

Rs. 10 lakhs have been made; and

(b) whether in any of those cases action has been taken against those responsible for making over-payments?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) (i) and (ii). There is no individual case in which the overpayment exceeds Rs. 5 lakhs.

(b) So far action has been initiated in 53 cases of serious irregularities against those responsible for over-payments and irregularities connected therewith. Of these 21 cases have been finalised and punishment awarded to 41 officers comprising 10 Executive Engineers, 18 Assistant Engineers and 13 Sectional Officer, punishment varying from warning to reduction in pay and pension.

#### Radio Station at Imphal

**287. Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Radio Station will be opened at Imphal and a transmitter will be set up there; and

(b) if so, when and the cost of the transmitter?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is expected to be brought into service during 1962-63. The estimated cost of the installation of the transmitter is Rs. 1.4 lakhs approximately.

#### Transcription and Programme Exchange Service of A.I.R.

**288. Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the functions, utility and achievements of the Transcription and Programme Exchange Service of the All India Radio;

(b) achievements of this particular service in the year 1959-60 and further expansion of its activities in the current year 1960-61; and

(c) the total personnel in the establishment of this service and actual expenditure on the Service in the year 1959-60?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) and (b). A note giving the information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 40].

(c) Total personnel as on 31-12-60: 127. Actual expenditure during 1959-60 Rs. 4,79,590.

12.10 hrs.

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Uma Charan Patnaik who passed away at 1 P.M. on Saturday, the 18th February, 1961, at New Delhi, at the age of 59.

Shri Uma Charan Patnaik was a sitting Member of this House from the Ganjam constituency of Orissa. He was also a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952-57.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend. He had been taking very keen interest in defence and other matters. I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

May I request the House to kindly stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow?

(The Members then stood in silence for a minute).

12.11 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** On behalf of

[Shri Sadath Ali Khan]

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement correcting the reply given on the 15th February, 1961, to Starred Question No. 19 regarding Dam on the Sutlaj River by the Chinese. [See Answer to S.Q. No. 19 in Debates, dated 15-2-61].

12.11½ hrs.

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

#### HUNDRED-AND SIXTH REPORT

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to present the Hundred-and-Sixth Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixtieth Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Transport Communications—Motor Transport and Miscellaneous.

12.12 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE SHORTAGE OF COAL AND COKE IN UTTAR PRADESH

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance, and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Acute shortage of coal and coke in U.P. specially Kanpur.”.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The question of supplies of coal to various categories of consumers has two main aspects. On the one hand adequate production has to be ensured and on the other, movement has to be effected from the producing units to the consumers. In regard to the first aspect,

there is adequate production of coal today to meet all the consumer needs in their entirety. Our objective in the Second Plan was to attain a rate of production of 60 million tons per year during the last quarter, of the Plan period. We are only in the middle of this last quarter, and I am glad to inform the House that production has already exceeded the rate of 60 million tons a year. Therefore, when any consumer is faced with shortages, the problem really boils down to one of movement. What makes this movement of coal difficult is that consumers are spread out in distant areas of our vast country, whereas production of coal is concentrated in particular regions where nature has provided coal reserves. About 75 to 80 per cent of the entire production of the country comes from the Bengal-Bihar fields and the haul from these fields to the northern, western and southern parts of the country is quite long, sometimes exceeding 1,100 miles.

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Except for 1 million tons of coal carried for the Southern Railway by the sea route and about 2.4 million tons by road, coal is carried to different parts of the country by rail. During the last year of the First Plan, i.e. 1955-56 total tonnage of coal moved by rail was 35.3 million tons. The annual quantities of coal moved each year during the following four years of the Second Plan were as under:

Year	Tons lifted (millions)	Percentage increase over pre- vious year.
1956-57	38.2	8.2
1957-58	40.5	6.0
1958-59	43.0	6.2
1959-60	44.6	3.7

During the current year 1960-61 the tonnage lifted would be 49.5 million tons representing an increase of 11 per cent over that of last year.