

been discovered recently some where in Nagaland ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vocational Training Centre with Swiss Aid in Kerala

2653. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation to establish the proposed vocational training centre for technicians with the aid of the Switzerland Industrial Development Association in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) At the request of the Government of India, a joint mission consisting of one I. L. O. expert and one expert from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), and not the Switzerland Industrial Development Association, visited India and submitted a report for the establishment of an Advanced Training Institute for Electronics and Process Instrumentation. The matter is under consideration.

Dandak S. A. S. Examination for Dandakaranya Employees

2654. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dandak S. A. S. examination is open for Dandakaranya employees as a whole or some particular organisation ; and

(b) if it is for a particular organisation, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). The information is being

collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Price of Soft Coke in Delhi

2656. SHRI AMAR NATH CHAWLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of soft coke in Delhi has again risen to a high level ; and

(b) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure that coal is supplied to the consumers at the controlled rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED LATHI CHARGE ON WORKERS IN MYSORE CEMENTS LTD.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported recent lathi charge on workers in Mysore Cements Ltd., Mysore resulting in severe injuries to several workers."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Sir, The Government of Mysore have reported that on the afternoon of the 28th November, 1971, the workers of the Mysore Cements Limited, Ammasandra went on strike on receiving information that a sweeper had been assaulted by a watch and ward official of the Company. This led to an assault on the Labour Welfare Officer and a guard. Later, the labourers turned violent and pelted stones and a bottle containing petrol at the police post. To disperse the riotous mob the police resorted to lathi-charge and use of

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tear gas. Later, at about 9.30 P.M. a section of the labourers attacked the factory building and caused damage to property, which is estimated to be between Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs. A watchman of the Company fired one round injuring three persons. The police reinforcements were rushed and the situation was brought under control. In these incidents 15 policemen, 4 factory officials and 11 others received injuries including the three injured by the watchman who opened fire. The police have registered four cases including one against the watchman who opened fire. The cases are under investigation under the law, and more than 40 persons have been arrested.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : It is not so simple as the hon. Home Minister puts it here. There is deep politics involved in it. The Ammasandra cement factory is situated in the heart of my parliamentary constituency ; it is 40 kilometers from Tumkur. It is completely controlled by the Birlas. With an investment of Rs. 29 lakhs the management is controlling crores of rupees of the Mysore cement factory. There is regular and mounting dissatisfaction against the management of the Birla-owned cement factory and for many years there has been an agitation in order to get redressal of the genuine grievances of the labour. The Birla management has been violating all rules and regulations and also the Companies Law in order to flourish, prosper and make more profits. After the introduction of President's rules, the Birla-owned cement factory is flourishing by violating all norms, rules and regulations and by cheating the exchequer of the Mysore State Government by not even paying royalty to the State Government.

In order to create a faction among the workers, the management is instigating people at several times to have a clash among themselves. This is not the first incident. Even 29 days back many workers clashed among themselves at the instance of the management. Several agitations by the villagers of the surrounding villages and also by the workers took place in order to fight the menace of air pollution, water pollution and other pollution created by the management by flouting the rules and regulations, even the labour laws and also the Company Law. They made a number of representations urging that an electro-precipi-

tator has to be installed in the dry process cement company owned by the Birlas. This was a rightful agitation.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I would like to give you a little background of this.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request you to ask questions only ?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : It is on account of this agitation that the management has been trying to take revenge against the workers for many years. It has reached a stage where within the radius of eight miles the entire crop has been damaged due to dust and air pollution. There are no safety measures and no security for the labourers, even though the law provides for such measures. That has been defied by the management. In order to agitate their grievance the labourers and workers have represented to the President and both to the Central Government and to the State Government. Now the State is under President's rule. The Government was pleased to see that such things are not defied by the management. But in defiance of the direction given by the Government, the management is trying to instigate through one engineer, Shri Shiv Shankar, who is responsible for the instigation of the security and watch and ward people . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We had decided that the first speaker would not get more than five minutes and that he would confine himself only to questions arising out of the reply and that no speech would precede that except a brief one or two minutes introduction. You are making a regular speech. At the speed at which you are going, I do not think you will finish it in another 15 minutes.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I will finish as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : You do it in two minutes.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Culminating in the process of the management being instigated, an Engineer attached to the Factory instigated the trouble in order to divide the work-

ers and to shatter the unity of the workers in the Factory.

I would like to put a question whether it is a fact that the State Government has investigated any truth or otherwise of the instigation by one Mr. Shiv Shankar, an Engineer, attached to the Factory who, at the instance of the management owned by Birlas, was responsible for such a clash resulting in severe injuries to many persons.

I have received a telegram here. The hon. Minister has said that the number of persons who are injured are only three persons. I would like to read the telegram that I have received. It says :

"HUNDRED MEMBERS ARRESTED FIVE PERSONS WOUNDED GOLIBARED BY MANAGEMENT THREE PERSONS SITUATION CRITICAL START IMMEDIATELY"

This is the telegram I have received. In view of the serious situation arising out of this incident, may I know whether the Government will conduct a judicial inquiry into it and all the allegations that I have made against the management and see that truth is out.

I would also like to know whether the Government will consider such relief measures for damages caused to the workers, the losses suffered by them and the damages caused out of air-pollution created by the management.

Another question that I would like to put is whether this Government will ask the State Government to take over this Factory owned by Birlas which is, after all, of Ra. 29 lakhs investment.

I want the Government to answer my questions, whether a judicial inquiry will be held and whether Mysore Cements Ltd. in Mysore will be taken over by the Government.

SHRI K. C. PANT : The take-over of a company and the matters of that nature are to be considered on their own merit by the Departments which are directly concerned with it.

Sir, he has given a background of this incident as he knows it. I have information only on this specific incident. According to the information with me which I read out earlier, this

was an incident which started with the assault of a workman by a Watch and Ward staff man or an officer. This led to a series of incidents, and, apparently, there was a lot of anger and one incident led to another. The Labour officers and the guard were assaulted. Then, the police party came from a nearby police station and stones were pelted and bottles containing petrol were thrown at the police out-post and lathi-charge and tear-gas were resorted to. The situation came under control in the afternoon—all this happened in the afternoon—but later at night, again, a section of them attacked the Factory building and caused damage to property after which one of the Watch and Ward man in the Company fired and three persons were injured, and the police party came and brought the situation under control. This is the information with me.

Then, he said as to who instigated this....

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : They have a police out-post inside the Cement Factory. They have organised a police force inside the Factory. Nowhere there is such a police out-post inside the Factory.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa, it is very difficult to control you.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I said from the information with me that a Watch and Ward man assaulted a worker and this is how the whole thing started. About this gentleman, Mr. Shiv Shankar, his name is not mentioned. I do not know whether his name is Mr. Shiv Shankar. He was a Watch and Ward man. That is the information I have got. He was apparently not an engineer, but a Watch and Ward Officer.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : It is an engineer who instigated.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa, what is the use of your asking a question if you do not want to hear the reply? Do you want only to be replied to as you want? Please keep sitting. I am not going to tolerate it any more.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It have not said only three persons were injured. I didn't say only three persons were injured. I said three persons were injured when pellets were fired. The information is that the number of injured are

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14 Policemen, 4 factory officials and 11 others including those three. It is not three. It is much more than three.

He said 100 persons were arrested. My information is that 40 persons were arrested. Investigation is going on. This matter is being investigated already. So, I do not really see the need for another inquiry.

SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZALPURKAR (Gulbarga): The Management is responsible for creating such sorts of incidents always for they want to hide the real facts as to what is going on in the factory. The private management would always like to create the impression that the factory is running on loss and is creating such sorts of incidents so that the workers may go on strike.

The management is not providing all the facilities to the workers. They are not providing the medical aid to the workers. They have not appointed any ENT doctor which is quite essential. The intention of the private management is that the factory should not work smoothly and they want to give an impression that the factory is running on loss and they are responsible for it. That is why a judicial inquiry should be made.

SHRI K. C. PANT: As I said, if the factory laws are not being observed and medical aid requirements are not being observed by the management, these are matters to be taken up separately with the State Government. All these things, the way in which the factory law is implemented, etc., come within the purview of the State Government. Certainly, if there are any other specific matters and my hon. friend refers them to me or if Mr. Lakkappa brings them to my knowledge, I can also check them up as just now it is under President's rule. But, these are not matters which are directly relevant to the point here. I have given all the Information I have.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chandra Gowda—absent, Mr. Shetty—absent. Mr. Shenoy.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY (Udipi): According to the statement of the hon. Minister which is based on the report sent by the Government of Mysore, as many as fifteen Policemen are injured. But, according to the reports in the

newspaper, only a few Policemen have been injured and many workers are injured. I also understand that this incident has been provoked by the management and the management have full support of the Government. In view of these facts, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there would be an inquiry by any person, not necessarily a judicial inquiry, an inquiry by an impartial person to be appointed by the Governor himself.

Secondly, will the hon. Minister give the following figures: the number of Policemen admitted into the hospital as in-patients and the number of workers admitted into the hospital as in-patients?

SHRI K. C. PANT: So far as my information goes, the three workers who received pellet injuries in their legs are in the hospital and nobody else is in the hospital.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: How many Policemen are there in the hospital?

SHRI K. C. PANT: None, as far as I know.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: They may have had mental injury.

SHRI K. C. PANT: That is correct. But my information is that no Policeman is there in the hospital.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA rose.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, what a pity! You are never satisfied.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I had again a second time given the narration of events and how it flared up from an incident which, in itself, was not a major incident. But, it flared up into something bigger. The Police tried to control it and all the facts are before us, the injuries and the destruction of property and so on. The whole incident which has taken place is an unfortunate one. As far the inquiry, an investigation is being held, and if the Governor thinks that it is necessary to depute somebody else there, that is for him to consider.