

(a) whether the industrial potentiality of the State of Travancore-Cochin and the District of Malabar in Madras State has been surveyed with a view to harmonising it with the operation of the Planning Commission in the near future ;

(b) if so, the industries that may be set up there in consonance with the survey and the time schedule ;

(c) the amount that would be expended in that area during the first year of the execution of the plan ; and

(d) the number of persons that might obtain employment directly as a result of the planning operations ?

THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION & POWER (SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. A local Project Advisory Committee, which is proposed to be set up, will shortly undertake such a survey in Malabar District. In the State of Travancore-Cochin no such survey has been done recently.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

PURCHASE OF STORES FOR PART C STATES

113. SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all stores, vehicles and other similar articles required by Part C States have to be obtained through the agency of the Director-General of Disposals ;

(b) whether the budget provisions of some Part C States for the purchase of such articles during the last financial year lapsed due to delay on the part of that agency ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that even essential hospital equipment required by those States cannot be purchased locally ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY
(SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under the existing procedure,

all Central Government Departments, including Part C States, are required normally to place their orders on the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (not the Director General of Disposals) if the value of each item required exceeds Rs. 2,000.

(b) It is difficult to give a categorical answer unless further details are furnished by the hon. Member.

(c) Ordinarily all stores exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value have to be purchased through the agency of the Director General, Supplies & Disposals. Local purchase is, however, allowed as a special case, if it is considered that owing to the urgency of the requirements, etc., it would be more expeditious or economical, to procure the required stores/equipment by the indenter himself

LABOUR DISPUTES

115. BABU GOPINATH SINGH : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labour disputes reported during the year 1951 ;

(b) the number of such disputes referred to :—

(i) Regional Conciliation Officers ;

(ii) Arbitrators ;

(iii) Adjudicators ; and

(iv) Industrial Tribunals ;

(c) the number of cases settled as the result of reference to authorities mentioned in part (b) above ;

(d) the number of cases in which the awards of the arbitrator, the adjudicator and the industrial tribunal have been (i) implemented and (ii) not implemented ; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take or have already taken in the case of non-implementation of awards ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected in respect of Central Sphere undertakings, namely, Central Government undertakings, railways, mines, oil-fields and

major ports, and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible. The responsibility for settling labour disputes in undertakings other than those mentioned above, rests with the State Governments. Government of India have no information in regard to such labour disputes.

NAHAN FOUNDRY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

116. SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nahan Foundry in Himachal Pradesh which was State property before the merger was working on a 50 : 50 basis between the Government and the Ruler after the merger ;

(b) whether the value of the entire Foundry was assessed at Rs. 28 lakhs by an official of the Government of India and the ex-Ruler was asked to pay Rs. 14 lakhs to buy off the Government's share ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ex-Ruler failed to pay the stipulated amount within the specified period, and was paid without any further valuation, a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs by Government to buy off his share of the Foundry ;

(d) whether Government have taken possession of the Foundry ; and

(e) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government was a party to this deal or whether that Government was consulted in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) Before the merger there was hardly any distinction between the State Administration and the Ruler in so far as this Foundry was concerned. In settling the private properties of the Ruler on the integration of Sirmur State in Himachal Pradesh, the Nahan Foundry was treated as the joint property of the Ruler and the Go-

vernment on a 50 : 50 basis.

(b) and (c). The original valuation of the Nahan Foundry at Rs. 28 1/2 lakhs by an officer of the Government of India did not include the cost of raw materials, stores, cash balances and investments which were to be valued on the date of transfer. The power house which also formed part of the Foundry was separately valued at Rs. 1-34 lakhs. Various proposals were under the consideration of the Government regarding the future of the Foundry, one of which was that the Ruler should be given the option to purchase the Government's share within a stipulated period on the basis of the expert valuation of the fixed assets plus the valuation, on the date of the transfer, of raw materials, hiring stock, stores, cash balances and investments. Before a final decision was taken on this proposal, it was suggested to the Government that if the Foundry was acquired by the Ruler, he might sell it to a third party and the new owner might shift it somewhere else which would result in the unemployment of a large number of the local population and affect the State's economy to such an extent that certain items of property (particularly lands and buildings) had gone up considerably in value ; that if the transaction were concluded on the original valuation, Government would part with a valuable property for Less than its economic price ; that the Foundry was a profitable concern with considerable potentialities and that the Government rather than the Ruler should acquire this valuable asset. The whole question was again reviewed and it was decided that every efforts should be made to persuade the Ruler to sell his share to the Government. Negotiations were accordingly undertaken with the Ruler who demanded Rs. 40 lakhs for his share. The basis of a fresh valuation was further examined. The balance sheets and the profit and loss accounts of the Foundry were also examined and the value of the Ruler's share was finally fixed at Rs. 30 lakhs and he has been paid this amount.