

*353. [The questioner (Shri S. C. Deb) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2421 infra.]

FOREIGN TECHNICIANS EMPLOYED AT THE STEEL PLANTS

*354. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state the present number of Russian, British and German technicians working at the Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela Steel projects respectively?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (DR. B. GOPALA REDDI):

Bhilai	871
Durgapur	365
Rourkela	832

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know, Sir, for how long these foreign technicians who are working in these three Plants are going to stay there and whether in course of time all of them will be withdrawn or some of them will stay for a long time to come?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: Sir, they will all be going away as soon as their work is finished, and more specially, from November 1960 most of them will be going away.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether it is a fact that the Indian technicians are getting less wages than those drawn by the foreign technicians and due to that there was some trouble recently in Bhilai?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: Now, Sir, whatever they were getting in their own country is paid to them here also.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Why are these technicians who have got the same qualifications paid less than the foreign technicians?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: Sir, our technicians are paid according to our scales of pay and those who have been brought from some other countries are paid what they were getting in their own firms.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेगे कि इन टैक्निशियंस में २ हजार से ५ हजार रुपये तक की वेतन श्रेणी के कितने हैं और वे कितने वर्ष से कांट्रैक्ट पर हैं ?

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether any of the employees are compelled to pay something or contribute something to any of the political parties in India, and whether particularly the Russian technicians working in Bhilai are compelled to contribute to the Communist Party of India?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: Sir, we have no such information

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, the mode of payment to the Russian technicians for their work, whether they are paid their wages directly or through their Embassy?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: Sir, some of these experts are paid allowances here.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Whether directly or through their Embassy?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: I have no such information.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Russian technicians are not paid directly but they are paid through their Embassy and the Russian technicians who are working there actually receive less than what they are made to sign for in the wage bill?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: I have no information, Sir. Sir, I do not have

that information. It can be supplied if a separate question is put.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I would like to know whether there is any under-study arrangement whereby the Indian technicians will take over from these foreign experts.

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: Sir, quite a large number of them are being sent there and they are getting the necessary training there. As and when they take over, the other people will be withdrawn.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether there is any difference in the mode of payment as far as the workers of these three Plants are concerned? If there is any difference, what is that difference?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: It all depends upon the respective agreements that we have made with them or entered into with them. As far as Durgapur is concerned, there is a different system altogether, and in the case of Bhilai also it is different. It all depends upon the different agreements entered into with them, Sir.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether the Government will look into the matter and see that the Indian money that we are paying to these technicians is not diverted for use by any political party in India?

(No reply)

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are all suggesting that something is happening with regard to the wages paid to the Bhilai workers. They feel that they are diverted to the political parties in this country. That is what they have at the back of their mind, and they are trying to ask questions in a roundabout way. Well, if you have no answer, then say "No answer".

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Sir, this is a very important question for which I have given notice in the proper form. The hon. Minister concerned should have been present here with all this information. It is strange that the hon. Minister is not present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ansari, you wanted to ask something.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Sir, you have put the right question to him. He should reply to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am merely telling him what is at the back of your mind.

*355. [The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigim) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2421-22 infra.]

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO KERALA AGRARIAN RELATIONS BILL

*356. SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Agrarian Relations Bill has been assented to by the President; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS. (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): (a) No.

(b) The Bill was received from the State Government on 1st August 1959. Meanwhile clause (c) (ii) of the President's Proclamation dated 31st July, 1959, had suspended the operation of article 201 of the Constitution. With the revocation of the President's Proclamation on 22nd February, 1960, further action regarding this Bill in accordance with the usual procedure is under consideration.

SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: May I know, Sir, whether the members of the