

mining operations in Guma Mines are now in progress; two tunnels have been completed to ensure the safety of the miners.

In Drang Mines the scheme of sinking shaft from above has been temporarily stopped on account of the difficult condition of strata encountered during the course of the sinking operations. It is now proposed to undertake tunnelling and connect the main shaft from below. A site for the opening of the tunnel has been selected by the Experts and work is in progress.

Mechanised working of the Mines in Drang will be undertaken when the wet mining scheme is put into operation. At present the mechanisation is confined to the use of compressors and pumps.

(d) The amount allocated for the development of both Guma and Drang Mines during 1961-62 is Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

Mills in Punjab

2518. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cement, paper, sugar, textile, woollen mills and small instrument factories proposed to be set up in Punjab during the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) how many will be in the public and private sectors respectively; and

(c) the names of places where these will be located?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). As the Third Five Year Plan of the Punjab has not been finalised so far, it is not possible to give the information at this stage.

Industrial Training Centre at Tripura

2519. Shri Bangshi Thakur: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the services of the eighteen employees of

the Industrial Training Centre, Tripura, have been terminated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

11.50 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRE IN AN OIL FACTORY AT JALGAON

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported death of twenty-three persons and injuries to others in a fire which broke out in an oil factory at Jalgaon on the 17th March, 1961."

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, this matter is in the State sphere; and we have not received any official information from them.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is simple. This calling attention notice was given with a particular motive that the Centre might be involved. The Minister must have seen this calling attention notice. What is the use of his now saying that the entire matter is a State matter?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will give that information as soon as possible. What can I do now, if he says that that information is not readily available?

Shri Abid Ali: As soon as this notice was received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, we wrote to it saying that this was in the State's sphere.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When there was a calling attention notice, some

concrete steps must have been taken: either on the telephone or by some other way they should enquire.

Shri Abid Ali: We sent a wire to the State Government and we have not received any reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In such cases, when hon. Minister has the information that communication is not coming or the information required would not be available by the time the calling attention notice or any other notice would be coming up, it would be better if he informs the Lok Sabha Secretariat so that this item may not be fixed for that day but might be put off for some other.

Shri Abid Ali: That was done.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Here is a case, Sir, where it is reported that 23 persons lost their lives. This may be held over till information is obtained.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Surely. He has promised that as soon as he gets the information, he will inform the House.

Shri Abid Ali: I may submit that in matters which are within the State sphere, if we bother them too much, they do not like it also. . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a different question, not to be decided here, just at this moment. Whatever information the hon. Minister gets, he may lay it on the Table of the House.

Shri Abid Ali: If I get. . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Should I keep silent and allow all the other hon. Members to speak simultaneously? While I am pleading with the hon. Minister, every other hon. Member gets up and goes on speaking. I will keep silent and they may settle their affairs directly. The Minister said: 'If I get . . . '.

Now, that should not be the answer. If he has no information, he will inform the House that there is no information available. Then the hon.

Members may have their own remedy and seek whatever way is open to them.

Shri Abid Ali: Perhaps they may write to the MLAs. to take up that matter. . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be a different thing. Why should we suggest it? I am surprised at this. . . . (*Interruptions*).

Shri Naushir Bharucha: It may not be treated as disposed of.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree with the hon. Member; I will put it down on some other day. . . . (*Interruptions*). Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF (i) INDIAN RARE EARTHS LIMITED; AND (ii) TRAVANCORE MINERALS LIMITED

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following reports under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited for the year 1959-60 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2778/61].

(ii) Annual Report of the Travancore Minerals Limited for the year 1959-60 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2777/61].

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have only one Prime Minister here and he need not have described him by saying 'Prime Minister of India'; Prime Minister means the Prime Minister of