

not purchased them but one can always calculate their value. The cost can be given only when we really know the cost-

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Regarding the buildings that are proposed to be constructed, may I know the total amount to be spent?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I cannot give the exact amount, because first of all some kind of estimate will be prepared. Then it will have to be approved by Finance and other Ministries. Very probably Finance will say, 'Cut it down' and in what final shape it would emerge we do not know. Apart from that, only when we actually launch upon construction will the estimates be ready.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will it not be desirable to postpone the construction of these buildings till the end of the Five Year Plan?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is always a slight tussle between the desire of the External Affairs Ministry in this respect and the actual conditions, because it is cheaper sometimes to rent a house than to build one. In that case, either the Finance Ministry does not want us to construct the building or asks us to postpone it. It has nothing to do with the Five Year Plan at all.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether any of these premises are let out and rents recovered?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Not normally, but I could not say. If they are let at all, they are probably let to some Indian agencies, not to any foreign agencies. It may be that we have an Indian agency there who may require accommodation, but normally it is not done.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: In Washington there are three buildings. Are all of them occupied by the Indian Embassy or any of them let out? I want only that information.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Two buildings in Washington are used to house the Chancery and the Embassy. The additional one is for Military, Information and Accounts Sections.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is also the India Supply Mission in Washington

#### SYNTHETIC PETROL FROM COAL

\*67. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Koppers Company of the United States of America was invited in 1948 by Government to prepare a scheme for producing synthetic petrol from coal in India; and

(b) if so, whether Government will lay a copy of the report of the said Company in the matter, on the Table of the Council?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report contains description of certain processes and includes some blue-prints and designs for which "Patent" rights have yet to be taken out. It cannot, therefore, be made public at this stage.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know what amount was paid to Koppers Company for this undertaking?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I do remember some amount was paid but I am sorry I have not got the figure now. I will let the hon. Member have that information.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if the Government of India took any steps to implement the suggestions of the Koppers Company for the production of synthetic petrol?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The original report was considered, but the Government felt that the costs in-

volved were rather on the high side. I Therefore, they were asked to submit another proposal which would involve less amount of outlay. That was given to Government some time in December 1949. Thereafter the Government felt that they could not embark on this project, because even then the costs were rather high.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I could not follow the answer. He might speak a bit louder.

\* MR. CHAIRMAN: He says he could not hear the answer.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Government felt that the original figures mentioned by them were on the high side and they said that they would like to have revised figures for a lesser amount for the production of synthetic petrol, oil etc. and the revised figure was sent by them, to Government some time in December 1949. That was considered and its financial implications did not warrant going ahead with the project.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: What was the amount paid to Koppers?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I can't say exactly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not know the exact figure.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if the Government of Orissa has started a venture to produce synthetic petrol out of coal in the Talcher collieries?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That question was asked the other day by an hon. Member whether the Government had anything to do with a French firm who had proposals to establish a factory in India for synthetic petrol. I answered that the Government of India had nothing to do with that and the hon. Member also asked me whether I know that the Orissa Government have anything to do with it. My information regarding that is,

I do not know that some such negotiation is going on.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I am fully aware of the reply that the hon. Minister gave the other day but my point in asking this question is whether the Government of Orissa referred this matter to the Government of India and whether the Government of Orissa, before starting this venture, obtained the concurrence of the Government of India.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I can only stick to the answer I gave the other day, which was that the Government of India have had nothing whatever to do with it in this particular matter. I cannot say anything more than that.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I wanted to have a plain answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says they have no information.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I wanted to know if the Government of Orissa referred this matter to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and if the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce approved of this venture.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: One thing is that this is not related to the question on hand. Secondly my answer of the other day still holds good.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Will the hon. Minister consider the desirability of placing this report on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Here is the answer. This contains description of certain processes and includes some blue-prints and designs for which patent rights have yet to be taken out. Therefore it cannot still be made public.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I wanted a summary of the report as it was done

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 blueprint 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