

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: No departmental action has been taken so far. They have only been suspended and detailed examination of the cases of those suspended workers will be resumed when the evidence has been recorded by the police.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is not suspension a departmental action, Sir?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: These people, according to the Superintendent and others, were involved in the disturbances on 22nd July and took a prominent part. Moreover they were identified by three or four persons in the identification parade, but because the number was large, the police prosecuted only those who were identified by five persons and they let off the others. They had been originally arrested and they were suspended on arrest. But they have been released subsequently by the police, probably to reduce the number. We will take up their cases after the evidence in the case of those who are in jail has been recorded.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that 33 persons were released immediately after they were arrested on the ground that there was no evidence against them?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, 68 persons were arrested by the police. We had nothing to do with it. They subsequently released 35 persons. 33 persons remained in jail out of whom 12 were released subsequently because they were not identified by five persons, but were identified only by three or four persons. The persons suspended at present are those 12 workers.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, there are some important questions which I have to ask and I may be allowed some more questions.

Is my hon. friend aware that the Superintendent of this factory is re-

fusing to interview the Secretary of the Union on the ground that he is under suspension and that he is addressing his reply to the letters sent to him by the Union to the Joint Secretary and styling him as Acting Secretary?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I do not know; but when I went to Jabalpur, I met the Secretary all right in the presence of the Superintendent, the Director-General, Ordnance Factories, and the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence. If there is any such thing, I will ask the Superintendent to see that he deals with the thing properly.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How is it that the Superintendent arrogates to himself the power to appoint another Secretary to a recognised Union? This thing should be taken notice of.

SMUGGLING OF GOLD FROM INDIA TO CEYLON

*402. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of smuggling of gold from India to Ceylon have been detected; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in affirmative, how many persons have been apprehended and what action has been taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) and (b). During 1953 only one case of attempted smuggling of gold, by a woman passenger, was detected. The gold was seized and the case is under adjudication by the Collector under the Sea Customs Act.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Can we know what was the quantity of gold involved in this particular case?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: It was 10 tolas and 9 grains, valued at Rs. 897.