

seek advice we must seek the advice of the best people.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: My question was about the Asian milieu.

Mr. Speaker: He has given his reason.

Shri Kandappan: The statement says that pending the formal setting up of the committee they examined laying down principal guide-lines which may be followed by the state in selling power to another state and necessary date required for this is also being collected by the CWPC. I would like to know whether the committee has since been formed and whether the Government could indicate how much time it would take.

Dr. K. L. Rao: The committee has been formed and we are trying to get information and data so as to decide the principles on which sales between states may be conducted. We expect to have the report in six months.

Sale of Electricity by the West Bengal Govt. in Durgapur Region



- *1108. **Shri Kapur Singh:**
Shri P. H. Bhee]
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government have expressed a desire to function as the sole agency to sell electricity in the Durgapur region of the Damodar Valley; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government and other interested State Governments thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have been informed that in view of the DVC's statutory rights of generation and supply of power in the valley, the proposal is not acceptable.

Shri Kapur Singh: Was the request of the West Bengal Government motivated by a desire to have monopoly profits or the urges of political power?

Dr. K. L. Rao: There is no question of any motive. It just happens that the West Bengal Government has got some surplus power and therefore they want to sell it naturally and get better returns.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Has the government examined the possibilities of electricity supply from the DVC headquarters, Maithon to Durgapur?

Dr. K. L. Rao: In the valley we want that the DVC must have the absolute right to supply power and we do not want to allow either the West Bengal Government or the Bihar Government to sell in the valley as per the Act. If that is done, the financial position of the DVC will not be favourable. Therefore, we do not propose to allow the energy to be supplied in the valley by outside authorities.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Certain amount of electricity is generated by the Bengal Government in that region. Am I to understand that for the electricity generated by them, they are not entitled to distribute at any rate they want?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The Act does not allow it except to the extent that they have been given permission earlier.

Urbanisation of Areas

*1109. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the reports prepared by the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation on India's urbanisation; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) A note on 'Urbanisation in Eastern

India and its relation to urbanisation in West Bengal and Metropolitan Calcutta' was prepared by the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation as one of its studies on the Calcutta Metropolitan Plan. No other report on urbanisation in India as such has been prepared.

(b) A summary of the findings is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6309] 66].

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order, I find that urban affairs are allotted to various ministries. Urban development is the subject of my friend the hon. Shri Mehr Chand Khanna. Urbanisation goes to the Social Welfare Minister. How is that, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: That cannot be decided during the question hour.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Who decides that? You have to decide that. Or the Minister?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: This question refers to the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation. This is not a rural area; there is no question of urbanisation of a rural area.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Why has Mr. Khanna washed his hands of this? Formerly, it was the Health Minister.

Mr. Speaker: During the question hour a decision cannot be taken on this.

Shri P. E. Chakraverti: In view of the fact that owing to the development of industry and trade, Calcutta has become the most crowded and populated city in India, may I know whether the Government has, as a sort of interim measure, advanced some money so that the work can start at this stage?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As I have pointed out earlier when I was answering a question in the earlier part of the morning, there already is a plan for

Calcutta which has been supported by the Government of India during the third Plan.

Shri P. E. Chakraverti: My point is about the financial allocation.

Shri Asoka Mehta: In the third Plan, there has been a programme of development of the Calcutta city and that programme is going ahead. We have to decide what should be the programme for the Fourth Plan.

Shri P. E. Chakraverti: Keeping in view the fact that despite our repeated attempts to try to narrow the disparities between the privileged and the non-privileged, may I know whether the Government has now taken upon itself the task of looking after the problem of making available the minimum measure of benefits, to the people, who are living in the slum areas in Calcutta, whose number is 12 lakhs?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I do not know whether anything can be made available, unless the suggestion is that from the unearned increment any amount might be siphoned off. That was what was asked earlier and which was answered.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: There are reports in the papers about certain officials of the Calcutta Metropolitan and Planning Organisation stating that the organisation has prepared several reports recommending a large number of steps but that the responsibility for implementing those steps rests with the Government, and the Government is doing nothing about it. May I know if Government can give us some indication as to when, if at all, any kind of implementation of these reports is going to take place, because already we have passed the Third Plan period nearly?

Shri Asoka Mehta: The responsibility for implementing all these programmes ultimately is with the Government of West Bengal. I am sure

the hon. Member is aware of the various steps that are being taken by that Government. As far as the Government of India is concerned, it is a question of deciding to what extent the financial responsibilities have to be shared between the two Governments.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: In the case of the Delhi slums, for providing the minimum facilities, the Central Government have made some grants. Similarly, may I know whether in the same manner, the Central Government is going to give some grants to the West Bengal Government to provide some minimum facilities like drinking water, drainage facility, etc., to the slum areas of Calcutta?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As I have pointed out, a certain programme of development for Calcutta was drawn up during the third Plan. The resources needed for this programme were made available by the Government of India outside the State plan of West Bengal. Now, the question is, what we do for the Fourth Plan, to what extent the resources needed for the future programme are to be shared between the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India and to what extent these resources have to come from within the State plan or outside the State plan. These are problems which are being considered by the Planning Commission just now.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Some time ago, before my hon. friend and former colleague in the Praja-Socialist party came into the Cabinet, the Minister of Health in whose portfolio this subject of urban development was included, said in the last winter session, I think—the November-December session—that there was a plan, a proposal, before the Government to build satellite towns as part of the urbanisation programme. Has the Minister got before him any concrete scheme, any blueprint, as to when these satellite towns for these big centres are going to be built and put in orbit?

Shri Asoka Mehta: The question is only about Calcutta. I do not know whether the hon. Member wants to know anything about Calcutta satellite towns or some other town.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Yes, Calcutta.

Shri Asoka Mehta: As I have said, the CMPO has planned various plans and proposals and they are under the consideration of the Government of West Bengal. The main problem that is being considered by the Planning Commission is, what should be done about this programme: should they be accommodated within the State plan of West Bengal or should they be outside the State plan, or should the financial responsibilities be shared between the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal. This is a matter of considerable importance and on this no final decision has yet been taken.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No orbiting?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: This report which is being placed on the Table, which is prepared by the CMPO, says that the Calcutta metropolitan district is growing at a rate far below that of most other major cities, and also that outside West Bengal one can find a strong anti-Calcutta sentiment. May I know whether the minister is aware of the fact that flow of people from the distressed rural areas of eastern UP, North Bihar, parts of Orissa and northern districts of Andhra into Calcutta is continuing at a much more accentuated pace and how is it that the CMPO, which has been functioning for 8 years produces a report which makes no mention of this, but mentions something which is quite contrary to it?

Shri Asoka Mehta: This is not a report produced by the CMPO, but by one of the experts who was associated with the CMPO.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: What are your views?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I have no views on this subject; the hon. member wanted to know what is contained in the report and I have given a summary of the report. I do not need to have any views on the report which is drawn up by an odd individual somewhere.

union is being heard by the conciliation officer.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: In view of the fact that this colliery had been in the past trying to dislocate the workmen, stop production and hamper the national growth of the wealth of this country, may I know whether the government will consider at the proper time, if the colliery does not resume work sufficiently early, either to take over this colliery or to allow the workers to run it as a cooperative society?

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Dismissal of Workers in Balihari Colliery

SNQ. 18. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether three hundred and seventy-six workmen have been illegally dismissed from the Balihari Colliery, Kusunda, Dhanbad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is true that we have been having a lot of trouble in this colliery since the last two years. At one stage, as many as 13 cases of prosecution were being launched against the management for failure to pay the wages of the workers. The question of taking over this colliery by the NCDC is under the consideration of the government at present.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) 376 workers of the Colliery have been retrenched by the management, on the ground that some of the Working Seams of the Colliery have had to be closed.

(b) The Assistant Labour Commissioner (C), Dhanbad has taken up the dispute in conciliation and, on receipt of his report, further necessary action will be taken by Government.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: While appreciating the ready response of the minister to the piteous appeals of the colliery workers, will Government take into account the intransigence of this colliery proprietor in acceding to those suggestions of the Central Government communicated to them through their own agency at Dhanbad and if so, what further steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the government is aware that the retrenchment is in violation of the agreement dated 15-3-1966 and is intended to do away with the permanent labour in that colliery and substitute them by casual labour and contract labour? If so, may I know whether the government would take steps to prevent it?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: On 15th March this year, an agreement was arrived at between the workers and the management and that agreement has been fully implemented.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: That is not correct.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Whatever was agreed to was fully implemented. It has been alleged that there have been further violations. The matter is before conciliation. If the conciliation officer cannot bring about a satisfactory solution, the matter will be referred to arbitration.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The matter is already before conciliation. Actually today the point of view of the