

SHRI OM MEHTA: I would like to know what quality of coal would be used for the thermal power stations in Jammu and Kashmir State and is there sufficient coal for that purpose?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: All the power stations which are coming into being or which would come into being during the Fourth Plan when the schemes are approved have been taken into consideration.

CLASSIFICATION OF RAILWAYMEN

*787. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railwaymen who have been brought under the continuous and intensive classification as a result of the Adjudicator's Award in 1952 have now been re-classified as intermittent and continuous respectively; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b) There has been no such general downward reclassification; but there is adequate machinery to review classification on the basis of increase or decrease in work-load.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is it not a fact that in the Southern Railway in the Thondiarpet marshalling yard, in the Thiruchirappalli marshalling yard, in the Arkonam marshalling yard and in the Jalarpet marshalling yard, the class IV staff who have been recommended by the adjudicator to be classified as intensive during 1946 when there were only 3,700 trains have been reclassified as continuous and intermittent when the trains are 10,000? What justification was there for the Railway Administration for this reclassification?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The reply that I gave was about the

general question. About the various places the hon. Member just now pointed out we shall find out the position but the adjudicator himself had recommended that there can be reclassification and for that he had suggested certain criteria also and if according to that recommendation and according to the workload reclassification is done from time to time or if anything has been done according to that recommendation that need not be objected to.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: I am thankful to the hon. Minister, for he said that he would be investigating the issue that I have raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is surely not a question.

NEW DIAMOND MINES IN MADHYA PRADESH

*788. SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether any survey has so far been made in respect of new diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Apart from investigations connected with the Panna Diamond Mining Project no survey for new diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh has been carried out.

SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: May I know whether actual production has been started, so far, by the National Mineral Development Corporation in the two diamond mines, i.e., Kheri and Madgaon?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Yes, Sir. The National Mineral Development Corporation took over this project in the year 1959. Since then some production has come out in the Majhwal mine and in Ramkheria prospecting is going on.

SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: May I know, Sir, what is the deposit in these?

two mines and how much income is expected therefrom?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The total deposits are about 55.8 million tonnes, with about 3 million carats of diamond content, valued at about Rs. 700 million at Majhgaon and at Shahid-gaon the total reserves are estimated at about 3 million tonnes, yielding about 75 million carats of diamonds.

SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: Is there any possibility, on the basis of survey made, of the Government having "other diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh?"

SHRI P. C. SETHI: At the moment, our hands are full with these two diamond mines.

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: May I know how much profit the Panna diamond mines earned during the year 1964-65 and what has been the investment made on them so far?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: They have not yet gone into (production). The total sum realised as yet is over Rs. 3.63 lakhs in the first auction and subsequently another auction was held. The question of profit does not arise at this stage.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I know if the Government is carrying out surveys in other parts of India and, if so, which are they?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The Geological Survey of India is carrying out surveys, but no prospecting or mining is being carried out for diamonds in other parts.

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: I wanted to know what is the total investment on the Panna diamond mines so far?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: A total provision of Rs. 1.5 crores has been made in the Third Plan for the production of 90,000 carats and we have as yet invested 0.4 and 0.90 crores, respectively in both the projects.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know, Sir, whether any investigations have been conducted on locating sources of diamonds in Anantapur district and, if so, what is the result of the investigation?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have no information about this.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: The hon. Minister said that no survey has been made, apart from the Panna mines. Has the Government any information with them as to whether diamond mines can be found somewhere else, apart from Panna, in Madhya Pradesh and secondly, whatever diamond is available in Panna may I know whether it is only ornamental or it can be used for industrial purposes also?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Both Diamond deposits also exist in certain parts of Rajasthan.

SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: May I know, Sir, whether private contractors are also allowed to extract diamonds from the Panna mines?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Certain leases have been given by the State Government and in those leased areas they are working.

SHRI A. D. MANI: There are so many reports appearing in the Press that diamonds of fabulous value have been taken out of the mines from Panna. May I ask the Minister what is the highest price which any of the diamond piece has secured in the Indian market or the international market?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As I have already stated, in all 1397 diamonds weighing about 1830.5 carats were sold, realising a total sum of Rs. 3.63 lakhs in the first auction and in the second auction held in June, 1964, at Bombay, about 3,386 diamonds weighing about 1299.49 carats worth about 4.41 lakhs were sold.