

beggars. May I know whether Government have any intention of bringing a suitable legislation to prevent begging from our country?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing altogether. Next Question—

Shri Datar: There are legislations for begging....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have gone to the next question.

Explosive for Coal Mines

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*1358. { **Shri K. N. Tiwary:**
 { **Shri A. S Saigal:**

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coalfields situated in the Pench and Kanhan Valley are non-grassy;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Inspector of Mines has made it compulsory for mine owners to use high explosives;

(c) whether it is also a fact that explosives which are in short supply and are being imported cost the nation valuable foreign exchange;

(d) whether it is a fact that indigenous Gun-powder manufacturers are being pushed out of that trade due to certain vested interests; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajar-navis): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Permitted explosives have to be imported since they are not manufactured indigenously.

(d) and (e). Government are not aware of such a situation. Only those explosives are generally imported which are not available indigenously.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: May I know what steps Government would like to take to make the country self-sufficient in this respect?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): This question of manufacturing special types of explosives which are needed for mining industry is under the active consideration of the Government. There are some projects that are going on with the ICI and more are proposed to be undertaken.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it a fact that complaints have been received from the Pench and Kanhan Valley coal fields that the Chief Inspector himself has allowed them explosives which are not useful for this kind of coalmines that exist there? If so, what remedial action has been taken by the Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is a fact that the Chief Inspector of Explosives has approved of the particular quality of explosives that has been used, but I do not possess the information which has been asked just now by my hon. friend.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know the quantum of import of these explosives by Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I require notice.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: May I know whether this has affected the output of coal?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is a fact that we faced a scarcity problem of explosives a few months back. Now I have the information that we are not facing any particular difficulty.

Shri Tyagi: Is it a fact that the I.C.I., a foreign firm, has been enjoying the monopoly of manufacture and import of explosives and Indian firms are generally not allowed to come into the field.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: In a way, yes. The I.C.I. has been enjoying the monopoly in the supply of these explosives, but, as I said just now, this question is under our active consideration to see how we can make ourselves self-sufficient and also control the manufacture of this important commodity.

Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal

*1359. **Dr. K. L. Rao:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the original estimated cost of the Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal;

(b) the present estimates;

(c) how much money has been spent on overheads and consultation services so far; and

(d) whether any measures of economy have been worked out to compensate the heavy charges incurred so far?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The original estimated cost of the Heavy Electricals Plant at Bhopal, as envisaged in the Project Report submitted by Associated Electrical Industries Ltd., U.K. (Technical Consultants to the Project), in 1956 was Rs. 35.25 crores, exclusive of working capital. This was for achieving an annual output of about Rs. 12 crores on single shift or Rs. 22 crores on two shifts.

(b) The present estimate is of the order of about Rs. 40 crores for an annual output of Rs. 25 crores. on two shifts.

(c) Upto the end of March 1962, Rs. 43 lakhs had been paid to the Consultants. In addition expenditure on account of salaries and overheads, allowances etc. of the Consultants' establishment at Bhopal was approximately Rs. 32 lakhs; and

(d) The payments to the Consultants are in accordance with the Technical Consultancy Agreement.

Dr. K. L. Rao: In view of the fact that the type and range of products now under manufacture are different from those originally intended, like heavy machinery, is there any modification in the terms of payment to be the consulting engineers?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No. As a matter of fact, the payment scheduled is fixed by the agreement, a copy of which is available in the library. It is in accordance with the agreement that we have to pay.

Dr. K. L. Rao: Is it a fact that the high-voltage switch gear supplied by the consultant is obsolete? If so what steps have the government taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I take the information from the hon. Member. I shall try to find out what is the exact position.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Bhopal the hon. Minister stated that he was dissatisfied with the production results of the Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal? If so, may I know the reasons on which he based his dissatisfaction? Does he propose to hold an inquiry into this.

Mr. Speaker: This question relates to the estimates at the beginning and now.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Part (c) of the question is:

"where any measures of economy have been worked out. . ."

Mr. Speaker: That he said at the beginning.

Shri Hem Barua: The supplementary question that I put is vitally related to this because I am asking about an aspect of the working of the plant. If the plant does not work satisfactorily, the Minister is perfectly right to express his dissatisfaction.