

the other day about the steel plant. I did not want the blue-print.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you take away the processes and blue-prints, there is perhaps nothing in the report.

SHRI B. RATH: How many foreign firms were approached to submit schemes to the Government regarding the production of synthetic petrol?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, I have answered this question. M/s Koppers were asked to submit proposals. In fact that is the basis of the discussion.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that one Italian firm was approached by the Government and to that effect there was a reply last year by the Minister for Commerce and Industry?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I think my knowledge in this matter is a bit limited. I can only go upon the files because I was not here at that time as Minister. I have stated the position.

MAJ.-GENERAL S. S. SOKHEY: May I know why this particular company—Koppers was selected? Is the Government aware that Koppers have never made any plan for the production of synthetic petrol?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid I have no information.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, a point of principle arises. The Minister says that he was not the Minister at that time and so he could not give the information. Am I to understand that when an hon Member asks a question, the responsibility of answering is limited to the period of office of the Minister? It is a very serious matter. I want a ruling from you on this, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand. He is responsible for everything. What he means is he would like to have notice before he answers that.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: May I mention, Sir, this? I said, "I am responsible to give out any information that can be given out which is in the file." I have gone through these files and I cannot find any information that I could give to the House. If it is in my personal knowledge, it is a different matter. When it is not in my knowledge, the Minister must refer to the file and everything is put down in the file. We have a file and in this file I cannot get any further information.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Are we to take it that the files have gone underground?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Why is it that the offers of the French and Italian companies to produce synthetic petrol from coal have been rejected and only Koppers's has been examined by the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the best under the circumstances.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I never mentioned that either the French or the Italian offer was rejected. The hon Member is seeking to put words into my mouth which I never uttered.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is there any intention to pursue the project?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Yes.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the blue-print of this Koppers Company be implemented?

(No answer was given.)

BREACH OF LAW IN FRENCH INDIAN TERRITORY

*68. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, with details in which Indian citizens were assaulted, arrested or subjected to

harassment (i) in the Indian Union territory; and (ii) in the French Indian territories by the (1) officers; and (2) other persons belonging to French Indian territories, from the 1st December, 1952 to end of January, 1953; and

(b) the particulars of protests, if any, lodged against the incidents referred to in part (a) above?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). During the month of December 1952 and January 1953 one such case has been reported to us in which an Indian citizen was stoned by some hooligans. As this incident presumably arose out of a strike, no protest was made to the French authorities. Previously many protests have, of course, been made to the French authorities in regard to a large number of other incidents.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government received any reply to the protests made previously?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, from time to time Government have received replies.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the French authorities rendered any satisfaction for the incidents that have happened?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Government have received very little satisfaction.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government of India received any compensation for the loss of properties?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: There was no loss of property.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: (*Spoke in Malayalam.*)

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: (*Spoke in Malayalam.*)

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: We did not understand either the question or the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask her later. We do not follow your conversation.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: That should be translated.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I could not follow the question and I asked him to repeat it. The question is: "Whether such incidents have happened in French Mahe during these 3 years". My answer is: "That does not arise from the question asked today."

SHRI B. GUPTA: What steps does the Prime Minister contemplate to see that these French invaders are expelled from the Indian territories?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not require any answer.

NARBADA VALLEY PROJECT

*69. PROF. G. RANGA: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an investigation was made for the possibilities of the Narbada Valley Project intended to benefit Baroda, Broach and other areas in Central Gujerat districts; if so when and by which Government it was made;

(b) whether it is a fact that the project if completed is expected to irrigate 18 lakh acres of land most of which have been subjected to periodical famines; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this project has been abandoned; if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir. At the instance of the Government of Bombay, investigations have been carried out on the Narbada River at Broach, by the Central Water and Power Commission. The work was started in 1948 and completed at the end of 1952.

(b) Yes, Sir.