

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. KARMAHKAR) : (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 hoti friend Mr. George said the other day.

M. STALIN'S FUNERAL

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

(a) Wither 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?

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

NATIONAL PARK IN DELHI

*316f. 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 Meh-rauli 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.

(c) what is the area of the land covered by the tank;

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion made in the issue of *The Hindustan Times*, dated the 24th February 1953, to convert the whole of this tank and the area surrounding it into a National Park; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes; the tank bed was brought under the plough before 1914—the year in which Hauz Khas was declared a protected monument.

(b) The people of Delhi mostly use the monuments and gardens therein and very seldom the tank bed, for picnic, and recreation.

(c) About 100 acres.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is proposed to include the Hauz Khas monuments and their environments in the projected plan of Green Belt.

PROF. G. RANGA: Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to spend any sum in order to develop it further and make it a more convenient picnic place and a National Park than what it is to-day?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The plan of Green Belt is under consideration by the Delhi Administration and it is not possible for me to give details thereof.

PROF. G. RANGA: Whatever interest the Delhi Administration might take in it, in view of the fact that it can be developed into a National Park, will the Government of India consider the advisability of themselves taking it up?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, it is a suggestion for action and we will look into it.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: Has the Hon. Minister seen the place or not?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know how much of the monument is protected.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, the building that is there has certain space on the bank of the tanks.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: What is the Green Belt going to be like?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The proposal is that the Green Belt is supposed to be green. The intention is that it will not be built upon, or at least the buildings thereon will be controlled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTEREST CHARGED ON LOANS GRANTED TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

64. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank loans for the Damodar Valley Scheme carry any interest; if so, at what rate;

(b) the rate of interest charged by the Government of India on the loans given to the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar for investment in the Damodar Valley Scheme;

(c) the rate of interest charged on Central loans given to the Governments of Punjab and Orissa for their multi-purpose River Valley Schemes; and

(d) whether the rate of interest on such loans given to the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab and Orissa has been raised after the rise in the bank rate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The first loan of 18.5 million dollars from the World Bank carries an interest