

some Indian national. I cannot give any categorical answer.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, there are two types of CD cars, one driven by local drivers and another by diplomats themselves. May I know whether these diplomats are also entitled to have Indian driving licences or they are not supposed to take licences in India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: That has already been answered. As far as diplomatic officers are concerned, when they drive a car, they enjoy complete immunity normally extended to diplomatic personnel. If any Indian national employed as a chauffeur violates traffic rules, he can be punished by us.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, my question was whether diplomats drive these cars without obtaining Indian driving licences.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I want notice for that.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Am I to understand that there were no offences committed by these drivers of CD cars during the year 1962-63?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir. That is the answer given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

कोयला खानों में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों के लिए संरक्षणात्मक जूतों का तैयार किया जाना

*३८६. श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी : क्या भ्रम तथा सेवानियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :-

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कोयला खानों में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों के लिये संरक्षणात्मक जूते तैयार करने का एकधिकार मैसर्स रूबी इन्डस्ट्रीज, कानपुर को दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह एकाधिकार देने से पूर्व अन्य जूता निर्माताओं से टेंडर आमंत्रित किये गये थे; और

(ग) क्या सरकार कोयला खानों को खुले बाजार से ऐसे जूते खरीदने की छूट देने पर विचार कर रही है ?

†[MANUFACTURE OF PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR FOR LABOUR IN COAL-MINES

*389. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that monopoly has been given to M/s. Ruby Industries, Kanpur, for manufacturing protective footwear for labour working in the coal-mines;

(b) if so, whether tenders were invited from other shoe manufacturers before this monopoly was given; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow the coal-mines to purchase such shoes from the open market?]

भ्रम तथा सेवानियोजन मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री रतनलाल किशोरीलाल भालवीय) : (क) कोयला खानों में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों को सुरक्षात्मक जूते सप्लाई करने के लिए मैसर्स रूबी इन्डस्ट्रीज, कानपुर, संयुक्त क्रय सलाहकार समिति द्वारा अनुमोदित निर्माता हैं ।

(ख) जी हां ।

(ग) इस मामले को तय करना संयुक्त क्रय सलाहकार समिति का काम है । इस पर विचार करने का प्रश्न अभी उठेगा जब २.५ लाख जूते सप्लाई करने का मैसर्स रूबी इन्डस्ट्रीज का वर्तमान ठेका समाप्त हो जाएगा ।

†[] English translation.

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA): (a) M/s. Ruby Industries are the manufacturers approved by the Joint Purchase Advisory Committee for supply of protective footwear for labour in coal-mines.

(b) Yes.

(c) This is a matter for the Joint Purchase Advisory Committee to decide. The question would however arise for consideration only after the present contract with M/s. Ruby Industries for the supply of 2.5 lakhs pairs of footwear has expired.]

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: May I add something to part (b) of the reply, Sir, which says 'Yes'? The words "before the order was placed" may be added to it.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May we know whether Messrs. Ruby Industries, Kanpur have been able to supply the required number of shoes and, if not, why the coal labour should suffer because of the inability of Messrs. Ruby Industries to supply the protective footwear?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Sir, the total number of workers entitled for the shoes is about 2,75,000. The employers have to place orders for the supply of the shoes. So far orders for 1,51,715 have been placed by the employers and 1,20,113 have been supplied. The rest are in the process of being supplied.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know who were the other parties who sent their tenders and is it not a fact that a meeting was called hastily and other parties were not given adequate chance in the matter of placing orders?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Sir, eleven firms were approached by the Government and out of these eleven only five furnished their tenders and the tender of Messrs.

Ruby Industries was found to be the lowest. It is the Joint Purchase Advisory Committee which decides the issue; it sanctions tenders and accepts them. Because Messrs. Ruby Industries' tender was found to be the lowest, they got it. The meeting was not called in any haste.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know what stands in the way of the Government allowing the coal-mine owners to get the shoes prepared and supply them to the workers?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: I have not followed the question properly. Will you kindly repeat it?

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: My question is why monopoly should be given to a particular manufacturing firm and why the mine-owners should not be entrusted with the task of getting the shoes manufactured and then supplying them to their own workers.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: The policy is that a uniform quality should be supplied to the workers, and if it is left to the choice of the employers, I am sorry the required quality may not be available to the workers and they will not get satisfied. Therefore, we have appointed a Joint Purchase Advisory Committee. The employers and the workers are represented on that Committee, and it is for the Committee to decide whether they want the boots to be purchased through the employers or through tender as it has been done.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know if it is true that these shoes supplied by the Ruby Industries are not suitable for the workers and whatever shoes have been supplied by the Ruby Industries are not being utilised by the workers? May I know whether instructions from the Ministry were given to the Chief Inspector of Mines and the Labour Commissioner to compel them to buy the shoes from only that company and not elsewhere?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: No, Sir. It is not a fact. The fact is that a specification was prepared by the Joint Purchase Advisory Committee and according to the specification the boots were supplied. They were found to be weak and, therefore, the specification was revised. An arbitrator was appointed. The arbitrator fixed the prices, and now the boots are being supplied according to the specification. No doubt the boots which were supplied previously were not lasting and, therefore, the specification had to be changed.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if there is any legal obligation on the part of the mine-owners to supply only these shoes or is it only a voluntary arrangement?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: The present arrangement is that the boots will be purchased by the employers through this Committee.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: My question is whether there is any legal obligation on the part of the mine-owners to supply only shoes supplied through this Purchase Committee, or is it a voluntary arrangement?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Yes, Sir, it is a voluntary arrangement, and both the employers and the workers have agreed to purchase it through the Purchase Committee.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if any complaints against the quality of shoes supplied by Messrs. Ruby Industries of Kanpur have been received by the Government?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Yes, Sir, there were complaints and, therefore, the specification had to be changed. The present supply is being made according to the revised specification.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if it is obligatory on the mine-owners

to supply shoes to each one of the mine workers? If so, why are the orders placed by them short of the needs by more than one lakh units?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: It is a fact that under clause 191 of the Mines Regulations framed under the Mines Act it is obligatory on the mine-owners to supply boots to the mine workers. But unfortunately the practice in our country has been—I have been in touch with the workers for the last 15 years—that they go bare-footed in the mines. There was a proposal once to make it obligatory on the owners to debar those workers from going to the mines who do not wear shoes. But that would create difficulties, because unless you make them shoe-conscious, it is very difficult to compel them to purchase shoes, and that is the reason why full supply has not been made. As I have just said, orders have been placed for over 150,000 pairs out of which over 120,000 have already been supplied.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: May I know, if once a specification has been laid down for the manufacture of these, why any other party should not be able to make those shoes according to that specification?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: As I understand from the various questions, the Members seem to think why this order had been placed with this individual and other people had not been given. The procedure which is generally in vogue was accepted and tenders were invited and the lowest tenderer had to be given because if the shoes were purchased at a higher price than the lowest tender, then the cost had to be borne both by the workers and the management which they would not like. Therefore, we asked the other suppliers who had also submitted tenders whether they would also accept this rate. They did not. Their price was Rs. 1.75 per unit higher than the lowest tender. So, that is an accepted procedure.

Still we are considering this question, and we are appointing a tripartite committee to see whether we can have region-wise supplies for each colliery or different collieries, to see what would be the best way. This seems to be the only way to ensure that we get the cheapest and best quality by tenders. This is done everywhere.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: The Minister was kind enough to say that after receiving certain complaints from the workers they changed the specification or whatever it might be. May I know what was the number of shoes supplied by this company which were not up to the specification and what was the money given to them, and what was the number of shoes which was supplied after the modification of the specification?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: The shoes which were supplied according to the previous specification were to the extent of 70,000 pairs. The rest are being manufactured according to the new specification, and they are being supplied.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know the names of the members of the Purchase Advisory Committee?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: I may give the composition of the Advisory Committee. The Chairman is the Coal-mines Welfare Commissioner. Now he is changed and the Chief Inspector of Mines is the Chairman of the Committee. The members representing the employers are: Messrs. R. H. Wright, S. P. Goenka, N. M. Chauhan, W. E. Alfanzo and K. Mitra. The workers' representatives are: Messrs. B. P. Sinha and S. K. Rudra, and one representative is to be nominated by the Indian Mine Workers' Federation belonging to the A.I.T.U.C.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: The hon. Minister said a little earlier that after the tenders had been received

the tenderers were called for private negotiations to see if they were prepared to reduce their rates. May I know from the hon. Minister if it is done in every case and the person whose rate is the lowest is also called for negotiation and then only it is decided or it is decided in his absence?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: All people were invited. Really the Committee was working on the very basis that the supplies should be distributed among more persons. That was how the Committee wanted it, and therefore the Committee asked the other suppliers whether they would be prepared to give at the same rate. They refused.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: Was any expert opinion about the protective footwear asked for, and who were the experts who advised about this specification? And may I know whether the ISI was approached to find out or to give the proper specifications?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: The expert whom we engaged for passing the shoes was from the Defence Department.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether Government have any information as to who are the partners or the managing directors or directors of this firm?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: No, Sir. It is not known to us but then we know one thing that Messrs. Ruby Industries are the approved suppliers and are contractors of the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals and the Defence Organisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kasliwal has not yet had his supplementary on this question.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: My question arises out of the answer given by the Minister. He said that the cost was to be borne by the worker as

well as by the owner. Does he mean to say that the footwear is not being supplied free to the worker and the cost is being debited to him?

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Yes, Sir. It is a fact. This recommendation was made by the Board of Conciliation (Colliery Disputes) in 1947 that shoes would be supplied to workers at a concessional price, and the All-India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes) recommended the supply at 50 per cent. of the cost price.

INDO-PAKISTAN TALKS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON PAKISTANI INFILTRATION INTO INDIA

*390. { SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA†:
SHRI S. C. DEB:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has suggested to the Government of India talks between the two countries at official level which are to be followed by talks at the ministerial level to discuss the infiltration of Pakistani Muslims into Assam, Tripura and West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) and (b) During the opening session of the Minister-level talks on Kashmir and other related matters in November 1962, and at subsequent meetings in the same connection, India had suggested to Pakistan that they should also discuss other Indo-Pakistan problems, including the problem of infiltration. Considerable resistance was shown by the Pakistan delegation to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. K. Bhuwalka.

accepting this suggestion. At the Calcutta session of these Minister-level talks in March 1963, the Pakistan Delegation, at last, accepted that besides Kashmir, they should discuss infiltration and border problems. When the discussions were resumed in Karachi in April 1963, Pakistan had again lost all interest in discussing any matter other than Kashmir.

Subsequently also, the Government of India has made it known to Pakistan that they would be prepared to discuss the problem of infiltration. The matter is still under consideration.

श्री आर० के० भुवालका : क्या माननीया मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगी कि १९६३ में इन जगहों में कितने पाकिस्तानी मुसलमान आये ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : इसका कोई जवाब देना तो मुश्किल है क्योंकि जानते हैं तो हमने उनको रोक दिया है और मेरा खयाल है कि कम लोग आ सकते हैं, लेकिन इक्का दुक्का इधर-उधर आ जाते हैं। तो वह हमारे इल्म से तो आते नहीं, नहीं तो रोक दिये जायें, लेकिन मेरा खयाल है कि इस साल बहुत कम आये हैं।

श्री आर० के० भुवालका : आगे के लिये इसकी रोकथाम होने के लिए हमारी सरकार ने क्या कोई बन्दोबस्त किया है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : जी हां, यही तो मैंने अर्ज किया कि कुछ दिन से रोक थाम का काफी बन्दोबस्त है। अब वह बिल्कुल पूरे तौर से तो हो नहीं सकता, छोटे छोटे ग्रुप्स इक्के दुक्के आ जाते हैं, पहले ज्यादा आते थे लेकिन अब ज्यादा नहीं आ सकते हैं।

श्री ए० बी० बजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि जब से पाकिस्तान ने इस मामले में शोरमुल मचाना शुरू किया है तब से केन्द्रीय