

steam coal, I think arrangements can be made to produce enough steam coal for our requirements.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The figures given in the statement refer to steam coal. Has the hon. Minister received any representation from the coal owners that the pegging arrangements for A and B grades are not justified in view of the low stock of coal at the pit-heads for the requirements of the country?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That is just the question he has been aiming at, if I understand him aright. I think the pegging arrangements that have been made have been made after elaborate and careful examination of the entire position. If there is any grievance or complaint on the part of any owner, it will also be considered by the Coal Commissioner and the Coal Board and necessary redress given, if there is any basis for the complaint.

ARMY REINFORCEMENTS POSTED IN MAHE BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

*212. **SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government have sent any Army re-inforcements to Mahe after the ban on traffic of goods between Mahe and Indian territory was imposed by the Indian Customs authorities; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any protest against this action of the French authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). No. It was reported that about 30 sepoys were sent to Mahe from Pondicherry for normal police work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishna Menon had better watch carefully what Mr. Imbichibava says in Malayalam. Mrs. Lakshmi Menon is not here to give us a translation.

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SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: (*English translation of the question put in Malayalam*): Is it a fact that on the 14th August the over-bridge at R. C. No. 14 was occupied by the French Police and, if so, have Government taken any steps to arrest them; if no steps have been taken, why not?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: It is quite a different matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manjuran was arrested. Why not arrest the other fellows?

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it not a fact that our territory has been trespassed upon by the French Police?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The question referred to the movement of troops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Exactly. The French Police came and occupied our territory.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: They are still there.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: No, Sir.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: There are paper reports to that effect.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: This has been published in the Malayalam papers with photographs of the troops. If the hon. Minister wants, I will place a copy on the Table of the House.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: There is a Short Notice Question in the other House to which I am replying after this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you reply here?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: In the course of repair works, the French Police had trespassed to our side. On information we asked the Malabar Special Constabulary to take up position, and the French Police immediately withdrew.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: If it was only for repair work. I ask the hon. Minister what was the necessity for our Police being stationed opposite to them? My contention is that they had trespassed upon our territory. They are still there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will take necessary action.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: They are not there.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The question really is whether such incidents are taking place from the French side. How many such incidents have taken place and what has the Government of India been doing in this matter? That is the main point.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not understand the question as to how many such incidents have taken place. This is one incident referred to. If there are other incidents, will the hon. Member kindly bring them to our notice?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Was there not an incident in 1949?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That was four years ago. I must look up the papers. I cannot answer off-hand.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Is it not a fact that this tension between the administration in Mahe and our Government has been going on for a long time?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: This is likely to go on till Mahe forms part of Indian territory.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Have Government taken any steps to make it part of our territory?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That is a different question, Sir.

COLLECTION OF TOLL BY THE FRENCH MAHE AUTHORITIES FROM INDIANS

*213. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the French Mahe Authorities

have collected a large amount of money as toll from the owners of Indian vehicles passing through the French Mahe territory;

(b) if so, what is the approximate amount thus collected by the French Mahe authorities annually; and

(c) whether there is any proposal or scheme to open a new road from Badagara to Tellicherry through Indian territory by-passing French Mahe with a view to avoid paying heavy amounts as toll to the French authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 30,000 approximately.

(c) The matter is under examination.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA (*English translation of what was said in Malayalam*): I could not follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is under consideration.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA (*English translation of the question put in Malayalam*): What was the figure mentioned?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Rs. 30,000.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA (*English translation of the question put in Malayalam*): May I know whether the Government has received any representation from the people with regard to the construction of the road mentioned in the question?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: There has been a representation from the people about the collection of this toll.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: The question is whether there is any representation regarding the construction of a road from Badagara to Tellicherry through Indian territory, without going into French territory.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Yes, Sir. This is under our active consideration