

Progress however was not according to schedule on account of some unforeseen circumstances. In October 1951 the Consulting Engineer of the project who was supervising and co-ordinating the project and also supplying civil engineering drawings died. Fresh arrangements were subsequently made with an English firm for the preparation of drawings. May I read the statement? It is a long one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Usual delays or anything unusual?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Unusual delay.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What is the estimated production of the Superphosphate Factory that is going to be installed?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: About 200 tons.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What is the country's requirement of superphosphate annually?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Present consumption of superphosphate is of the order of 60,000 tons per annum.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: On a point of information. May I know whether the State Government undertakings are in charge of the Commerce Ministry and only national undertakings are in charge of the Production Ministry? What is the division?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: In fact every production unit comes under the control of the Commerce and Industry Ministry so far as its overall control of production in the country is concerned. The Production Ministry is the administrative Ministry in respect of industries which it owns.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am not quite sure about it.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Questions regarding the nationalised industries are

being answered by the Production Ministry. In this particular case I thought that because it was a Government undertaking it was to be answered by the Production Ministry; but it has been transferred to the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: So far as State undertakings are concerned, between State that is the Centre and State that is a State we have got to make a difference. State undertakings belonging to the Centre come under the Production Ministry. State undertakings of a State are treated in the same way as a private unit.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: In view of the fact that the reasons for this delay are rather lengthy, will the hon. Minister be pleased to lay the statement on the Table?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were reading a statement and I asked you to stop. He asks whether that statement could be laid on the Table.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, it will be laid on the Table.

REASONS FOR DELAY IN BROADCASTING
DR. S. P. MOOKERJEE'S DEATH FROM
A.I.R.

*289. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in broadcasting the news of Dr. S. P. Mookerjee's death in detention in Kashmir from the All India Radio?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): There was no avoidable delay in broadcasting the news. An incomplete news agency flash about the demise of Dr. S. P. Mookerjee was received by A.I.R. at 7-58 A.M. and official confirmation was available after a lot of time, a few minutes before 9 A.M. The next available Home News service being at 12-50 P.M., the news could not be broadcast in an earlier bulletin.

9 A.M.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister, in view of the widespread discontent over this incident, promised to investigate into this matter nearly two months ago?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I have made no such promise regarding investigation into the delay in giving this news.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The hon. Minister said that the A.I.R. received the information at 7-58 A.M. From whom did they get the information?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: It was an incomplete message sent by the P.T.I. from Srinagar.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: With regard to the death of Dr. S. P. Mookerjee it was an incomplete message? In what sense was it incomplete?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: It was incomplete in the sense that somewhere a particular person has passed away, not knowing under what circumstances, of what disease and at exactly what time—that is considered an incomplete message.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDI: Have the A.I.R. their own correspondent in Srinagar?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Yes. Our correspondent was there and we tried to get confirmation from him and also from the State Government in view of the fact that Dr. S. P. Mookerjee was under detention by the State Government and no news of his being very gravely ill had been received till then.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The hon. Minister stated that the news was confirmed at 9 A.M. and the next available Home News service was only at 12-50 P.M. Was there any overseas news service between 9 A.M. and 12-50 P.M.; and, if so, was it broadcast overseas?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I would require notice for giving a reply about the Overseas service.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Did he enquire why their correspondent did not send a clear message till 9 A.M. while the P.T.I. correspondent sent it by 7-58 A.M.?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: We did make enquiries. The difficulty was that the telephone line between Delhi and Srinagar was giving trouble. It was down for 2 to 3 hours. They were not able to contact us. Sometimes it went on and sometimes it went off.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Did he enquire how the P.T.I. got their message through?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the P.T.I. could send the message through the telephone, why was not the A.I.R. correspondent able to do it? That is the question.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: As I said, it was a flash message. The P.T.I. also did not get any complete message. About two lines came that Dr. S. P. Mookerjee had passed away. The message we got was that "there is a message in Delhi that Dr. S. P. Mookerjee has passed away". Not even the time of the passing away was given.

DR. B. C. GHOSE: From whom did you get it?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: We got it from the P.T.I., Delhi. We don't get it direct.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is the broadcasting station in Srinagar under the control of the Central Government?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: No.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Was any instruction given that this incomplete information should not be published?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: We are not in the habit of publicizing unconfirmed messages which have to be contradicted later on.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: What is the confirmation that is generally insisted on?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: It is very difficult to say exactly what sort of confirmation is insisted upon. It all depends on every specific incident.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Could not the Kashmir Government be contacted by wireless?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: If my hon. friend will excuse me, that is not a question to be put to All India Radio because its transmitters cannot be used to contact people on wireless.

EXPORT OF CONDUIT PIPES

*290. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of goods made of iron and steel from India is being encouraged;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a large demand for Indian conduit pipes in the Asiatic countries; and

(c) whether the export of conduit pipes is permitted and if not, why not?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Indian Conduit Pipes (electrical) are not allowed for export due to shortage of steel sheets. The question of liberalising export of this item is, however, being examined.

I should like to add that Government are making further enquiries into this question.

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SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether we are self-sufficient in the matter of conduit pipes?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, in respect of certain types we are.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are we exporting any manufactured steel products and may I know whether the export trade in such products is on the increase?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir; and I am happy to say that this trade is on the increase. For 1950-51 the export was about 8,000 tons valued at about Rs. 47 lakhs and for 1952-53 the quantity was about 18,000 tons valued at Rs. 105 lakhs.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: How does the hon. Minister then reconcile these two statements of his? He says the export trade in steel products is on the increase; and at the same time he has said they are not allowing the export of conduit pipes because of shortage here. Why this discrimination between other manufactured items and this particular item?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The plates we require for conduit pipes are in short supply; but in the other types of steel we are not relatively in short supply, and we allow exports.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I could not follow the answer, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The particular type of steel which is necessary for conduit pipes, we are not having in sufficient quantities, but the other types we have. That is the answer.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: In the answer the Minister has said that Government have no information whether there is a demand for Indian conduit pipes in the outside markets or not. Have not Government received certain representations from certain firms to the effect that they have in their hands orders from several Asian countries for Indian conduit pipes?