

**Fire in Kussergarh Colliery**

\*721. { Shri Subman Ghose:  
Shri D. R. Chavan;  
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether an underground fire broke out in North Kussergarh Colliery in Baghmara Coalfields in April, 1959;

(b) the steps taken by Government to extinguish it;

(c) if so, whether the fire has been extinguished; and

(d) if not, the extent to which it has been extinguished up till now?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The Mines Inspectorate advised the management to isolate the fire by cutting trenches and constructing stoppings and also to quench it by introducing water into the workings. The fire has been isolated and is under control.

**Shri Subman Ghose:** May I know whether when the fire broke out in the beginning the owner appealed for help from the Coal Board and whether the Coal Board helped in extinguishing the fire?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The fire took place some time in April, 1959 and the mine owner had applied for some help. According to the rules he is entitled to some contribution; about Rs. 2,241 have been sanctioned.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** According to the statement of the Deputy Minister the fire broke out in April, 1959. He says recent instructions have been issued. May I know whether the fire was continuing since then? If so, what will be the date on which it is going to be extinguished actually?

**Shri Abid Ali:** I did not hear properly.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** In reply to the other question the hon. Minister said that the fire broke out in April, 1959. I want to know whether the fire is still continuing even today and when it is likely to be extinguished.

**Shri Abid Ali:** There are several mines on fire, one of them since 1902, about 58 years. Still the fire is on.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** What is the area involved?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Very small, Sir.

**Airport near Nathula Pass**

\*723. **Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in 'Hindustan Standard' (Calcutta Edition) dated January 20, 1960 that China is building an airport near Nathula Pass between Phari and Yatung in Tibet;

(b) if so, whether Government have any precise information about its construction; and

(c) the reactions of the Government of India to it?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) to (c). This news does not appear to be correct. According to our information there is no such airport being built.

श्री भक्त बर्मान : श्री उत्तर दिया गया है कि यह खबर गलत है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस आधार पर यह उत्तर दिया गया है, और किस तरह से यह जानकारी प्राप्त की गई है ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा बहिर्देशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : इस आधार पर कि जो हमारे पास मालूम है, जो हमारे पास जानकारी है, इत्म है ।

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that it is believed that China is

making hectic preparations along the frontier, may I know whether the Government proposes to take some steps to impart some sense of urgency in the matter?... (Interruptions.)

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a general question.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It is based on some presumption which the hon. Member might think correct but which requires verification.

### इलेक्ट्रोलिटिक तांबा

\*७२४. श्री पद्म देव : क्या वाजिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में वर्ष १९५६ में कितना और किस मूल्य का इलेक्ट्रोलिटिक तांबा आयात किया गया ;

(ख) भारत में इलेक्ट्रोलिटिक तांबे की कितनी मांग है ; और

(ग) इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) This information is available in the "Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India" published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

(b) 30,00 tons approximately.

(c) The demand is met by imports, as there is no indigenous production of Electrolytic Copper at present.

**सेठ गोविन्ददास :** प्रश्न हिन्दी में है, उत्तर भी हिन्दी में दिया जाए।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** माननीय सदस्य दोनों भाषायें जानते हैं।

**श्री पद्म देव :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या देश में सरकार की तरफ से कोई इसके बारे में प्रयत्न नहीं हो रहा है ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** हमने जो घाट-

शीला में कापर की फैक्ट्री है उसको ८,००० टन इलेक्ट्रोलिटिक कापर बनाने की इजाजत दी है। खेती के क्षेत्र में भी एक ३०,००० टन का बड़ा स्मेल्टर लगाने की योजना विचाराधीन है जिसका १ / ३ हिस्सा इलेक्ट्रोलिटिक कापर होगा।

### Quotas of Newsprint Paper

\*725. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newspapers are allotted quotas of newsprint;

(b) whether they use the newsprint allotted to them; and

(c) if not, what steps Government take or propose to take to check the black marketing in newsprint paper?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Allocation of newsprint is made strictly according to a newspaper's entitlement worked out on the basis of its circulation, size and number of pages. If the circulation claimed is higher than 2000 copies per issue, the figures quoted by the publishers have to be countersigned by a Chartered accountant or a qualified auditor.

The quota of newsprint is expected to be consumed in full by the allottee concerned. A saving can be effected only if the paper is not regularly published or if the publisher has given an inflated circulation figure. A watch is, however, kept and wherever it is found that a paper has not been regularly published, its quota of newsprint is curtailed.

**Shri Daljit Singh:** In the statement it is stated that the allocation is made according to the circulation claimed by the concerned person. May I know how a regular watch is kept by the