

(c) Roof laid on the Buildings 19

Total of plots under construction	31
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An expenditure of Rs. 10,45,535 has so far been incurred on the purchase of land and construction of buildings by the Improvement Trust, Agra. It is expected that the construction work of the entire Industrial Estate will be completed before the end of the Second Five Year Plan.

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE FIRE AT LUNAJ OIL WELL

Shri V. C. Shukla (Baloda Bazar): There has been a very serious fire in the newly-discovered oil well in Lunaj. The whole House is anxious to know the latest position. I shall appreciate if the hon. Minister of Mines and Oil will make a short statement dealing with the latest position about the fire so that the House may be apprised of it

Mr. Speaker: What I said some time ago relating to railway accidents, air accidents etc. applies to all such occurrences. I have sent instructions to all Ministers that wherever serious accidents or occurrences take place, they will, of their own accord, come to the House—if they feel that the matter is important—and explain to the House the situation, instead of expecting hon. Members to give notice. Now I cannot ask the hon. Minister; he may or may not be ready. Shri V. C. Shukla came and told me that the Minister was willing to make a statement. That being so, the Minister of his own accord might have stated it.

Hereafter, whenever there are serious occurrences on which the House must certainly be informed, the hon. Ministers of their own accord will ask me and I will allow them an opportunity to make a statement themselves.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I could have made a statement only after 12 noon.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is rather difficult to measure what is serious and what is not.

Mr. Speaker: Serious in the view of the hon. Minister himself.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I could have made a statement only after 12 noon when given an opportunity. As I was coming to the House, Shri V. C. Shukla asked me about it. I said: 'If you are going to ask me about it, I will answer it. I will be here to say something about it.'

I do not consider that the accident reported in the papers is as serious as is made out in some quarters. There is nothing to be worried about. Obviously there has been a fire due to accumulation of oil and gas round about the well whose pressure sometimes increases considerably. It is said that there are some cracks in the cementing of the wall of the hole. The oil and gas which escape from these cracks, are at a very considerable pressure, and yesterday we tried to perforate a horizon by which we wanted to control the well. Perhaps, as is reported and as I was informed also on the telephone, there was some electric welding going on near about and the vapours of the gas contacted it and there was a little fire; about 300 barrels of oil which had collected in the open pit at a distance from the well caught fire and it was all destroyed. We are now again going to perforate at about 12.30, about ten minutes from now. We hope to succeed this time. If we do not succeed this time and if there is any trouble, we are all prepared for it. We hope everything will be normal by tomorrow or the day after.

Mr. Speaker: I want to make it clear, in respect of what the hon. Prime Minister has said, that it is

entirely for the Minister to decide whether it is a matter of serious concern and the House must be taken into confidence. If the Ministers do not think so, and if an hon. Member thinks that it is a serious matter, he can always bring it to our notice when I will ask the hon. Minister to decide whether it is an important matter or not. We can easily decide that. There is no difficulty.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I, with all respect, add something to it? The Ministers decide what is important or not. They also decide what some Members of Parliament may consider important. Even so; they should make a statement.

12 18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

RUBBER BOARD EMPLOYEES' CONDUCT RULES

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947, a copy of the Rubber Board Employees' Conduct Rules published in Notification No. SO. 2083 dated the 11th October 1958 [Placed in Library See No LT-1083/58]

AMENDMENTS TO COFFEE RULES

Shri Satish Chandra: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942, a copy of each of the following Notifications making certain further amendments to the Coffee Rules, 1955:—

- (1) G.S.R. No. 846 dated the 27th September 1958
- (2) G.S.R. No. 1071 dated the 8th November, 1958 [Placed in Library See No LT-1055/58].

REPORTS OF TARIFF COMMISSION AND GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manabhai Shah): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following papers —

- (i) Report (1956) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Sericulture industry;
- (ii) Government Resolution No. 36(3)-T.R./58 dated the 18th November, 1958 [Placed in Library See No LT-1056/58]
- (iii) Report (1958) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the aluminium industry,
- (iv) Government Resolution No. 3(5)-T.R./58 dated the 20th November, 1958 [Placed in Library See No LT-1057/58]

REPORTS OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Reports —

- (1) Report of the Indian Government Delegation to the 41st (Maritime) session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in April-May, 1958
- (2) Report of the Indian Government Delegation to the 42nd session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June, 1958. [Placed in Library See No LT-1058/58]

NOTIFICATION UNDER STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT

Shri Satish Chandra: I beg to lay on the Table, in pursuance of an assurance given on the 8th December 1956,