

the pay scales of the respective State Governments in accordance with the present policy followed by the Company in the matter.

**^EXTENSION OF INDIAN PENAL CODE TO J. & K. STATE**

82. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has requested the Government of India to extend the Indian Penal Code to that State; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**^UNAUTHORISED OCCUPATION *or* GOVERNMENT BUILT PROPERTIES**

139. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government-built properties at present occupied by unauthorised persons in displaced persons' colonies of Delhi and New Delhi;

(b) whether Government have recovered any rent or damages from such unauthorised persons, and if so, how much; and

(c) whether any rent or damages are still due from such unauthorised persons, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : (a) In accordance with the Government policy, cases of unauthorised occupation of Government built properties

•(Transferred from the 8th September, 1964.

n Delhi by displaced persons prior to 31st December, 1960 have been regularised on receipt by the 28th February, 1963 of the initial cost and the up-to-date arrears of rent. In other cases properties have been disposed of by sale leaving the purchasers to deal with the unauthorised occupants directly. No separate statistics are being maintained in respect of persons in unauthorised occupation of Government built properties which have not yet been disposed of, but the number of such occupants is very small.

(b) and (c) Recoveries of rent/ damage charges from unauthorised occupants have been made in most of the cases and the amount of arrears is small. No Separate figures of such recoveries made and the balance outstanding are being maintained.

12 NOON

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED OUTBREAK OF FIRE IN THE HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION, RANCHI, ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1964.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vajpayee.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Heavy Engineering to the reported outbreak of fire in the custody stores of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, on September, 11, 1964, resulting in heavy loss.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY ENGINEERING IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI T. N. SINGH) : Sir, a fire broke out in the custody stores of Foundry Forge Project, Ranchi, on the night between 10th and 11th of September, 1964.

^Transferred from the 9th September, 1964.

A Bihar Armed Policeman on duty noticed smoke coming out of the godown at about 10:45 A.M. He immediately informed the fire brigade as also other staff on duty at that time. The fire brigade reached the spot within 10 minutes. In the meantime all senior officers of the Corporation and the local police authorities rushed to the scene on receiving information of this incident. The fire brigade broke open the lock on the door of the godown and extinguished the fire in less than half an hour of its being noticed. It has been ascertained that the godown was locked and sealed at about 4-30 P.M. on the previous day. The godown contained packages of imported equipment mostly for the Fetting Section of the Foundry. The equipment consisted of electric motors, control panels and pumps, etc. Thirteen packages were affected by the fire. Six of them have been badly damaged, four partially affected and the remaining are only slightly damaged. The total value of equipment in these packages was Rs. 1.60 lakhs. The loss, however, is estimated to be below Rs. 1 lakh as a substantial portion of equipment in seven packages can be salvaged and put to proper use after some repairs. The equipment concerned with the Indian Insurance Pool who have contacted and requested to send a representative immediately for survey.

An examination of the electric line in the godown indicated that the fire was not caused by short-circuit. The switches of lights were also off inside the godown.

The Chief Fire Officer of the State Government who was called in has already inspected the place and his report is awaited. The police authorities have also started their investigation.

A Departmental Enquiry Committee has been set up to investigate and make a preliminary report about the

probable cause of fire. Two experts have also been associated with the Committee. Their report is awaited.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: This is the third major fire that has occurred in this Corporation. Sir, the first fire occurred in the Loco Storage Shed and machinery worth several lakhs was damaged. The other fire was in the open *gali* resulting in a loss of Rs. 45 lakhs. A High Court Judge has been appointed to look into that affair. Are we to understand that there are no security arrangements and that anybody can come and start a fire?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: It is correct that this is the third fire. But I do not accept the position that there are no security arrangements at Ranchi.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether in the third fire some Czech machinery has also been destroyed?

SHRI T. N. SINGH:- I have detailed the machinery. There was Czech as well as German machinery, and have given details of the machines that were damaged.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether the hon. Minister will take steps to see that security arrangements are further tightened so that fires do not take place?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Sir, immediately after the last fire, steps have been taken in this direction and a new senior, very experienced Chief Security Officer has been appointed there. And also arrangements for better fighting equipment have been made. I can assure the House on that account.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether any saboteurs are active in this Heavy Engineering Corporation and whether the Government have made any enquiries in this regard?"

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Surely, there may be some people. According to the second fire report just received from Justice Mukherjea, I think there are fears of sabotage so far as the second fire is concerned. Obviously, there must have been some mischievous elements. We are going into that and the SPE as well as the CBI are on the job.

SHRI A. D. MANI: After the last two fires—before the present fire—did the Government send Central Intelligence Bureau officials there to help the Bihar police or, have the security arrangements been entrusted solely to the State police?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: The security arrangements have been made by the project authorities on their own; they have got their own security arrangements, besides the help that they can get from the local State police. At the same time I may inform the House that the Central Intelligence people are also working there and they have been there for a long time now.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): In view of these three fires and other similar accidents in other public sector undertakings, has the Ministry examined the desirability of having a Central force of its own like the Ministry of Defence Security Force which has done a splendid work in safeguarding the defence establishments and ordnance factories?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: That is a suggestion which I shall certainly examine in detail.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA (Uttar Pradesh): May I know whether the goods burnt or damaged were insured and, if so, ...

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: He has said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have been insured.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: If they were insured, may I know whether the amount has been collected or not?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: We have yet to put our claim.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): May I know if the Government are aware that in that Corporation at Ranchi a few tramp labour unions are sought to be organised, tramp in the sense that they do not belong to any organised all-India labour union and each one of them owes allegiance to some important public man or other in Bihar and those public men protect those labour unions and the workers of those labour unions? And there is a feeling in some circles in Bihar that this chain of sabotage has been caused by those workers of those labour unions and that the truth will not come out unless the Government of India depute their own officers to find out the truth.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I would not like such serious allegations against the labour leaders in Ranchi. But I would certainly say that in Bihar there are differences of opinion among the various labour workers themselves and that might have something to do with some of the trouble that has been there.

#### **RESULT OF ELECTION TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Shakuntala Paranjpye being the only candidate nominated for election to the Animal Welfare Board, I hereby declare her to be duly elected to be a member of the said Board.