

the basis of the evidences available, it was not possible for the Coroner to say whether the death was due to accident or caused deliberately by the deceased or by the action of a third party. The matter has been closed but the inquest can be reopened if additional evidence becomes available.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know if the Government has seen a press report that Dr. Kantibhai Patel was being shadowed by some unknown persons for some time before his death?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I mentioned that as soon as some more information become available, the police would restart investigation.

#### MINERAL SANDS INDUSTRY AT CHAVARA IN KERALA

•411. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mineral sands industry at Chavara in Kerala is facing a crisis due to fall in export of ilmenite;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to relieve the situation;

(c) the total quantity of ilmenite produced at present;

(d) how much of it is used internally;

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to increase the internal utilisation of ilmenite; and

(f) the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result of the crisis in the industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER for THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The steps that have been taken to recapture the export market for ilmenite include:

(i) a reduction in the selling price;

(ii) an aggressive sales promotion campaign in foreign countries;

(iii) the harnessing of the resources of the State Trading Corporation.

(c) Approximately 1,00,000 tons per annum.

(d) Approximately 6,500 to 7,000 tons per annum.

(e) Ilmenite is mainly used for the manufacture of Titanium Dioxide. At present there is only one Company in India producing approximately 3,000 tons of Titanium Dioxide per annum. Recently, the licensed capacity of this Company has been increased to 24,500 tons per annum. Another Company has also been licensed for a capacity of 4,000 tons per annum; and

(f) During the year 1961-62 about 950 workers were discharged from the plants of Travancore Minerals Ltd. and F.X.P. Minerals.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: May I know how many factories are working in Chavara?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: For this purpose, only one factory at present.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: I am not asking about the titanium factories. I am asking about the mining factories. There were a few mining factories in that area. Most of them have been closed. I would like to know how many factories are now working.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have mentioned that for this particular purpose, for ilmenite, there is only one factory, the Travancore Minerals Limited, which is working.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Is the Government proposing to close down that factory also?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: No, Sir.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: About the people unemployed, he has said that the number is 950 or so. But from the reports in the press it seems that nearly 10,000 workers are out of work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many?

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Ten thousand.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Nine hundred and fifty is more accurate.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: The hon. Minister is speaking of only one factory. There were a number of factories, and during the last two or three years they have been closed down one by one. The total number of unemployed today is somewhere near 10,000, and his figure is 950. That may be about one factory.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: There were three factories, and within the last three years two of them have been closed down. There is one working. In October 1960 when the first factory, Messrs. Hopkins and Williams, closed down, about 2,000 workers were unemployed. Due to the closure of this factory it is only 950 workers.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: May I know whether Government have any plan for finding alternative employment for these unemployed?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: They have been given compensation and other facilities according to law. It is possible, as I mentioned earlier, that we may be able to increase the production of these factories, and they may find employment again there.

#### UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS

♦412. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian representative told the Budgetary Committee of the United Nations on December 13, 1962, that India was opposed to a reference to the World Court for advisory opinion on the obligations of members with regard to financing the peace keeping operations; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the reasons for Government's opposition to a reference of this matter to the World Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b) The Indian Delegation voted in the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the United Nations in favour of the resolution accepting the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of members with regard to financing of peace-keeping operations. In his statement in the Committee before the vote, the Indian Representative stated on the 12th of December, 1962 that when the proposal was made earlier for referring the matter to the International Court of Justice, the Indian Delegation was not in favour of it as it felt that such a reference might not necessarily solve the problem but might complicate it. He added that India would have preferred to leave the matter in the hands of the Secretary-General in the hope that he could secure agreement of the countries concerned by quiet and patient diplomacy. Nevertheless, as the General Assembly had decided to refer the matter to the International Court and as the Court had already expressed an opinion, India would vote for accepting it.

SHRI A. D. MANI: I should like to ask the Minister whether it was not the position that the Government of France and the Government of the Soviet Union had refused to pay four