

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In view of what the hon. Minister has stated, has he appointed any committee to find out whether they can produce other things?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have not had any expert advice taken.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Then could I know as to how they satisfied themselves?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have fairly good statistics about the textile producing units in the country, and on the basis of the information that we have, we were satisfied—our technical advisers were satisfied—that these mills could switch over to other varieties of cloth.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the reasons that made the Government give that concession only to Bengal and not to other parts?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Because to a larger extent the requests were from them and we considered them on merits.

SHRI B. RATH: Out of those to whom the relaxation has been permitted, how many are refugees?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I find that one of them is a refugee, but I would like to find out further about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India to see that the Political Conference on Korea is convened before the 22nd January 1954, the date on which the prisoners of war in the custody of Indian Forces are to be released?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): The question of convening the Political Conference is being considered at a preparatory conference which is being held now at Panmunjon in Korea. The Government of India is not represented in that conference but is interested in the holding of the Political Conference as early as possible. This is necessary, in their opinion, both from the larger point of view of peace in the Far East and because the Conference has to deal with such prisoners of war as may be left over after the period of explanations is over. The Government, therefore, hopes that an early decision will be arrived at about the holding of this Conference. Government is not in a position to take any other steps in this matter apart from expressing an opinion.

It is possible that this question might be raised in the U.N. Assembly, if this is considered necessary.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, taking the past experience of the negotiations between the Northern Command and the Southern Command in Korea that they did not bear fruit early, is it not necessary that Government take immediate steps so that we will not be in a difficult position on January 22?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not know what steps the hon. Member has in mind except steps to state what we might do under certain sets of circumstances. Undoubtedly, we have to be clear in our mind—and it will be right that others concerned should also know that—that we should not wait till the last moment. It would not be very helpful for me to say categorically what under a certain set of circumstances we may do by a certain date.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: In view of the fact that provisionally the U.N.O. is to adjourn on the 8th December, is it not necessary for the Government of India to move at least the U.N.O. to take up this question?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have said that the question might be taken up in the United Nations Assembly. I rather doubt if this is going to happen, because I believe that the United Nations Assembly is only going to sit for another five or six days before it adjourns. But, it is likely that it might meet in an emergency session later. Probably, I imagine even in the course of these five or six days, a reference might be made in the United Nations Assembly.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: In case the Conference is not going to meet, does it automatically mean that the prisoners of war are entitled for release as civilians from the custody of the Custodian force or will they be returned to the original Command from whom we have taken possession of them?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: This is a matter of interpretation and opinion and two rather contrary opinions and interpretations have been made. Apart from coming to any definite opinion on the subject, it seems to us that if the Political Conference does not meet, the basic part of the Agreement will not take place. The Agreement itself fails in that respect and, therefore, the right course would be for the matter to be considered by the two parties under the Agreement.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If the two parties are not going to come to any agreement, what is actually our position by the 22nd of January?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I would rather not express any opinion because there are various alternative positions. I do not see why we should commit ourselves as to what we should do in future.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that the delay in giving explanations is due to the existence of organised American and Syngman Rhee agents, terrorising prisoners not to go out of the compound and by

segregating them, and thus holding up the explanations and becoming a problem?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think you should answer that.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, the hon. the Prime Minister said that he would not like to commit himself to any definite opinion as to what exactly our position would be on January 22, 1954, if the Political Conference did not take place. But, may I know if the Government have decided as to what it should do if such and such things happen or do not happen?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have said the Government of India thinks that the matter should be referred, not on the 22nd January but much earlier to the two Commands. Now, if the Commands bring about some new agreements which solves this difficulty, well and good; if, even then, they disagree, well, then, either the United Nations can help somewhat—the Assembly, I mean,—or else, we shall have to come to our decision as to what we should do in the circumstances.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Would it be true to say that a number of political parties in the U.N., headed by the United States, dislike the idea of having the Political Conference in Delhi because the cold war that started in the West would end in Delhi?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not a relevant question.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the House have an opportunity before it disperses to know the opinion of the Government or the decision of the Government in this regard, because January 22 is very fast approaching?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: This House?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Or both the Houses of Parliament.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think so; it would be entirely right.

PROF. G. RANGA: What would be the position of the troops? Are they to come back after the 22nd of January or would it be necessary for us to keep them there if by any chance there is no agreement?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is no intention of keeping our forces there indefinitely.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Well, Sir, the hon. the Prime Minister referred to peace in the Far East which, he thinks, would be nearer. May I know what he means by "peace in the Far East"—cease fire in Korea or something larger than that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are concerned about the Korean question.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Cease fire is already there; it means something more than that.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know what that "something more" is? I would like to know from the hon. the Prime Minister if he thinks that if the Political Conference meets, peace in the Far East will be achieved?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The Political Conference is meeting to consider certain problems in dispute. The first step for the Conference is to meet; the second is to consider those problems. If it solves this problem, to that extent it is nearer to peace; if it solves all, then there will be complete peace.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ENQUIRY AGAINST EX-ENGINEER

*139. SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry is being held against Shri E. M. B. Ghosh, ex-Engineer of "A" Division, New Delhi;

(b) what are the allegations for which the enquiry is being held; and

(c) who is conducting the enquiry?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, departmentally.

(b) The allegations are that Shri Ghosh committed certain irregularities when he was in charge of the Sind Central Division, Karachi, as Executive Engineer, before the partition of the country.

(c) The Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department.

REDEMPTION OF MORTGAGED EVACUEE PROPERTY

*153. SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether Government have redeemed any property mortgaged by Muslims in Himachal Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh before their evacuation to Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI J. K. BHONSLE): The information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

SUSPENSION OF WORK IN MATCH FACTORY

*155. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Kurla Match Works and Mysore Match Works have suspended production indefinitely?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Government have no information regarding Kurla Match Works. Messrs. Mysore Match Company, Shimoga, have temporarily suspended production since July 1953.