

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not quite understand this question, Sir. Purchased from whom? Purchased by Government? I do not know, Sir, but these things are normally being done by the Government directly. May be some small transactions may be taking place for examination or something like that. Anyhow I do not know. So far as this particular question is concerned, we have found these monazite sands there and this investigation is taking place. We really, for the present, do not require them in the sense that we have plenty in Travancore, but we want to know exactly how much is there and then decide how to use it. I may say that the work is chiefly being done by the students of the university there who have been good at this work.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether Government have any information that Bihar has such deposits in plenty?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: So far as I know, Bihar has no sea coast.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether such deposits are in Bihar?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There are no monazite sands in Bihar so far as I know, but some uranium has been found there. Thus far not in very large quantities but some has been found.

HOUSES CONSTRUCTED FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

*39. **SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of houses constructed for the handloom weavers during the First Plan Period?

THE MINISTER FOR CONSUMER INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): The number of houses constructed for handloom weavers during the First Plan period for which Government have given assistance is 97.

DISTRIBUTION OF RAW SILK IMPORTED IN 1955-56

*40. **SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:** Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state how the quantity of raw silk imported into the country during the year 1955-56 was distributed among the various States?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

*41. [*Postponed to the 6th August 1956.*]

*42. [*For answer, vide col. 154 infra.*]

*43. [*The questioner Shrimati Violet Alva was absent. For answer, vide col. 157 infra.*]

*44. [*The questioner (Shri Maheswar Naik) was absent. For answer vide cols. 157-58 infra.*]

REVISION OF COAL PRICES

*45. **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state the effect the revision of coal prices by Government has had on the masses, and what benefits accrue thereby to the coal miners?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): An increase in the prices of coal became necessary because of the benefits by way of increased emoluments and additional concessions granted to the miners by the award of the All India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes). A list of the principal benefits accruing to the miners under this award is placed on the Table of the House. It is the Tribunal's award which has benefited the coal workers and not the increase in the price of coal, though the latter is the direct consequence of the award itself.

The upward revision of coal prices cannot be said to have had any material effect on the masses, except that in large cities where soft coke is used as domestic fuel, the price of soft coke has been increased by annas two to annas three per maund.

List of principal benefits accruing to the miners under the award of the All India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes).

(1) Increase in basic wages.—The tribunal has sanctioned according to their own calculations, an average increase of about 40 per cent. in the wages of the miners. The percentage of increase varies according to the category of the worker. A minimum wage

of Rs. 69/1 per month for 26 working days has been laid down for the lowest category of male worker.

(2) An additional allowance of 12½ per cent. of the basic pay has been granted to the under-ground workers.

(3) The existing basic wage for lead and lift has been increased by 33 1/3 per cent.

(4) The rate of dearness allowance has been increased from 100 per cent. to 150 per cent. in M.P., V.P., Hyderabad, Orissa and Assam.

(5) The workmen will be eligible for one return Railway fare when proceeding on leave.

(6) All manual workers whose total emoluments are less than Rs. 100 will be supplied by the employer with a pair of footwear, two shorts and two shirts at a concessional rate of 50 per cent. once a year. This concession will be effective from May 1958.

(7) All Workers will be entitled to a maximum of 7 festival holidays per annum.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if the Government has worked out the proper increase in the cost of production of iron and steel and cement and ceramics as a result of the increased price of coal and if so what is the estimated increase?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is a question which the Commerce and industry Ministry can properly answer. Some increase is bound to take place but the exact amount of increase has not yet been worked out.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if before revising coal prices the Government consulted the representatives of both the coal workers and the consumers or only the representatives of coal workers were consulted?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: For what?

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: I would like to know if both the representatives of coal workers and consumers were consulted before this increase in prices was brought about or were only the representatives of coal workers consulted?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have already stated that the increase flowed from the implementation of the decision of the tribunal. So I do not know now consumers could help; because consumers would say that the price should not be increased but the industry cannot bear that additional burden.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if it is a fact that higher prices for coal were fixed only on the representation of mineowners without taking into consideration the views of the workers? I want this just as a point of information.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have no information about those details.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know if the Government have examined whether the increased emoluments consequent on the tribunal's award could not have been met by the companies from out of their profits?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That was the tentative conclusion, that it could not be met and that some increase was inevitable.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the Government have accepted the implied principle that increases of emoluments in such cases where increased emoluments are sanctioned will go to add up the selling price of commodities?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Each case will be examined on its own merits.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Is it not a fact that the award of the tribunal was in favour of the employees because the profits permitted, and the employers had to pass them on as increased wages to the employees?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am afraid I cannot go into all what happened before the tribunal. The award is there; that has been duly published and it is for the hon. Member to go through that and to form any opinion that he would like.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Is it not a fact that trade union representatives have said that the price increase is not necessary

and that proper investigation is required into the managerial deficiencies and other things ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Was the Government also represented before the tribunal, because many Ministries like the Railways etc., are also concerned because they are great consumers? Was the Government point of view represented before the tribunal?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The usual procedure of representation by relevant parties was adopted. I do not know whether each Ministry was represented or not. It is not necessary that each Ministry should be represented separately.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government fully satisfied that a rise of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per ton was necessary as many of the coal mine owners did not submit their accounts and they did not come for cross-examination at that time ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not know what answer the hon. lady Member would expect me to give. We would not agree to the increase unless we were satisfied.

EXPLOSION IN BHAKRA DAM MAGAZINE

*46. **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the damage caused to property and life due to the recent explosion in Bhakra Dam Magazine; and

(b) what was the cause of the explosion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Gelignite worth about Rs. 2,81,000 and magazine building costing about Rs. 25,000 were destroyed. There was no loss of life.

(b) The matter is under investigation.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if the committee of three engineers appointed to enquire into the accident has submitted its report and if so may I know if the Government will place that report on the Table of the House?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not think that any committee of engineers has been appointed for this purpose. The investigation is being done by the police, the inspector of Explosives and others.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if it is a fact that, as suggested in some of the papers, the explosion is due to automatic combustion? Is there any validity in that?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: We are actually investigating into the cause of the fire. We have not yet received the detailed report as to whether this was an accident or whether it was due to automatic combustion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is there only one magazine in the Bhakra Dam project for keeping explosives or are there a number of magazines ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There is this magazine of course. Of course it is being guarded and all precautions are taken.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What I want to know is whether there is only this one magazine for keeping explosives or whether there are other magazines also.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: To my knowledge I think this is the only one.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if any compensation has been paid to persons injured in this explosion?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There was no loss of life and nobody was injured.

सरकार द्वारा चलाये जाने वाले होस्टल

*४७. श्री किशोरी राम : क्या निर्माण, आवास तथा संभरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में उन सरकारी होस्टलों की संख्या कितनी है जिनमें ठेके के आधार पर खाने पीने का प्रबन्ध है; और

(ख) क्या इन ठेकों के लिये प्रतिवर्ष कोई टेंडर मांगे जाते हैं, यदि नहीं तो क्यों ?