

SHRI A. C. GUHA: If the hon. Member asks for names of specific concerns....

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I don't want the names of specific concerns, but whether it is electrical lamp industry, etc

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I have not got the break-up on that basis at present.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are Government aware of the various complaints which have been made from time to time by representatives of the Indian Chambers of Commerce that foreign capital has been allowed to be invested in protected industries in a manner detrimental to our indigenous industries?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I am really amused to learn that the hon. Member has started taking all the contentions of the Indian industries at their face value.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I am asking for information from the hon. Minister.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is he aware of the fact that the soap manufacturers have pointed out that 80 per cent. of their production capacity is idle because of competition by big foreign firms in India?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I have not got the figures with me but from my personal knowledge I can say that the foreign soap manufacturer has been in India long before this period mentioned here. It is not a new investment that the hon. Member might have referred to.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the hon. Minister aware that Government are giving or propose to give permission to reorganize their equipment, which will mean additional capacity?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: This question had better be directed to the Industry Ministry.

61 C.S.D.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if Government are satisfied that there was necessity for importing foreign capital for trading also and not for industries only.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I think that is a matter of policy and I can only refer to the foreign capital policy of the Government of India.

#### DEMONSTRATION BY THE WORKERS OF THE ORDNANCE FACTORY AT KHAMARIA IN JUBBULPORE

\*88. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demonstration by the workers of the Khamaria Ordnance Factory at Jubbulpore took place on the 23rd July 1953 in protest against the suspicious death of a woman labourer who was pregnant;

(b) whether the workers complained against the resident medical officer of the dispensary about his lack of care for the woman labourer;

(c) whether it is a fact that subsequent to this demonstration, 75 workers of the factory were arrested and manhandled;

(d) what assurances were given by the superintendent of the factory to the workers; and

(e) whether Government propose to institute an enquiry into the affair?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) Yes. The incident occurred on the 22nd of July 1953. It was more than a demonstration and developed into a riot.

(b) There was a general complaint against the medical staff of the factory hospital and not particularly against the resident medical officer.

(c) As a result of the riot, 68 persons were arrested by the police of whom 35 were subsequently released.

(d) An investigation into the conduct of the medical staff was promised.

(e) An enquiry into the conduct of the hospital staff by 3 medical men has already been conducted. It shows that the complaint was ill-founded.

**SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Is it a fact that the woman who died was in the hospital and her husband was asked to get some medicine from a distant place in the town and as a result of the delay caused, the woman died?

9 A.M.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The question is: Is it a fact, Sir, that the woman who died was in the hospital and she died on account of the delay in getting medicine which the husband was asked to procure from a distant place?

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA:** Sir, a board of three doctors who investigated into this complaint have submitted a report and they say that medicine was available in the hospital itself. So this is not correct.

**SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Is it a fact that five children died on the same day in the same hospital?

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA:** No, it is not correct. An accusation has been made that 24 children died in two months: but on enquiry we found that out of about 360 children born in the factory hospital, 24 had died in two years.

**SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** When there were misgivings in the minds of the workers, particularly owing to the death of the woman, was it not the duty of the officers concerned to meet them and allay their misgivings rather than make a lathi charge?

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA:** Sir, two days after the death of the woman in the hospital, a crowd collected at the office of the superintendent and demanded that they wanted to represent their grievances to the superintendent. The superintendent immediately informed the workers that a deputation could come and discuss matters to convince each other about the facts. But the workers refused to do so, instead they shouted that the medical officers in the hospital should immediately be dismissed. The superintendent said he could meet their representatives and could not talk to a crowd of several thousands of people. That is all.

**SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA:** Sir, the Minister said that the medicines concerned were available in the hospital. We are not disputing the fact whether they were available in the hospital or not. Our question is whether, though the medicines were available in the hospital, the officers concerned, who were on duty, did not think it proper to give the medicine to the woman concerned, but asked her husband to go and fetch it. That is the allegation to which Government should say "yes" or "no".

**SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI:** This is about a certain medicine which was needed for the next day. The doctor in his wisdom felt that though he could go on for the day, he might be short of the medicine for the next day. So he suggested to the husband of the woman to go to the market and get the medicine for the next day. In the meantime, she was getting the medicine.

**SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA:** Is it not the fact that she was not getting the medicine necessary and for which the husband had to go out, that no such medicine was given on that particular day to that particular patient?

**SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI:** This matter was investigated by an independent board after this allegation was

made. The Board consisted of Lt.-Col. N. G. Latey, Medical Officer in-charge of the Ordnance Factory Hospital, Kirkee, Shri J. R. Sen, D.G.O. F. Hd. Quarters, Calcutta, and Capt. B. N. Chatterjee, Medical Officer in-charge of the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur. They were appointed by the Ministry to look into this matter and investigate it and report, when Shri Gopalan made the representation in this connection. I may inform the hon. Member that they said that in the hospital competent service was rendered, that all medical help was available and there was no lack of medicines.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: From the statement which the hon. Minister just now made on the floor of the House it is seen that though medicines were available, in view of the doctor's fear that a medicine, if served on that particular day to that particular woman, would run short, that they may go without any such medicine for the next day, to prevent such a contingency, he asked the husband of the woman to go out and purchase it from outside, instead of themselves first administering to her this medicine which was available in the hospital and themselves going to the market and purchasing it for the next day. That is the statement which the Minister himself made just now. If that be so, is it not a serious matter which cannot be washed off like this? You are not questioned about the competence of the doctors but about the negligence of the doctors and as such we want Government to take this matter seriously.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: It was not any rare medicine or anything like that. I believe it was glucose and it was suggested that he might get it for the next day, because the woman was getting weak.

DR. R. B. GOUR: They did not have glucose in the hospital? That seems to be a most scandalous thing.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It is much more serious then, if an ordinary medicine like glucose was not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I gather is that glucose was administered on that day.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But to get the supply for the next day, the husband was asked to go. So there is no question of non-administration of glucose on that day.

DR. R. B. GOUR: That is not the point.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: All the medicine that was needed was being injected and was given; but the doctor in his wisdom felt that perhaps for the next day, he might fall short of certain things and he asked the person to fetch it from outside.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is Government sure that glucose was administered to the woman? Does the Government stand by it? I would like to know what the expert doctors said about that, whether glucose was administered to her or not. I do not want to know about any other medicine. If the man was asked to fetch glucose from outside, I would like to know whether glucose was administered to the woman or not.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: I have not got definite information. The doctors' report is that no medicine was wanting in the hospital; but what was wanted for the next day, as a matter of precaution, the relative was asked to get for the next day's use.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It is a very, very serious state of affairs, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. This is not a debate.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: But this is a scandalous state of affairs.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Only one question more, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only two minutes more and I have called the next question

#### UTILISATION OF STERLING BALANCES

\*89. SHRI V. K. DIJAGE: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government utilized less than half of the sterling releases in 1951-52 and did not at all draw upon the scheduled quota in 1952-53; if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): It is true that the amount of sterling transferred from blocked account for current use was £15 million in 1951-52 (July-June) and that no transfers were made in 1952-53. Owing to improvement in our external payments position, it was not found necessary to draw on the blocked balances to the extent stipulated in the Financial Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Is it a fact that in 1947 the agreement that we reached with the British Government was to the effect that we would draw about £35 million every year from 1951 onwards, and then, is it also not a fact that the amount that we are going to draw is not to meet the balance of payments but to meet the needs of our development programme? If that is so, how does the hon. Minister justify the statement that because the balance of payments position was favourable; we did not draw any amount? Does it mean that we had no development programme and so did not draw any amount?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Perhaps there is confusion in the mind of the hon. Member. Whatever has to be imported for our development programme also is included in the balance of pay-

ments and therefore what I have stated is absolutely correct.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Does the hon. Minister mean that neither the State Government nor the Central Government need any more money for their development programmes?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: This complicated mechanism has to be understood. It is a question of the balance of payments and if the balance of payment is not favourable to us, and we want to withdraw, then we withdraw. I say again that, if the balance of payments is favourable, more funds come really to be accumulated in the current fund and from that we can draw whenever necessary. It is not as if anything lapses. We can draw whenever we want, whenever the balance of payments is unfavourable.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Whatever amount is left with the United Kingdom Government, does that Government pay us interest on it?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: We are allowed interest. Previously we used to get only a very small percentage, .08. Now, we are getting more interest; perhaps it is about 1.75 per cent or 2 per cent. I am not sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### REHABILITATION OF EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL ON LNAD

\*74. SHRI RAHMATH-ULLAH: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allot land to ex-service men and ex-service women to enable them to resettle on land;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the basis on which, and what are the conditions under which, land is allotted to the ex-service personnel;