

any definite time limit for supply against imports and whether the canalisation of steel imports through the public sector undertakings is adding to the delay in getting steel.

SHRI T. A. PAI: The problem of shortage of steel is not only for the State projects but also for the Central projects, which are also getting escalated in costs because of non-availability of steel. I do not think there can be unlimited imports to meet these demands. Within the limited imports we are trying to see what best we can do. I have been wondering whether under these circumstances the consumption of steel for construction of sky-scrapers and costly theatres should not be controlled. Otherwise, there is no escape from escalation.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: I have never demanded steel for sky-scrapers. May I know whether the Government of Maharashtra would be given *ad hoc* import permission to import the required quantity of steel?

SHRI T. A. PAI: We shall certainly consider their request if it is processed through the CWFC and the Irrigation Ministry to see that the essential needs of any particular project which will suffer on account of being held up for want of steel is met as best as we could.

SHRI NIMBALKAR: The hon. Minister has stated that defence and export-oriented units have to get higher priority. But, in the long run, will not the construction of dams and irrigation projects save us a lot of foreign exchange which we may otherwise have to spend for the import of foodgrains? Is it not therefore important that we should give a higher priority to irrigation projects?

SHRI T. A. PAI: When the limited available steel is allocated even with reference to the priorities that we fix, all these priority sectors are bound to get a rationed quantity which is not equal to their demand. The only alternative therefore is to ration the

demand itself and control the use of steel even in the private sector and see to what extent it could be deferred so that the needs of the public sector are met or the important projects are taken forthwith. I would suggest that even the State Governments to take these steps into consideration.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I hope that our new Steel Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Steel.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I hope the new Steel Minister is aware of the statement of the late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam once on the floor of this august House that the flotation of the price of steel would be under consideration. I am not bringing any portion of that statement which is not relevant in this context. Since nowhere in the world has demand been controlled except in different circumstances, if the Minister is neither increasing the production, nor supplementing it by imports, nor making some regulation in regard to prices so that there will be equalisation at the market rate, I am wondering whether the Steel Minister would not fall between the two steels. How does he propose to solve the problem if he is not increasing the internal price or importing more quantities of steel?

SHRI T. A. PAI: We do not intend falling anywhere between the two stools. We shall certainly look into this problem and take appropriate steps to reduce the demand for steel either by price increase or by other regulatory measures.

Allegations levelled against Officers of Ordnance Depot Alipore Calcutta

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*414. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:**

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry into the allegation made against certain off-

cers of the Ordnance Depot at Alipore, Calcutta regarding embezzlement of funds by faulty construction of sheds and buildings in the Depot, manufacturing of furniture for private use of officers, collusion with contractors, misuse of Depot Staff-car for private use has since been made by the Government; and

(b) if so, the result of the inquiry made and action taken by Government against the person involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The inquiry into the allegations has not yet been completed.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the hon. Minister kindly state how and when these complaints came to the notice of the Government, when an inquiry was ordered and disclose the names of the officers involved?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: These allegations came to the notice of the Government in April-May this year by an anonymous unsigned complaint. This matter was also raised on the floor of this House earlier. We did not think it proper earlier to make an inquiry on the basis of an anonymous complaint, but when it was raised in this hon. House, it was referred for inquiry in Calcutta where these disputes arose. Then some complaint was made that the officer who was put in charge of the inquiry was junior to the officers whose conduct he was inquiring. Therefore, we have now referred this inquiry back to the Master-General, Ordnance and the Engineer in Chief to raise the level of the inquiry appropriately and find out the facts in a proper way. So far as the names of the officers are concerned, I cannot disclose them until the final conclusions are reached.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Sir, I seek your protection. There are allegations and the inquiry is going on. That is a public inquiry. What is the

difficulty in disclosing the names of the officers against whom charges exist?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It is the common practice that unless the charge is proved we will not mention or bring into controversy the names of officers of the armed forces. Now the inquiry is going on at the appropriate level. This is an inquiry within the Defence Ministry; it is not a public inquiry. It is a departmental inquiry that is going on. We would have no difficulty in disclosing the names of the persons concerned once we come to a conclusion. Then, we will say, there was an allegation against so and so and it has not been proved or, we will say, there was an allegation against so and so and it has been proved. Unless the inquiry is completed, I do not think it will be fair to disclose the names of the officers.

SHRI R. V. BADE: On a point of order, Sir. Can the Minister take shelter under this and say that he cannot disclose, the names?

MR. SPEAKER: During the Question Hour, there should be no points of order.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a secret inquiry or whether it is not a fact that when an inquiry takes place, even a departmental inquiry, against certain officers, everybody in the Department comes to know about it? What is the idea behind withholding this information from Parliament? Is a charge of corruption something that is to be kept a secret by not disclosing names to defend officers against whom corruption charges exist?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: As I have already stated, this is not a secret inquiry. It is only a departmental inquiry. There is no question of withholding any information from the House. It will be supplied at the

appropriate time. It is only a question of time.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this departmental committee which has been appointed is a fact-finding committee and, if so, after the findings are available, whether they will be charge-sheeted and tried under the Army Act.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो कुदरती बात है, अगर साबित होगा तो फिर चार्जशीट क्यों नहीं देंगे। इस के पूछने की जरूरत नहीं है।

Appointment of Indian personnel by Swedish Foreign Mission

*416. **SHRI R. N. BARMAN:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swedish Foreign Mission in West Bengal has any Indian personnel on its staff; and

(b) whether the consent of Government was taken by the Foreign Mission named above to appoint such Indian personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Sweden has an Honorary Consulate in Calcutta. There are no Indian nationals on its staff.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: May I know what are the functions of the Honorary Swedish Consulate in Calcutta? Are they also organising some relief organisations in the districts or elsewhere and, if so, what are those places?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The Consulates are established by foreign countries in our country to promote trade, etc. and to look after their nationals. These are their normal functions.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Whether they also organise some relief organisations

in the districts or elsewhere and if so, what are those places?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have no information about it.

Survey of Orissa by Regional Mining Departments in Orissa

*417. **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mining Corporation of Orissa has directed the Regional Mining Departments to Survey the areas under their charge and submit reports;

(b) what are the mines found in the Koraput and Ganjan Districts so far; and

(c) the names of mines under operation and what are the mines that will be taken up in Fifth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Mineral exploration is being carried out in different parts of Orissa by the State Directorate of Mines as well as by the Geological Survey of India. Some of these areas are under Lease/Licence to Orissa Mining Corporation. The Orissa Mining Corporation has requested the Geological Survey of India to undertake investigations on iron ore in Khandadhar area of Sundargarh district and manganese ore in Dubna areas of Keonjhar and Kadodih area of Sundergarh districts.

(b) The minerals found so far in Koraput district are graphite, manganese ore, mica, limestone, dolomite, quartzite, ochre, china clay, kaoling, bauxite, iron ore, gold, monzite, talc, steatite, copper and asbestos. In Ganjam district the minerals found so far include manganese ore, ochre, china clay, graphite, ilmenite, iron ore and mica.