably reduce the cost of extraction, and considering that lignite at three times our depth is extracted in Germany at about 6 sh. per ton and lignite of about our depth extracted in Australia at about Rs. 10 per ton, there is ground to expect that the pit-head cost of lignite at Nelveli may be between Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 per ton.

In view of its importance and in view of the great wealth that we are

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going to get, I request the hon. Minister to take note of these lignite mines. The work is idle there. No machine is functioning. There are so many machines and spare parts which are quite unfit for use. Therefore, something should be done. The whole control should be taken over by the Central Government without leaving anything to the State Government, so that progress may be expedited.

Shrimati Sushama Sen (Bhagalpur South): Sir, I am really amazed to hear from Dr. Saha that this infant Ministry of Production has not produced enough. We find from the introduction that already about eleven industries have been taken in hand. And the last achievement as planned for the future, the new steel plant to be put up in Orissa, is really an achievement which our country has to be proud of. Besides, we are really proud of the Sindri Factory in Bihar. The amount of useful work that it is doing no one can question. It is for those who are in the Opposition to say a good word about the work which is being done. If production is going up so much, I would request the Minister to try to solve the problem of unemployment by utilising as many people as is possible. From the report we find that on the 31st March, 1953, there were 5,094 employees comprising 3,286 monthly-rated employees and 1,808 daily-rated employees. I want to know why there should not be more of employment when production is being increased at such a terrific rate. If the Production Ministry could solve this problem, I think a great work would have been done.

Since time is short, I shall not go into the details already touched on. The other point I wish to mention is about the Hindustan Housing Factory. I am very glad to find that the prefabricated housing scheme has been discarded, and instead they have put up another scheme, when they found that on account of certain technical and other difficulties the factory set up by the Government of India in

1948 for the production of prefabricated houses at low cost could not go into production. In a way I think it is a blessing and the installation of the pre-stressed concrete plant was completed in December, 1953 and the experimental production has been commenced. Some sample pieces were installed in the International Low Cost Housing Exhibition. We have seen these ourselves and we know how very useful they are and what good work has been done by this Hindustan Housing Factory. In fact, amongst the low cost houses I think this is one of the very best that we have seen in that Exhibition.

Shri K. C. Reddy: At the very outset I would like to express my gratefulness for the appreciative references that have been made by some of the Members to the working of this Ministry. I am also thankful for the suggestions that have been put forward by some of the Members for the improvement of the working of the Ministry in certain directions. I have taken note of several grievances or shortcomings in the actual administrative working of the Ministry—mention of which has been made, and with regard to them I need only say that these points will be examined carefully and the needed relief or remedy found out.

It has been pointed out that this Ministry came into existence about two years ago. The role that this Ministry was expected to play, is, I am conscious, well known to all the Members in the House. The policy of what is known as mixed economy has been adopted by the Government for the industrial development of the country. In other words, the industrial development of our country—the responsibility thereof—has to be shared both by what is known as the private sector and what is known as the public sector. Though for the time being, the responsibility for industrial production is largely that of the private sector, in recent times the State has undertaken the fostering and the development of certain

big industries in our country and the industrial policy of the Government has been made clear in the Resolution released by the Government in 1948 and later supplemented by the statement of the Prime Minister some time in 1949. It is more or less in accordance with the policy declared at that time that the industrial development of the country is proceeding apace. With that as the background, the first Five Year Plan has been adopted by the House and within the framework of the Five Year Plan the industrial development of the country is going ahead more or less to our satisfaction I should say.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Very unsatisfactory.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It may be that the hon. Member has a feeling that the first Five Year Plan itself is unsatisfactory. It may be that the targets laid down in that Plan are not according to his expectations and desires, but that is a different matter. But so far as the targets that have been laid down in the Plan are concerned, keeping in view the limitations of our resources in men, material etc., I think I am correct in saying that the fulfilment of the Plan is a matter over which we can have general satisfaction. Having said that I want to make this point clear that this Ministry is responsible only for some part of the industrial development of the country in the public sector. It is not as if all public sector industries are under this Ministry. For example, all the defence industries, such as the ordnance factories, the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, etc. are under the Defence Ministry. The Indian Telephone Industries is under the Communications Ministry. The Locomotive Factory at Chittaranjan, and the coach-building factory are under the Railway Ministry. So, it is a fact that the Production Ministry is, at the present moment, handling only a few of the public sector industries in our country. From that, I do not want anyone to gather the impression that the hands of the Production Ministry are not full. It has got the overall responsibility—or if I may say so, the

general responsibility—of initiating, fostering and developing more and more industries in the public sector, the only limitation being our financial resources, and our ability to put through the schemes one after another.

In this connection, I would like to refer to one or two observations that fell from Shri Meghnad Saha. He extended an invitation to the Production Ministry to take the responsibility of starting some fundamental industries in our country in the near future. He referred to the aluminium industry, the heavy machinery industry, the fundamental chemicals industry, etc. by way of examples. I do concede that these industries are of very great importance in the economy of our country.

So far as aluminium industry is concerned, perhaps, the hon. Member is aware that there is a proposal to start an aluminium industry plant somewhere in the Damodar Valley area. It is just a proposal, and it has not taken any definite shape as yet. I do not mean to say that we are taking it up in the public sector or that the Production Ministry is handling it at the present moment. I am only saying that the necessity for an aluminium industry is well-recognised, and the need for increasing the production of aluminium in our country is realised by Government.

With regard to the chemical industry, I am willing to concede that it is a very very important industry. The quantity of heavy chemicals now being produced in our country is on the very low side, and there is very great scope for expanding this industry in the near future. But the responsibility for handling this industry, at the present moment, is that of the private sector. We have yet to see what progress will be made by the private sector in the development of this industry. Possibly, my hon. friend Shri Meghnad Saha is of the opinion that they have failed to fulfil the expectations that were entertained of

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them, and it is high time that Government should have stepped in and taken over this industry under the public sector. Well, one may be inclined to agree with him to a certain extent, but we have to balance these things. The possibilities of taking it up under the private sector, the possibilities of taking it up under the public sector, and if so, at what point of time, etc.—all these are factors which have to be borne in mind.

As regards heavy machinery industry also, I am one with him that it is time that we take up this industry into serious consideration. As a part of that industry, if I may say so, we have taken on hand, the heavy electrical equipment factory project. Realising that we are bringing into existence so many hydro-electric installations, and seeing that we have got a very ambitious programme in that field, we felt that we should not be utterly dependent on foreign imports for fulfilling our requirements in this sphere. So it was, that early last year, we took up this question. Though provision had not been made for it in the Five Year Plan, it was realised that such a provision should be made, and a sum of Rs. 7 crores was provided in the Plan to make a beginning in regard to the heavy electrical equipment project. With regard to this project, we have already taken some preliminary steps. We had invited two foreign firms of repute to give us their project reports. Those project reports have been received, and they are under the active consideration of Government. It is hoped that within the next few months, we will be in a position to say something very definite about the starting of this heavy electrical equipment factory.

I entirely agree with Shri Meghnad Saha, and I share the aspirations of my hon. friend, in this respect, and I would be very happy if these industries which he has mentioned would come into existence in our country at a very early date, either in the public sector or in the private sector,—in the private sector, if possible, and in the

public sector,—if I may say so—if inevitable.

Shri Meghnad Saha made another important point to which I would like to make a particular reference. He mentioned that we should have what he called "technical autonomy" in our key industries. That is a very vital and important point. He warned us of the danger of our remaining dependent on foreign technical know-how and personnel, in the matter of the building up of our industries. At the same time, he pointed out that even in a country like Russia, in the first few years of their planning, they did depend upon foreign technical personnel, in the building up of their several industries. He himself gave the example of the iron and steel industry in Russia, and pointed out that for setting up the first two or three plants foreign technical personnel were freely drawn upon, and their services utilised in order to bring those plants into existence. That is really the explanation for the policy that the Government of India are following at the present moment. Wherever the Government of India have decided to come into collaboration with foreign firms it has been with a view to obtain the technical know-how, in the matter of the building up of these industries, and not for any other reason. If Government realised and found that there was enough technical competence in our country to build up factories of the kind that we are building up now with foreign technical collaboration, then certainly, Government would have depended on indigenous scientific and technical personnel. That is why in almost all the agreements which the Government of India have entered into, in respect of the establishment of some of these industries, care has been taken to see that these foreign collaborators who come in are made responsible for training Indian personnel to take the place of the foreign personnel, as early as possible.

A pointed reference has been made to the question why we should have

gone abroad for technical collaboration with the German firms, in the matter of the establishment of the new steel plant. I really am not in a position to understand or appreciate the fairness or justness of his criticism. I know that this criticism is made by some of our very eminent men. Only recently, I read a report to the effect that Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the grand old man of India in the industrial sphere, had made a reference to this and said that we should never have thought of putting up this new steel plant with the aid of foreign technical personnel, and that we should not have gone for foreign technical collaboration.

Well, if we take the two existing steel plants in our country, it must be remembered that both those units depended upon foreign consultants in the beginning, and even now they are continuing them as consultants with regard to certain matters, if I am not mistaken. Both these units which are functioning—the big units I am referring to—are even today employing foreign personnel on very high salaries in order to help them run their units efficiently and satisfactorily. So, foreign collaboration, to which we have had resort to has been, if I may say, unavoidable and inevitable. At the same time, it will be realised that in the new agreement that we have entered into, sufficient care has been taken to get all the experience, to get all the know-how with a view to proceed on the basis of our own material, our own knowledge and personnel in the matter of the establishment of yet another plant which, I hope, will be not in the very distant future. I do not think I need refer to the relevant clauses in the agreement that has been entered into with the German firms. I may say in brief that from the stage of designing to the stage of completion of the project and even later—the working of the project—it has been made incumbent on,—it has been made the responsibility of,—the German technical people to associate Indian personnel with themselves, to give all the benefit of the technical know-how which they possess to our

Indian personnel so that at a very early date we may have a corps of Indians in our country who could be expected to sponsor or to build up new steel plants on our own at the appropriate time.

In this connection, I would like to point out that all the drawings, all the designs and the other material which will be available to the new Steel Plant will be the absolute property of the new company—I mean to say the company will have the full ownership. A particular clause has been introduced in the agreement to indemnify against any claim for infringement of copyright or anything like that which may be brought against the company by third parties. I am telling all this with a view to show that sufficient care has been taken in connection with the hammering out of this agreement with the German firms to see that we get sufficient knowledge and we obtain the necessary means to keep our own men trained in various stages and spheres so that we may be in a position to set up our new plant next time more or less on our own. So, it is not very fair to say...

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I interrupt? What about my suggestion?...

Shri K. C. Reddy: I was just coming to that. In this connection, the hon. Member has made a suggestion that a Bureau of Iron and Steel Technologists should be set up so that they may be attached to the German firms in the work of designing, erection and working of the factory. In fact, this is just the subject to which I have referred in a general sort of way. His suggestion has taken a more concrete form, that a team of our own people should be set up as a Bureau or whatever you might call it, so that they may be attached to the German firms or German technicians in the various stages of the working of this plant. That is a specific suggestion. I can only say that the matter will be given every consideration. What form it will take. I cannot say. But the principle certainly is one on which there is absolutely no difference of opinion whatsoever. In fact, out of this new steel

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plant, what we look forward to is to train our own men in such a way that we may become self-sufficient "technically autonomous" in the matter of the establishment of new steel plants in our country in the future to the maximum extent possible. That disposes of the two main points which were made by the hon. Member, Mr. Saha.

Another point was made, as to why we should go on transferring people who have had experience in the various industrial undertakings from one place to another. I do not think it is argued that if one person is put in a particular factory, he should continue there for ever. A change in some respects is certainly useful not only for the person concerned but also for the industry concerned. But it should be seen to as far as possible that such a person who has gained some industrial experience.....

Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal-West Cuttack): Not so immediately after he has returned gaining that experience.

Shri K. K. Basu: After he is educated there.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Immediately on his return, he was transferred to the Airlines Corporation.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not want to go into details in this particular case. But it was only after finding that such a transfer would be welcomed even, if I may say so, by the person concerned, that he was transferred to the Airlines Corporation—another State industrial enterprise.

Shri Matthen (Thiruvellah): Not in the interest of Sindri.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I interrupt? This particular gentleman was sent with the specific idea of gaining experience in certain subsidiary industries which could be set up in Sindri, urea manufacture, cement and so on—I have forgotten the names. He

made a extensive tour and gained experience and after he had come back here instead of utilising his experience and knowledge gained in his foreign tour, he was transferred to a Ministry about which he had absolutely no experience. Was it not a great wastage of talent?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): And money also.

Shri K. C. Reddy: This particular person, to whom reference has been made, was put there more because of his administrative experience and background and not merely because of the technical experience or industrial experience he had gained. There were two other technical experts on the team which was sent abroad in order to make a study of the various processes of the manufacture of urea and ammonium nitrate etc. The report is there and the experience of the officer, his opinion and suggestions for what they are worth, are certainly available to the Government of India whenever required. It is not as if they will never be available, and I for one cannot conceive of a proposition—I cannot appreciate the proposition—that when once a man is put in charge of an industrial unit, he should continue there for all time. He may be shifted from unit to unit and thereby I do not think anything will necessarily be lost.

In this connection, I would like to say that there is a proposal made by the Planning Commission in the first Five Year Plan, a proposal which is under the consideration of the Government of India but regarding which, unfortunately, we have not been able to arrive at a decision till now. That is to constitute a new industrial cadre—to make a beginning in the constitution of a new industrial cadre to be built up over a period of, say, ten years, from out of which we could draw suitable personnel for the manning of these various State industrial enterprises. I hope that an early decision would be possible on that particular scheme so that within the next few years, say, about ten years

or so, we would be able to build up an industrial cadre from which we can draw the requisite personnel for running the various State industries...

Shri Meghnad Saha: This is no reply to the point which we have raised. This gentleman was sent with a specific purpose.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. A specific suggestion was made and a reply thereto has already been given. No further argument is permissible.

Shri K. K. Basu: He does not want to reply

Shri K. C. Reddy: The transfer of the Officers from one place to another is an administrative matter on which I am afraid, we cannot have any prolonged discussion. I have indicated the policy of the Government in this behalf and keeping in mind the suggestions that come from Members of Parliament or other sources, we will have to do the feasible thing in regard to any particular matter.

I have got very little time before me to refer to certain other points that have been made by certain other hon. Members. During the last year, as has already been indicated, we have been able to finalise the scheme with regard to the new Steel Plant over which, I suppose, the entire House and the entire country is happy. In regard to this, there is one point to which I would like to make a reference, though no mention of it was made on the floor of the House during this debate. There was a lot of controversy in regard to the selection of the site for the new Steel Plant. As the House is aware, the claimants for the site of the new Steel Plant were four States, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal. I do not want to go into all the various stages through which this matter passed, but I would like to make mention of one fact, because it seems to have given some cause for controversy in Bihar. As the House is aware, after the German memorandum embodying the recommendation for the location of this Steel Plant was received, it was sent to all the concerned Governments.

It was only the Governments of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and also the Government of Orissa that forwarded their views on the German memorandum. We did not receive any views from the Bihar Government. It was under those circumstances that we invited the representatives of the three Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and did not think it worth while to trouble the Bihar Government because they did not send in their views on the recommendations contained in the German memorandum. This seems to have created an impression in Bihar that the Government of India ignored the Bihar Government altogether. That is far from the truth and I would like to take this opportunity to clear the misunderstanding, if there is any, on that point.

Shri Jhulan Sinha (Saran North): May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the Government of Bihar, in reply to a question in the Bihar Assembly, said that they were not invited by the Government of India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is what I am saying. The Government of India did not invite the Government of Bihar in the last stage of the discussions because the Bihar Government had not sent their views on the recommendations embodied in the German memorandum and we invited only those Governments that had sent their views with regard to the German memorandum

Shri Syamandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): Will the Bihar Government be consulted now in regard to the second Steel Plant, which I understand, is under contemplation?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not want to refer to the second Steel Plant at this stage because even if I were to give a faint idea about it, I will be asked on the floor of the House as to what progress has been made with regard to that. I will make mention of it only at the proper time.

With regard to coal some observations have been made. One of the Mem-

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bers, Mr. Sinha was pointing out that coal production has gone down. Yes, coal production has gone down during 1953 by about 1 per cent. At the same time, he referred to the necessity for pursuing a policy of conservation of metallurgical coal. As the House is aware, several committees have gone into the question of conservation of metallurgical coal and they have consistently recommended that a vigorous policy of conservation of metallurgical coal should be taken in hand and pursued by the Government. It was during the year 1952 that we started implementing this recommendation and I must say that to a large extent the policy we have been pursuing in this behalf has yielded good results. I do not want to weary the House by giving figures but the production of metallurgical coal has gone down by an appreciable extent; about 7.9 million tons was the target fixed for 1952, I believe, but it was not reached; only about 7.17 million tons were produced. There is a tendency for the reduction in the production of metallurgical coal. That is all for the good, I should say. This reduction in the production of metallurgical coal is reflected to some extent in the overall production of coal in the country. But the real reason for the decline in production and for the accumulation in the pit-heads is traceable to the shortage of transport. I must be very careful when referring to this subject, because an impression is there in the minds of some people that the number of wagons made available for the transport of coal has been quite sufficient, and, in fact, has been in excess of the requirements for this particular purpose. I may straightway admit that, over a certain period of time, the number of wagons that remained available for the transport of coal was in excess of the requirements at that particular period of time. But, we have to take that position with this reservation. The overall regular availability of wagons in all directions in sufficient numbers is what is necessary in order to move the coal from the producing

centres to all the consuming centres. While it is true that the number of wagons available, say down Moghul-sarai, were quite sufficient and were, over a certain period of time in excess of the requirements, the same was not the position with regard to the transport of coal above Moghul-sarai and on certain other lines. It was because of this fact that production has been somewhat restricted—had to be restricted—and also it is because of this reason that the pit-head stocks had accumulated. After all, the pit-head stocks are in the neighbourhood of three million tons, that is to say, about a month's production of coal in the country. That should not be considered to be a very alarming stock but certainly, efforts should be made to see that the stock is reduced, particularly cooking coal and brick burning coal. With regard to this, certain steps have been taken recently for the allocation of particular quantities for the movement of coal from various collieries and it is hoped that as a result of that new step taken by the Coal Commissioner the position would improve.

Reference was made to the retrenchment in the Giridih colliery. I can only say that when a particular seam in a mine is exhausted and there is no coal that can be produced at all, what is to be done except to retrench the people who are employed on such seams. Reference was also made by Mr. Sinha to the fact that when the Hetla pit was opened some of these people should have been given alternative employment. Some of them were given alternative employment and some of them did accept the conditions of employment and they are gainfully employed.

It was also mentioned that the Fact-finding Committee's report may be shelved. Though it is not our intention to shelve it, in actual practice, it has got itself shelved owing to various reasons, legal and otherwise, which I need not go into at the present moment, nor have I the time to do so. Retrenchment has not taken place and it

is a matter of much satisfaction to me, as it may also be to the House that out of the 4,000 and odd persons affected most of them have been subsequently absorbed otherwise and there is no necessity today for going in for large-scale retrenchment. The alarming necessity of having to retrench a large number about a year or two ago is not there now.

I would like to say a word or two about salt and lignite. So far as lignite is concerned. I would like to say only this much that the machinery sent by the Government of India did reach the Government of Madras and though they were second-hand machines they did good service in the matter of working this pilot quarry. Certain other machinery was also arranged to be supplied to them from the T.C.A. Some machinery worth Rs. 5 lakhs or Rs. 6 lakhs has already reached them and some machinery worth Rs. 4 lakhs or Rs. 5 lakhs is yet to come. But, this statement I want to make that the Government is very anxious and keenly alive to the great necessity of pushing this scheme through and to see that every step is taken in order to complete the project early. For that purpose, the Planning Commission had recently convened a meeting and decisions have been taken that steps should be taken to push through this project.

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Mr. Chairman: I shall now put the cut motions to the House.

The cut motions were negatived.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the Demands to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper in respect of Demands Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84 and 132 be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of the corresponding heads of

Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND No. 81—MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Ministry of Production'."

DEMAND No. 82—SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,93,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Salt'."

DEMAND No. 83—OTHER ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production'."

DEMAND No. 84—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Production'."

**DEMAND No. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF
THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,29,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Production'."

ADVANCED AGE MARRIAGE RESTRAINT BILL

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to restrict the advanced age marriages

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to restrict the advanced age marriages."

The motion was adopted.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I introduce the Bill.

PREVENTION OF FREE, FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR BILL

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for free, forced or compulsory labour.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for free, forced or compulsory labour."

The motion was adopted.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I introduce the Bill.

**INDIAN ARMS (AMENDMENT)
BILL**

Mr. Chairman: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri U. C. Patnaik on the 26th March, 1954:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878, be

taken into consideration."

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): I was saying last time that the Indian Arms Act of 1860 and the later one of 1878 were calculated to disarm the civilian population of India and make another rebellion or mutiny impossible to kill the fighting spirit in this country. These Acts were very much resented in this country and were called 'black Acts' intended to hold India perpetually in bondage. In September 1918, the question came up before the Indian Legislative Council. The late hon. Surendranath Banerjee and hon. V. J. Patel put questions in the Council relating to the Indian Arms Act, the need of amending it, and so on. In the same month, the late hon. G. S. Khaparde introduced a non-official resolution on the subject. His resolution was "That this Council recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that the Indian Arms Act be modified so as to bring it into line with the British legislation on the subject." Mr. Khaparde, in a well-argued speech, marshalled all the facts, and put up before the House the arms laws as they stood in England, how it was not merely the right but the duty of the citizens there to bear arms, how people were entitled to have weapons for protection of their crops and how there was no restriction on their possession in their houses. He also pointed out that the Indian Arms Act was the most reactionary measure introduced by the foreign government and he wanted that it should be brought into line with the arms legislation of other countries. He was supported by Sir Surendranath Banerjee and others. The then Government, however, did not support it and came up with another amending Bill in 1919, which did not go very far and on the other hand, was a fairly retrograde measure. In 1924, rules were formulated under the Indian Arms Act. I will just read a few of the exemptions under those rules, because under section 27 of the Act, Government can grant exemp-