

which is said to have been made by the Chairman of the Railway Board, but I did not see the particular aspects which the Member is referring to. The Chairman of the Railway Board has not said in his statement that coal is not available at the collieries. What he said was that they are moving coal practically in accordance with what was planned for movement but the overall requirements of the country have increased and, therefore, coal sufficient to meet all requirements is not being moved by the Railways.

**SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH:** May I know, in view of the reply of the Minister to part (c) that the recommendations are under consideration, when the examination will be completed and how much ease or facility will be given to the public by these recommendations?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH:** So far as this report is concerned, it is a technical report. And so far as giving ease to the people is concerned, that is an immediate problem. This technical report concerns the steps that should be taken for realising the target of 97 million tons which is laid down for the Third Five Year Plan.

#### MAHARAJA OF BASTAR'S MEETING WITH UNION HOME MINISTER

**\*11. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether the Maharaja of Bastar met him in the second week of January, 1961, and if so, whether he submitted any complaints against the District authorities of Bastar and the officers of the Court of Wards?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT):** Shri Pravin Chandra Bhanj Deo met me on January 9 and 10, 1961. He alleged that the district officials had been antagonized against him, but did not make any specific or definite complaint.

**SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** May I know whether the hon. Minister has seen it stated in the press that when he met the Maharaja, the Maharaja made allegations to the effect that when his estate was taken over, moveable property valued at about a crore of rupees was taken possession of and now the district authorities and the Court of Wards people were misappropriating that property?

**SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:** He has issued a number of statements. I do not know if this particular one has come to my notice.

**SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** As regards his statement, may I know whether it is true that the Maharaja made the allegation here in Delhi after his interview with the hon. Home Minister that high officials of the Home Department wrote down a statement and forced him to sign that statement?

**SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:** Well, that statement of his that he was forced to sign it, was, I believe, entirely wrong, because he has told me spontaneously and voluntarily all that had appeared in that statement. But we have not taken notice of that statement.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Sir, reports appeared in the press that there was a very long meeting of the Maharaja of Bastar in his saintly dress with an equally saintly man, namely, the Home Minister. May I know what transpired at that meeting and whether it is a fact that after this meeting, the Maharaja felt a little upset and he became glum and went outside Delhi, saying that nothing had happened? What is all this mystery about we would like to know.

**SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:** I could not quite catch the question, Sir.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The question was: The Maharaja of Bastar went and saw

the Home Minister, but after a long interview, when he came out he said nothing had happened.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, or some such thing.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Nothing actually happened.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Of course, that no conversion took place, I can understand. Then what was this long interview about? What proposals were made by the Home Minister, if any, and what were the counter proposals or requests made by the other side?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: He came to see me. Some other friends had, in fact, asked me to meet him and I did so. I tried to persuade him to live as a law-abiding citizen and to adopt decent ways of life and not to indulge in objectionable activities. He seemed to be impressed by what I said. But perhaps he could not stick to the decision that he seemed to have taken then.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: From the various objectionable and foolish activities of the Maharaja of Bastar, does it not appear to the Government that he is mentally deranged?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: I could not catch the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that he is mentally deranged. Well, let us not go into all that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know why immediately after this another Maharaja was found, a younger Maharaja, and suddenly we find the President saying, on their advice, "Here is another Maharaja". Do I understand that if this Maharaja or some other Maharaja was not found, everything would have gone wrong, if privy purse was not paid and so on? Why was there such hurry in picking up another Maharaja or making another Maharaja? You make

Padma Bhushans, I know, but why a Maharaja?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Because it was considered proper to do so.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: What was the objectionable activity the Maharaja was indulging in?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Well, I do not think I should narrate them here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: At least some, for example.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Some of them have been mentioned in the Gazette Notification, and I think readers of newspapers must have been impressed by the various statements that he has made himself from time to time.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Did the Government attempt to get any other report about the allegations against the Maharaja, apart from the Madhya Pradesh Government?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: I could not catch the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did the Government make any effort to get independent report on Bastar's activities, apart from the Government of Madhya Pradesh?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Government satisfied themselves fully.

#### SUPPLY OF TRANSMITTERS TO A.I.R.

\*12. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the transmitters to be supplied to the All India Radio under its new expansion scheme during the next 15 months will be manufactured by the Bharat Electronics Limited or they are likely to be imported?