

RE-OPENING OF TEA GARDENS

*430. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: -

(a) the number of tea gardens in Assam and West Bengal that have been re-opened during the last two months;

(b) whether any retrenchment of labourers had been made at the time of the re-opening of the gardens; and

(c) whether there has been any change in the conditions of work and earnings of the labourers?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the Council.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, I have only to repeat what my hon. friend Mr. George said the other day.

M. STALIN'S FUNERAL

*431. SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was represented at the funeral of Marshal Stalin; if so, by whom; and

(b) whether any wreath was placed on behalf of India?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes. The Charge d' Affaires of India at Moscow represented India at the funeral of Marshal Stalin. The Ambassador had gone, to Budapest to present credentials as Indian Envoy to Hungary and fell ill there. He could not return in time for the funeral because of his illness.

(b) A joint wreath was placed on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps at Moscow by the Doyen of the Corps.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Sir, is the Government aware that the cost of the wreath was Rs. 7,200 on that day? 25 CSD.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Government is not aware of it.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Is it true that the Indian Embassy contacted the Foreign Affairs Ministry here and said that it was shocked at the exorbitant price of the wreath and asked whether they should place a wreath or not on that day?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Look here, Mr. Rajagopalan, the question is that the Indian Embassy did not place a wreath specially. All the Embassies put together in Moscow placed one wreath on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps. So the question of our placing a separate wreath does not arise.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Sir, I am asking whether the Indian Embassy asked for orders from the Foreign Office here and what instruction was sent to them.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Obviously instructions are always asked for.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: What was the answer of the Foreign Office?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Does the hon. Member want to know the details of the letters that we are exchanging with our Embassy in Moscow?

SERI H. P. SAKSENA: Sir, will it not be desirable now to let Marshal Stalin rest in peace?

NATIONAL PARK IN DELHI

*316†. PROF. G. RANGA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of a tank and some archaeological monuments near Mehrauli known as Hauz-i-Khas and that large portion of the tank-bed has been ploughed up.

(b) whether the inhabitants of Delhi have been using these grounds as a place for picnic and recreation;

† Postponed from 31st March 1953.