

(c) whether the working hours of the Bhawans are less than those of the other shops; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The working hours of the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi, run by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission are from 10-30 A.M. to 1-00 P.M. and from 3-00 P.M. to 8-00 P.M. excepting Sunday which is a closed day.

(b) The working hours observed by other shops in Connaught Place differ from shop to shop. While some open at 9-30 A.M. and close at 8-30 P.M. (with 3 hours interval from 1-00 to 4-00 P.M.), the others open at 10-00 A.M. and close at 8-00 P.M. (with 2 hours interval from 1-30 P.M. to 3-30 P.M.). The working hours observed by Khadi and Gramodyog Bhawan are not very materially different from those observed by the other shops.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

SUSPENSION OF ELECTRIC POWER IN CALCUTTA

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of three adjournment motions—all relating to the same subject:

“Complete breakdown of the Durgapur Thermal Power Station of the D.V.C. since 25th April night resulting in the complete suspension of electricity power supplies in large parts of the city of Calcutta and other industrial areas which draw their electricity supplies from this source.”

It is only a short time ago that I allowed a statement to be made by the hon.

Minister. What is the present situation? Has any deterioration taken place in that matter?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampore) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Let me hear the hon. Minister. It is not that every day I am going to devote all the time to Calcutta just because it is important. Only a few days ago, I allowed a statement. Let me understand the situation. I am not going to allow hon. Members whose information is drawn from the newspapers....

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Not from the newspapers. Before you call the Minister, may I...

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow. Will he resume his seat or not? The order in which I should call Members, whom I should call first, etc. must be left to me. I cannot be dictated to like this. Calcutta is an important city and a few days ago I allowed a statement on this breakdown. Though this is only a State matter, the hon. Minister made a statement. There is an Electricity Supply Corporation. Some machinery has broken down and steps are being taken. In the meanwhile, the D.V.C. is asked to increase the quantity of the load, etc. It is all fresh in my mind. I thought I need not allow this, but in view of the fact that the hon. Minister has written to me that there has been a deterioration in this matter, I want to know how the deterioration has taken place. If I feel there is something to understand from those hon. Members who come from that part, I will give them an opportunity. I cannot be obstructed like this. There is nothing lost if hon. Members are a little patient.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): I can appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members. I came to know of this accident yesterday morning and since then I tried to get information from Durgapur. But I did not succeed in getting information which could be placed before this House. Yesterday I

sent one of the members of the Central Water and Power Commission to go there and to see all things for himself and bring a complete report. He will be coming tomorrow or the day after. So, I suggest that I may be given an opportunity to explain and place the whole thing before the House on Monday next on the basis of that reliable information which I will be receiving.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The impression that was created by the statement of the hon. Minister the other day was that it was the break-down of one of the main power stations of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation which was responsible for the short supply. But since then I have received information not only from a newspaper, but a responsible member of the West Bengal Legislature has come over here. He had discussed this matter with the Government and tried to meet the D.V.C. authorities. The D.V.C. authorities themselves are not very sure as to what led to the break-down. But the fact remains that Durgapur thermal power unit has completely broken down and that means that we are faced with a very dangerous situation. The Minister appointed a committee the other day....

Mr. Speaker: I am not able to follow all these arguments. The truth is that there is break-down. The Minister said the other day that it has broken down at one place. The Member wants to say it has broken down at another place. The Minister says he will get further information regarding this. What is the charge now? Shall I immediately impeach the hon. Minister? I am not able to follow. He says that on Monday he will give further information so far as this matter is concerned. In the meanwhile, if any hon. Member has got any further information, he may give it to the hon. Minister. The hon. Member is now arguing as if I am allowing the adjournment motion. What is it that he wants the Minister to look into?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: When a break-down occurred in Delhi a few days ago, the Government appointed a high-powered committee of technical experts to go into the whole matter. A similar thing should be done in this case also. Otherwise, not only the big city of Calcutta—I am not arguing for Calcutta alone—but both Bihar and West Bengal would suffer; the entire industrial area will suffer.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): The newspaper report says that as a result of this failure, all the industrial units around Calcutta have been closed and as a result thereof, already the workers have been given lay off notices, because they are not in a position to run the industries. Secondly, as a result of the failure, the suburban electric trains are going to be stopped. That means complete....

Mr. Speaker: What is it that he wants to be done?

Shri Prabhat Kar: It has been stated that the matter is under consideration. But since the hon. Minister made a statement here, the position has completely deteriorated, dislocating the entire city of Calcutta and the industrial areas. I want to know what immediate steps he is going to take, so that such deterioration may not take place? That is the main point, because it is not simply break-down of supply to private houses, but all the industries are being closed down. The workers are being retrenched, suburban trains are going to be stopped....

Mr. Speaker: He has already said all that; he is repeating. I am not going to allow this adjournment motion. The hon. Minister made a statement the other day from those facts that he had got then. Now he has stated that he will lay all the information before the House on Monday. In the meanwhile, some suggestions have been made. This seems to be a matter of recurrence and large sections—industrial and private—are involved.

There is a suggestion by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri that a high-powered committee of technical experts

[Mr. Speaker]

must be appointed. That is a suggestion for action. Shri Prabhat Kar says that this is causing serious inconvenience and workers will be discharged and therefore effective and immediate steps ought to be taken. The Minister will kindly bear all this in mind and make a complete statement on Monday. Let us see thereafter. In the meanwhile, I do not think it is necessary to allow this adjournment motion.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: (Calcutta—East): The adjournment motion may be held over.

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed the adjournment motion.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Before hearing the hon. Minister?

Mr. Speaker: He will make a statement on Monday.

12.08 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT ACCOUNTS OF HINDUSTAN INSECTICIDES LIMITED, 1959-60

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Sah): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited for the year 1959-60, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (ii) Review by Government of the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2901/61.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 537, dated the 17th April, 1961, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Place in Library. See No. LT-2902/61.]

12.8½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Shri H. C. Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Minutes of evidence given before the Sub-Committee of the Estimates Committee on Public Undertakings and Minutes of the sitting of the Estimates Committee relating to Hundred and twenty-fifth Report on the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel—The Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

STATEMENT RE: ACCIDENT IN THE EAST KAJORA COLLIERY ON THE 22ND APRIL, 1961

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): An accident occurred in the East Kajora Colliery near Asansol at about 4 p.m. on the 22nd April, 1961 involving the loss of five lives and injury to one person.

2. The accident was due to fall of roof, 70' x 40' x 4', in a de-pillaring area in which extraction of pillars had been completed and which had been fenced off after withdrawal of the roof supports. Six miners, who were to work on a new pillar, left off their legal working place and entered the prohibited area after removing the fencing for the purpose of collecting fallen coal. The roof fall took place when they were busy loading coal. Five persons were buried completely and one partially. The latter was extricated and sent to the hospital.