

Soviet Encyclopaedia

*1252. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia (Volume 10) which contains slanderous observations on Mahatma Gandhi is still in circulation in the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India have taken in this matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) We are waiting for full information from our Embassy in Moscow. It is unlikely, however, that an encyclopaedia which contains much useful information will be withdrawn because of certain objectionable passages in a particular volume. Meanwhile, we have been informed by our Ambassador in Moscow that a new edition of this encyclopaedia is being put out although it is not known if the volume containing information about Mahatma Gandhi has come out or not. Our attention has, however, been drawn to a number of articles on Mahatma Gandhi which have appeared in recent publications in the Soviet Union. We have no reason to take any exception to these articles.

(b) When the article on Mahatma Gandhi in Volume X of the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia first came to our notice, we expressed our feeling to the Soviet authorities and we believe that they have taken note of it.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know what is the exact nature of these disparaging remarks contained in it?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Encyclopaedia Dictionary (Volume I) 1953 ed. "Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand (1869-1948) Indian politician. After the First World War 1914-1918 was the virtual leader of the party of the Indian National Congress. Propounded the "theory" of Non-violence" and "passive resistance" in relation to the English Imperialism."

Shri Nath Pai: We thought there was a full two-page statement. There is nothing objectionable in what she has read out.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The matter has been read out in the House previously. It is a much longer account, which was subsequently removed—that is to say, a new page was printed and the old one removed. What my colleague has read is some brief summary of it, it is not a full account at all.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are anxious that it should be withdrawn even in Soviet Russia. Why should it be read out here. These are disparaging statements and we do not want them to be heard here.

Chiria Mines of Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.

*1253. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost the entire mining of iron ore at Chiria Mines of Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. is done by contract labour;

(b) whether there is any proposal to departmentalise labour performing work of a permanent nature in iron ore mines, on lines similar to those of coal mines;

(c) whether the labourers at Chiria Mines have petitioned the Chief Labour Commissioner to take steps so that they may not be deprived of provident fund facilities; and

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

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is being looked into.