

imported, then it is resold in the market at a higher price and somebody else takes away that. We have had this question in this House.

The STC is trying to maintain a price lower than the price at which the manufacturing companies are selling so that. . . .

SHRI RANGA : They can sell it even at a much lower price.

श्री मधु लिमये : जे० के० वगैरह की प्राइस को घटाओ।

SHRI DINESH SINGH : That is entirely different. We can go into the question of how much more the local price should be. We shall constantly bear that in mind.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, short notice question.

SHRI NAMBIAR : What is this term 'Left Communist Nagas'?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. Let us hear from the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : I did not know that the hon. Member was in transcendental meditation himself and, therefore, he has not realised it.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we are taking up the short notice question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

SINKING OF STEEL FOUNDRY AT KULTI

S.N.Q. 10. **SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA** :

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :

SHRI NIHAL SINGH :

SHRI BENI SHANKER

SHARMA :

SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel foundry plant of the iron and steel company at Kulti near Asansol has started sinking rapidly; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this matter to avoid damage to the entire steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F.A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

It has been reported that between 2130 hrs. on 9th March, 1968 and 2100 hrs. on 10th March, 1968, cracks appeared at several points of the land on which the Steel Foundry of M/s. Indian Iron and Steel Co., Kulti stands. There was also subsidence of the land at several points in depths varying from one to three feet during this period. No further subsidence occurred after 2100 hrs. of 10th March, 1968. Consequent on the subsidence of the land, certain parts of the structures of the foundry were damaged and bent at different points. A team of experts has been appointed by the Chief Inspector of Mines to ascertain the causes from the subsidence and its report is awaited. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Asansol, Government of West Bengal, is also enquiring into the matter and his report is awaited.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : The hon. Minister has assured us that a team has been appointed. But meanwhile, may I know the present loss and what steps Government propose to take to see that no further damage is done to the structure of the plant?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : The value of production has been reported to be about Rs. 35,000 per day. As regards the actual loss on account of the damage to the foundry, we have appointed a team of experts and we are awaiting their report. When we received their report it will be possible for me to indicate the actual loss that has occurred.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : May I know whether Government had any information previously about mining being done in that area and whether Government or the company was ever aware that the land beneath had been mined, and, therefore, a large portion of land was lying as vacant mined area?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : If the company had this information they would never have set up this foundry there. As regards

the other question relating to the steel plant which is important, I may point out that the steel plant is not there but is at Burnpur which I am told is about 10 to 12 miles from where this foundry is situated.

श्री रवि राय : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि आसनसोल के पास स्टील फाउन्ड्री की जमीन धंस जाने के कारण कितने मजदूरों को ले आफ किया गया है और उनको काम दिलवाने के लिए क्या व्यवस्था की गई है, जो रेलवे लाइन उस फाउन्ड्री की बगल से गई है, क्या उसको भी कोई क्षति पहुंची है या नहीं और उस स्टील फाउन्ड्री का मालिक कौन है।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : जहां तक लेबर का ताल्लुक है, 530 वर्कर्स ले आफ हुए हैं और उनको ले आफ कम्पेन्सेशन दे दिया गया है। उन में से 100 वर्कर्स को दूसरी जगह काम दे दिया गया है। वहां पर कोई रिट्रेंचमेन्ट नहीं हुआ है। यह देखा जा रहा है कि किस तरह से बाकी लेबरर्स को एनगोज किया जा सके। इस फाउन्ड्री में आने-जाने के लिए जो रेलवे लाइन है, उसको भी नुकसान पहुंचा है।

श्री देवेन सेन : क्या यह सत्य है कि इस फाउन्ड्री के अगल-बगल में दो कम्पनियों की तीन बड़ी-बड़ी कोलियरीज हैं : ईस्ट विक्टोरिया, वेस्ट विक्टोरिया और रामनगर कोलियरी! दो बरस पहले एक समूची पाउप फंक्टरी धंस गई थी और एक गांव भी धंस गया था! यदि हां, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय यह इक्वायरी करायेंगे कि क्या वहां पर कोलियरीज के लिए ठीक-ठीक सेंड स्टोइंग होता है या नहीं और क्या इस कारण से ये फाउन्ड्री और फंक्टरी आदि धंस गए हैं कि वहां पर ठीक-ठीक सेंड स्टोइंग नहीं होता है?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : जो तजवीज दी गयी है, उस पर गौर किया जायेगा।

SHRI R. BARUA : When was this foundry completed, and in between that time and how were any signs of fissure or damage detected?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : As I have pointed out, this foundry belongs to the Indian Iron and steel Company Ltd. I have not got details as to when it was completed or started.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : In reply to Shri Rabi Ray, the hon. Minister stated that 500 workers were laid off and some of them have been given some alternative jobs. I want to ask why they have been given only 50 per cent of their wages when the fault did not lie with them? Will Government persuade the employer to pay the workers full wages because this was natural calamity and something beyond their control?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : As I have pointed out, lay-off compensation is being paid. The management is trying to employ them in alternative jobs. Already about 100 workers have been given other work. I shall see to what extent further assistance can be given.

May give latest information I have received on this matter?

“Kulti subsidence enquiry preceeding. Reports under preparation. Conditions unchanged excepting ground movements stopped after 13th. During monsoon slight further ground movements apprehended. Kulti management started removing finished products from affected workshop. Management's railway siding track being re-graded.”

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : My question was concerning the payment of full wages. They have been given lay-off allowances. Under the particular Act, lay-off compensation is given at only 50 per cent of the wages. That is in the case of contingencies like materials not being available, a strike going on—something like that. But here this was neither a closure by the management nor a strike by workers. So I want to know why the full wages have not been paid. Will Government persuade IISCO to pay them full wages?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : I shall discuss this matter with the management.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Is any time-limit fixed for report to the team of experts inquiring into this or can they take their own time during which the plant will go down further?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : I have already replied to that.

SHRI SAMAR GHUA : The sinking of the Kulti foundry should be taken as a warning by our Government and all of us. You know in the Asansol sub-division, there is a coal-mining belt and also a big industrial complex built up. Instead of going into the cause of the sinking of the Kulti foundry only, will Government undertake a wide-ranging inquiry to ascertain the possibility of sinking of other industrial complexes in the area adjoining the coal mines, and also the risk of the well-line passing through the coal-mining belt?

SHRI F.A. AHMED : I shall keep the hon. Member's suggestion in view when I receive and consider the report.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अभ्रक की खानों के लिये लाइसेंस

* 690: श्री चन्द्र शंकर सिंह :
श्री भोगेन्द्र झा :

क्या इस्पात, खान तथा धातु मंत्री 20 फरवरी, 1968 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 1292 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार की वर्तमान सरकार ने अभ्रक की खानों के लिये लाइसेंस जारी करने के प्रश्न पर पुनर्विचार करने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने बिहार सरकार को लिखा है कि वह पिछले निदेशों का पालन करे; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है ?

इस्पात, खान तथा धातु मंत्री (श्री चन्ना रेड्डी) : (क) और (ख). हाँ, महोदय ।

(ग) राज्य सरकार ने इस पर पुनः विचार कर लिया है और केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा पुनरीक्षण के लिये आवेदन पत्रों पर अन्तिम निर्णय किये जाने तक, पट्टे पर दी गई सम्पत्ति इंडियन माइका सप्लाइ कम्पनी को वापिस दिये जाने के लिए आदेश दे दिया है ।

IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS THROUGH M.M.T.C

*692. **SHRI K.M. Koushik** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at the meeting of the Small Scale Industries Board held on the 8th November, 1967, some small-scale industrialists of the various States complained against the canalising of the imports of raw materials through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation or State Trading Corporation in view of the heavy cost and incidentals involved; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to the the suggestion for direct import by the small-scale industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions made by the small industrialists at the meeting of the small Scale Industries Board are under consideration of the Government.

PUBLICITY OF INDIA'S EXPORTS

*693. **SHRI HIMATSINGKA** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on his recent visit to foreign countries including France, he found India's export publicity very poor;

(b) if so, the major steps proposed to be taken to augment the trade publicity machinery in foreign markets;

(c) whether he has also suggested the formation of a consortium of the public and private sectors and stationing of joint