

factured in India in collaboration with M.A.N. Works of Germany;

(b) the number of components which have been manufactured in this country and the number of those which have been imported from M.A.N. Works, Germany;

(c) whether any foreign exchange has been sanctioned for this import; and

(d) what is the approximate cost of each truck and what is the basis of arriving at this cost and whether this includes any overhead charges in arriving at the cost; and if so, what is it and whether it involves also the cost of the establishment in the Defence Ministry looking after this Department?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON): (a) Up to the end of January, 1961, 1370 'Shaktiman' trucks have been completed. The remainder of the trucks required for achieving the target are in production.

(b) Percentage of indigenous contents already achieved is 37 per cent; the balance was imported for the next series the deletion of foreign components is 49.2 per cent.

(c) Foreign exchange for the components imported has been sanctioned.

(d) Actual costs of the financial year 1959-60 are as under:—

(i) Complete with composite body—Rs. 37,828:34 each.

(ii) Complete with steel body—Rs. 37,368:81 each.

These costs include all factory charges on components attributable to the trucks. These also include the establishment charges of the Ordnance Factories Organisation as well as that of the Controllorate of Defence Accounts.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Does the cost compare with the assu-

rance that the Minister gave about what the cost of these trucks was likely to be when he undertook production of these trucks?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON: Yes.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: How many of these trucks are now in use and what is the experience? How have they been found in service?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON: I have said that 1370 trucks have been completed. When they are completed, they are delivered to the Army. I cannot say how many are actually on the roads. They are normally working. There has been no complaint whatsoever. Their reports are very good.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION MISSION ON COAL OUTPUT

*10. { SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY†
SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee on behalf of the Technical Co-operation Mission has submitted its report with regard to the raising of coal output in the collieries in India;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the recommendations; and

(c) whether Government have approved the recommendations of the Expert Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH).

(a) and (b) Yes; the report covers a wide ground and includes such aspects of the coal production programme in India as research, training of personnel, establishment of

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy.

washeries, provision of transport facilities, technical assistance, etc.

(c) The suggestions contained in the report are presently under examination.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if the targets laid down in the Second Plan with regard to the production of coal have been achieved and, if not, what is the shortfall?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am happy to inform the hon. House that the present rate of production touches the targets that had been set during the course of the Second Plan period. The present rate of production is such that if we multiply a month's production by twelve, it will give approximately the figure of 60 million tons which is the target production.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: If we have achieved the target in the Second Plan, what is the cause for shortage in coal supplies? Everywhere there is said to be shortage. Is it due to any defect in the distribution or due to transport difficulties?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: So far as coal supplies to the different parts of the country are concerned, certain priorities have been laid down, regard having had to the strain on the transport system. Essential users like the steel plants, power houses, cookeries, industries, etc., are being supplied almost their entire requirements but the over-all transport facilities are such that certain low priority users are not getting their full supplies.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: What has happened to the scheme of coal dumps that were said to be set up all over the country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If the points of receipts in the various parts of the country are fewer the same number of wagons can transport larger quantities. The scheme for the establishment of dumps is being examined in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Coal Controller made a statement in Ahmedabad making complaints against the Railway authorities and also stated certain other facts that gave rise to the situation with regard to the supply and distribution? May I know whether in this connection the Coal Controller had made any concrete proposals to the Railway authorities and taken up the matter with them and the others concerned?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have not seen the report of the Coal Controller's statement to which the hon. Member is referring but there is a constant consultation between the Coal Department, that is, the Wing of the Ministry dealing with coal including the Coal Controller, and the Railway Board as also the local General Manager.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I understand that the hon. Minister is in that particular Wing, if you take it that way and he should have known that when the Coal Controller or whatever he is called, I forget, Mr. Zaman went to Ahmedabad, he made a statement and the statement was flashed in some of the leading newspapers of India.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have already said that I have not seen the details of that statement but the fact remains that there is constant consultation between the Coal Controller and the Railway authorities and movement is organised in such a manner that whatever is the number of wagons that are available are used to the maximum extent.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Has the Minister seen the statement recently issued on behalf of the Railway Ministry that as far as wagons are concerned there is no scarcity, that wagons are there but coal is not available at the pitheads? May we know what is the position?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have seen the press report of the statement

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