

before you. You say that you may not follow it necessarily. I wanted to know whether you have examined this particular question and how you intend to proceed in this matter.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have examined this question and the manner in which I intend to proceed I have already indicated.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, the hon. Minister said that the peculiar nature of the works does not make it possible for following the code of audit rigidly. May I know, Sir, what is the peculiar nature of the work?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: So far as the code is concerned, that covers a number of cases, apart from the Public Works Department. This is an internal administrative audit. The nature of the work being of an engineering nature, all the rules of that code will not necessarily apply.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it contended that there is no audit....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the contention.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it suggested that in works relating to engineering, like P. W. D. works, there is no audit? May I know, Sir, what codes are followed in these works?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The question was as to what is going to be the set-up of this internal administrative audit that is going to be introduced. At the moment there is no internal administrative audit. The normal rules of audit do apply. And the question was whether in the new set-up the same code will apply in its rigidity and the reply I have already indicated.

ENGINEERING CAPACITY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

*348. **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations have so far been made to Government by the Engineering Industries Capacity Committee; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). The Committee has been asked to survey the Engineering Industries with a view to advising Government regarding utilisation of existing capacity and also for purposes of expansion wherever it is possible. The Committee is not expected to submit a report in the conventional form, but it gives its impression and advice to Government on specific problems which are referred to it from time to time.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if any interim report or suggestion has been issued by this Committee?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, it did not submit a final report; it made only an interim report. It is a continuous and recurring process. It has given its views once or twice till now, and it is supposed to be a committee with continued sittings. The problems which are discussed from time to time are relevant to its terms of reference. The views of the Committee will be given from time to time.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, what is the amount spent on the Committee?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know the terms of reference of this Committee, and, if any date was stipulated, by which date the report would be submitted?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Regarding the latter half of the question, I would refer my hon. friend to the earlier part of my reply. Regarding the

first part of the question, the Committee met on 12th June 1953 and they framed the following terms of reference: (1) to survey and determine the extent of idle capacity that exists in the engineering industry and to suggest to Government steps that should be taken to utilise effectively their capacity; (2) to assess the possibilities of manufacturing within the country engineering products that are at present being imported.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, on which industries the Committee have given their views?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: To start with, the Committee constituted panels for the following five industries: structural industry, machine tool industry, textile machinery industry, including jute, silk and rayon; foundry industry and die making industry, and the last committee has since been wound up.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How is it, Sir, that the Government itself did not give any terms of reference to the Committee?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, we indicated in a general way the purpose for which that Committee was set up. To be more precise, they have taken up these questions, but it is conceivable that there will be other questions also, and later on, the Committee might find itself in a position to take up further questions.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that the Committee will be in existence until the Government terminates it?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, that is obvious.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is there no period fixed for it?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No period at the present moment is fixed for it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The hon. Minister said that it was a continuing process. Can we take it that the Committee will not make any recommendations at all?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir, that is not the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Problems are referred and solutions are suggested.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: *Ad infinitum*?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course, in a growing country.

UTILIZATION OF THORIUM IN INDUSTRY

*349. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigations have been conducted into the possible utilization of Thorium as a source of Atomic Energy in Industry; and

(b) if so, what is the result of such investigations?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: May I ask if there is any research going on for the utilisation of this atomic energy for medical purposes?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: To some extent, research is going on. But atomic energy is not available in India for that purpose yet. The preliminary stages of research, however, are going on. As regards the hon. Member's original question, I may point out that thorium as such is not used as a fissile material. Thorium is sometimes used to fort/uranium, which in its turn, may be