

**Students' Strike in the Mining School,
Dhanbad**

+

S. N. Q.
No. 3.

Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Shree Narayan
Das:
Shrimati Uma Nehru:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Birbal Singh:
Shri Ganpati Ram:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students of the Indian School of Mines and Geology, Dhanbad (Bihar) have gone on strike since the 7th December, 1957;

(b) if so, the circumstances in which this strike has taken place;

(c) whether any representation has been received with regard to grievances of students;

(d) whether it has been considered by the Government; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to end the strike?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): (a) to (e). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix IV, annexure 121].

Shri Radha Raman: In the statement it is mentioned that the students had sent in a memorandum to the Director and a time limit was fixed. May I know when that memorandum was actually submitted and what was the time period during which the administration could not decide one way or the other?

Shri M. M. Das: The students submitted a representation to the Director on 30th November, 1957. They wanted a decision by the Director on their memorandum by 6th December, 1957. But within that stipulated date, which is barely a week, it was not possible for the Director to send them a reply and the students went on strike on 7th December, 1957.

Shri Radha Raman: Looking to the grievances that are embodied in the statement as well as in their memorandum they appear to be very small. May I know whether any effort on the part of the Director or anybody else was made in order to pacify the students and avert the strike?

Shri M. M. Das: It was made, and it is still now being made. We are trying our best to persuade the students to call off their strike.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the present Director of the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad, had any educational experience to his credit before he joined that institute, and whether it is he who has been authorised to handle this strike situation or whether the Government is taking any interest in it?

Shri M. M. Das: The present Director is a superannuated Central Government servant. He retired from the post of Director of Geological Survey of India. He is recognised as one of the best scholars in that subject and a research worker in the subject of geology. I think, perhaps, he might be connected with the Calcutta University as one of its examiners, but I have no definite information on this point at present.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that on assuming charge of that educational institution the present Director ordered that any student who will be absent for a day will be treated as absent from the lecture for three days and as much the 75 per cent. requirement of attendance at lectures has been nullified in the case of many students by the present Director?

Mr. Speaker: Is that the cause of the strike?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is the main cause of the strike, because most of the students are now declared unfit to appear in the examination.

Shri M. M. Das: This is one of the grievances that have been embodied in

the representation, and we are making enquiries about it.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it not also a fact that one of the grievances of the students has been shortage of qualified staff especially in the departments of metal mining, surveying, coal mining and mining machinery, which has resulted in a sharp decline in the standard? Is it not also a fact that the Director also admitted that there is shortage of qualified staff in these departments? May I know what steps Government have taken to see that these shortages are remedied within a short time?

Shri M. M. Das: There is shortage of staff in our scientific and engineering institutions, not only in this particular institution but all over India, and so far our information goes this has been the case to a more or less degree all over the world. It is a fact that we are finding it very difficult to man our engineering and technical institutions with qualified staff. Government propose to meet this situation by arranging for training of the teachers who will man our teaching institutions, so far as engineering and technology is concerned, in several of our big engineering colleges. And, with the help of the TCM we propose to bring some of the American teachers and American equipment for training our teachers here.

Shri P. C. Bose: In view of the continued unsatisfactory condition in the School of Mines, Dhanbad, will the Government hold a thorough enquiry into the grievances of the students and other affairs there?

Shri M. M. Das: Yes, Sir, we are daily in telegraphic communication with the students, and we have every reason to believe, and we hope, that we shall be able to persuade the students to call off the strike, and this episode will end happily and to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

Shri P. C. Bose: There should be an enquiry by an expert.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We will go to the next business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pakistan Border Police

*1388. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistan police at the Indo-Pakistan border has supported and helped in giving protection to certain dacoits who had committed dacoities and murders in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Some cases of this type have come to the notice of the Government of India. Under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement the matter will be taken up by the Police authorities concerned in India with their Pakistani counterparts.

Industries at Steel Plants Sites

*1389. **Shri A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 773 on the 4th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether any provision has been made under the Second Five Year Plan for the development of inter-related industries near Steel Plants; and

(b) the industries which are to be developed near the Bhilai Steel Plant in Madhya Pradesh?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir. Nothing specific. There is provision in the Plan for a number of industries to come up both in the public and in the private sectors. Some of these could be sited usefully near steel plants.

(b) Tar and benzol which arise as by-products in the coke ovens of the steel plant will be processed to remove