

to stop letters and all that. I do not think it is at all necessary or desirable.

TAKING OVER OF THE MISMANAGED TEA PLANTATIONS IN ASSAM

•107. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sought the permission of the Government of India to take over the badly managed tea plantations in Assam;

(b) if so, how many estates are involved; and

(c) whether Government have considered the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : (a) to (c) The control of the tea industry vests in the Central Government. Some time back the Assam Government drew the attention of the Government of India to a few cases of closure or threatened closure of small tea estates in Assam either due to financial difficulties, neglect or mismanagement and suggested that the Central Government may consider the desirability of assuming powers similar to those contained in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for dealing with such cases. The question is still under examination.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know whether it is a fact that a large number of these plantations are refusing to give any wage increase to their workers?

SHRI N. KANUNGO; I do not know; I have no information on that point because the question relates to a particular legislation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government is aware that actually a Bill was proposed to be brought before the State Assembly saying that that measure had been necessitated due to the fact

that a large number of tea plantations, especially owned by the British, had refused to give any wage increase under the Government regulations?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I have no information about any Bill of the Assam Government. The question was about a particular legislation to be brought forward by the Central Government and that legislation is under consideration.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Before taking resort to this extreme step and considering the taking over of these gardens, what other measures have the Government taken for the rehabilitation of these gardens?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Various measures have been taken, the most important of which is that a Directorate of Development has been set up and it advises the estates on how to improve their management.

FRENCH ATOMIC TEST EXPLOSION IN SAHARA

*108. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Afro-Asian countries have requested the United Nations Secretary-General to summon a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to consider the French atomic test explosion in the Sahara and if so, which are those countries; and

(b) what is Government's attitude in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yemen requested on the 14th March the Secretary-General of the United Nations to summon a special session of the General Assembly to consider the French

Atomic Tests in the Sahara. Subsequently, the Secretary General sent out a circular telegram to Member States enquiring whether they concurred in the convening of a special session. After France had carried out the second test on the 1st April, 1960, the same countries addressed a further communication on the 4th April, 1960 to the Secretary General apprising him of the second test and emphasising the increased urgency of having a special session.

(b) The attitude of the Government to the testing of nuclear weapons is well known.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any decision has been received by the Government of India or by the signatories?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The last date is 14th April and when they have the concurrence of 42 members, a session can be called.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government of India have by now ascertained the extent of the radio-active contaminations in India as a result of the two tests conducted by the French?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir. We know from day to day. These are watched all over India and according to our information the radio-active content increased after the French atomic tests but it had not come anywhere what might be called the danger level.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of what the Prime Minister has just revealed and also because of our general stand against these tests, may I know whether the Government has indicated its views through the normal diplomatic channel to the Government of France in the matter?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir; we have not on this particular occasion. Of course, generally speaking our views have been indicated previously.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that there is a report in the Press that the Prime Minister might be meeting General de Gaulle, the French President, may I know whether he is contemplating to take up this issue for a discussion with him?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: General de Gaulle was good enough to invite me to meet him and so I hope to go from London in the course of an afternoon to Paris to meet him. As to what we shall discuss will depend on the circumstances.

**TAKING OVER OF BENGAL-NAGPUR
COTTON MILLS, RAJNANDGAON AND
KALYAN MILLS, INDORE**

*110. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government have intimated to the Government of India their readiness to take over, if necessary, the Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon and Kalyan Mills, Indore; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any action under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills,
Rajnandgaon

On the recommendation of the Investigation Committee and with the full knowledge of the Government of Madhya Pradesh the Government of India issued Directions to the Mills under Sec. 16 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 OR