

gone down and I think they are working to 40 or 45 per cent of their capacity. As it is we cannot say how long the recession will last. It is the view in American circles both of the economists and of the Government that the bottom of the recession is reached, and unless the recession deepens or it is prolonged we cannot say that it will have a pronounced effect on our economy. At present we can only say that it has not had any pronounced effect though some of our exports like those of manganese ore or some other may be declining. Still the impact is not very much.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Is it the hon. Minister's view that the country's economy is on an inflationary basis and consequently he expects a recession in this country also?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I am not called upon to confirm the opinion of the hon. Member. I am only saying that in India as it is, as I said, we have a developing economy. There is always a built-in inflationary situation here, but due to our policies we have controlled it and we are not alarmed by these recessionary impacts because there is already a cushion here.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: As tea is a key export commodity, may I enquire whether the American recession is having any effect on this commodity?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The tea export has declined a little bit, but we cannot relate it to the American recession, because our exports of tea to America are only 30 million pounds, which forms a very negligible part of our total tea exports. On the other hand, we export to the U. K. more than 400 million pounds. So, although there has been a little decline in the exports of tea, it cannot be related to the American recession.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Some sections inside the American Congress themselves feel that this recession is going to last for some time more. May

I know what is the basis for our own Government to think that this recession is not going to last and it is not going to affect our economy, in view of the fact that our trade, especially the foreign trade, is mostly linked with the capitalist countries?

DR. R. B. GOUR: The basis is complacency.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: These are all matters of opinion and opinions can differ.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After all, they have been very cautious. They say, 'so far', 'does not appear', 'pronounced effect'. So, there are three clauses here which help them a lot. Next question.

*93. [The questioner (Shrimati Pushpalata Das) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 842—844) infra.]

SHIFTING OF THE OFFICES OF THE INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

*94. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta offices of the Indian Bureau of Mines are proposed to be shifted from Calcutta; and

(b) if so, where they are proposed to be shifted and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The offices of the Bureau at Calcutta and Delhi are to be shifted to Nagpur because it is necessary in the interest of efficiency and administrative convenience that all of them should be located in one place. Moreover, it is necessary to relieve the congestion in Delhi where the question of accommodation has become very acute. Nagpur has been selected because of its central location and the fact that accommodation, adequate for the

Bureau's purpose is available in the New Secretariat building.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, that in shifting the Calcutta office to Nagpur, the location of various mines in the eastern zone is not being taken into consideration?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir. All these aspects of expert and technical investigations have been taken into consideration and it has been finally decided that the efficiency of the Indian Bureau of Mines will certainly increase if the various offices are located at one place.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: I could not quite follow how efficiency, by locating the Mines Bureau in Nagpur, will increase in preference to the areas where mining areas are abundantly situated, that is, in the eastern zone.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Indian Bureau of Mines is an administrative office and also it has to examine the various data which are obtained from the entire country. The mines are all dispersed throughout the country. Now, the eastern portion of the country also has got mines. So, Nagpur is better situated to have an overall assessment of the technical aspects, the administrative aspects and the mining aspects of India as a whole.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether there has been any representation by various mineral associations in eastern India not to shift the office from Calcutta to Nagpur?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am not aware of any representation from any mining association.

DR. R. B. GOUR: The point that Nagpur is geographically centrally situated is there. But yet there are not many offices there. So, there should be some other reasons for the shifting of the office. Moreover, may I know what are the likely effects on

the employees, their emoluments and working conditions by this shifting?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Well the main cause of shifting the office to a central place like Nagpur is to increase the efficiency and the administrative ability of the office to function in a much better way. Of course, whatever is possible will be done to protect the interests and the working conditions of the workers.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: With the shifting of the Bureau of Mines to Nagpur can we expect that the central parts of India, which were neglected by the Geological Survey of India, would be paid better attention?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not think that the interests of the central parts of India were ignored by the Geological Survey of India.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know what is the general policy of the Government regarding the dispersal of offices from one place to various places?

DR. R. B. GOUR: There is no general policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not become Minister. Order, order.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We always take into consideration the efficiency and the working capacity of the Central offices. And obviously it is the policy of the Government to see that the offices function well and they are located in such a way that our policy of dispersal is discouraged. *not*

EMPLOYEES ADMITTED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE PROVIDENT FUNDS

*95. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees who have so far been admitted to the benefit of the various provident funds