

12.06½ hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION No 933

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): On behalf of Shri K. D. Malaviya I beg to make a statement in reply to supplementaries by Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan, enquiring why there had been delay in the supply of the specialised equipment and suggesting that one of the reasons for the delay was that the suppliers were not really experienced in the manufacture of such equipment, it had been stated that the suppliers did not send the supplies in time and the only alternative, therefore, was to spend a little more money and go ahead with the work. It had been stated further that there was delay in the schedule and that greater details as to why the agreement was not fulfilled would be furnished if needed. The fact is that the suppliers of those items of equipment had indicated certain probable dates of delivery on informal inquiry. This was prior to the issue of formal tender notices by the Lignite Project authorities. As the suppliers had accepted orders for the supply of similar equipment to other countries in the interval between their furnishing the preliminary information and the issue of tender notices by the Lignite Project, the dates finally quoted by them got extended beyond what they had indicated earlier. There have been no avoidable delays in the shipment of the specialised equipment after the placement of orders. The expenditure of Rs 62 lakhs on additional conventional machinery was not due to any non-fulfilment of contractual obligations by the suppliers.

As regards the suggestion that the firms were not specialists in the manufacture of the equipment, it may be stated that both firms, Messrs L.M.G. and Krupp, are firms of in-

ternational repute and orders were placed on them on the basis of competitive tenders.

12.09 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (Contd)

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion on Demands Nos 36 to 41 and 119 to 121 relating to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for which eight hours have been allotted.

Hon Members desirous of moving cut motions may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes the numbers of the selected cut motions. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

DEMAND No. 36—MINISTRY OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 69,17,000 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, 1960 in respect of Ministry of Food and Agriculture."

DEMAND No 37—FOREST

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,37,69,000 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, 1960, in respect of Forest".

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.