

Arrest of Indian Official in Congo

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 Shri Vajpayee:
 Srimati Ila Palchoudhari:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Sari Kalika Singh:
 Shri Sugaadhi:
 Shri Wodeyar:
 Shri Agadi:
 Shri Muhammed Elias:
 Shri P. G. Deb:
 Shri Arjun Singh
 Bhadauria:
 Shri Sadhan Gupta:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Embassy official has recently been arrested and detained by the Congolese authorities in Leopoldville (Congo);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of arrest and detention of the official; and

(c) the steps taken to secure his release?

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

(a) to (c). Yes Sir. Shri Venkataraman, an official of the Indian Embassy at Leopoldville, was arrested by the Congolese police at 9.45 a.m. on 13th June, 1961, after he had been called out of his hotel room. Immediately on receipt of this information, the Second Secretary of the Embassy personally went to the local police chief and protested energetically and effectively against Shri Venkataraman's arrest and had him released at 11.15 a.m. the same day. The Charge d'Affairs, Indian Embassy, sent a protest note to the Congolese Foreign Office. The Interior Minister of Congo telephoned the Charge d'Affairs, and apologised for the incident.

The arrest of Shri Venkataraman was due to certain moves that the Leopoldville authorities had staged in connection with the proposed meeting of the Congolese Parliament.

Coal Washing Plant

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 Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved proposal from a British firm for the manufacture of Coal Washing and Preparation Plant in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the firm will hold sixty per cent. shares and the remaining capital will be thrown open for public subscription in India; and

(c) if so, what are the other terms on which the British firm has been allowed to set up its plant?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). No, Sir. A licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 was granted to an Indian Engineering Company for the manufacture of Coal Washing and Preparation Plants, in their existing unit at Titagarh (West Bengal). This company informed Government that they proposed to enter into a technical collaboration agreement with a British firm for the manufacture of these plants. The terms of the collaboration are reported to be still under negotiation between the parties concerned.

Boundary Pillars between India and Burma

*35. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the boundary pillars between Manipur (India) and Chin special Division (Burma) were removed in June this year;

(b) if so, who removed the pillars; and