

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT
IN THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

Commencing on the 13th August, 1963 to the 22nd Sravana, 1885 (Saka)

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 13th August, 1963/the 22nd
Sravana, 1885 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN Shri T.
Chengalvarayan (Madras) Shri P.
Abraham (Pondicherry)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*1. [The questioner (*Shri Bhupesh Gupta*)
was absent. For answer, vide cols. 46-47
infra.]

**UTILITY OF ILMENITE FOR THE PRODUCTION
OF STEEL**

*2. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will
the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation has been
made regarding the utility of ilmenite for the
production of steel;

(b) what is the percentage of iron
content in ilmenite; and

(c) what is the estimated quantity of
ilmenite deposits along the shores in Kerala,
specially in the Chavara region?

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THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY
INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a)
to (c) The possibility of using the ilmenite
sands of Kerala for production of iron and
steel is being investigated in consultation
with the Ministry's Consulting Engineers.
Details like percentage of iron content of the
ore and extent of the total deposits will be
definitely known only on completion of the
investigations.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Sir,
formerly ilmenite was largely exported to
foreign countries. What use were those
countries making of this ilmenite?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am sorry I
do not have those details here, Sir.

PURCHASE OF MINING EQUIPMENT

*3. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Will the
Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to
state:

(a) whether a team of Mining Engineers
has been sent to Belgium for the purchase of
mining equipment; and

(b) if so, who are the members of this
team and what machinery is likely to be
purchased from Belgium as a result of its
visit?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND FUEL
(SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b) A
statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

A team with the following composition was sent to Belgium during April 1963 for an on-the-spot inspection and purchase of second-hand coal mining machinery from that country:—

1. Shri Chhedi Lai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines & Fuel, New Delhi—*Leader*.
2. Shri A. N. Banerjee, Area General Manager, National Coal Development Corporation Ltd., Ranchi—*Member*.
3. Shri M. P. Wadhawan, Deputy Financial Controller and Chief Accounts Officer, National Coal Development Corporation Ltd., Ranchi—*Member*.
4. Shri S. V. Gurumurthy, Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, National Coal Development Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.—*Member*,
5. Shri L. R. Sharma, Additional General Manager, Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.—*Member*.

The main items of machinery selected for purchase from Belgium are coal cutting machines, scraper chain conveyors, vibrating screens, flameproof motors and starters, ex-ploders, main mine ventilators, and sundry spare parts.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know, Sir, the value of the machineries proposed to be purchased am¹, when they are expected to arrive in India?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the orders were placed in May 1963. The value as at present calculated comes to Rs. 24 lakhs. But it has been got for a sum of Rs. 11 lakhs.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know the amount of increased production of coal that is expected by using these machineries?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not able to give that figure exactly, Sir. But it may be expected that when these machineries are put into operation, production will be facilitated. They will be replacing some machinery which already exists. They are second-hand machineries which we have been able to get at cheap prices.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Am I to understand that these are second-hand machineries that we are purchasing?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Was any attempt made by the Government to explore the possibility of getting such equipment from the East European countries, particularly Poland, where favourable prices prevail in respect of such equipment?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. The very same team visited Poland also and they had talks with the Polish people. A specific request was made when their Minister was here that this team might visit Poland also. So, they visited Poland also and had talks with them.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know whether they had any specifications from Poland as far as the prices of those machineries were concerned and, if so, whether they compare favourably with the purchase value that has been given to Belgium?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, Sir, these are all second-hand machineries. A suggestion was made to us that it would be profitable for us to purchase these second-hand machineries, and we went in for them. There was *no* means of comparing the prices prevailing in Poland and Belgium, because it was not by open tender.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, I would like to ask one question for which I want a clear answer. Were the prices quoted by the Polish exporters higher than the prices for second-hand machineries in Belgium? It is a ques-

tion of dollar exchange being involved. That is why I am asking whether the prices of the second-hand equipment purchased from Belgium were lower than the prices quoted by Poland.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the prices will become comparable only when we purchase second-hand machineries from both the countries.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: May I know, Sir, what was the purpose of purchasing second-hand machinery? Was not any new machinery available for that purpose?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the cost factor was there. Also, Sir, as we were advised by our Ambassador that there was a good deal of machinery, second-hand machinery, which would be useful to us, we went in for that.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Ordinarily what is the life of the coal-mining plant and for how long has this machinery already been used and also for how long is it expected to be in use when it is purchased?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not ce may be given for a separate question, Sir.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: What is the foreign exchange component of the purchase price?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The amount was paid in foreign exchange; it was Rs. 11 lakhs.

BISRAMPUR COLLIERY

*4. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bisrampur Colliery in the Sarguja District of Madhya Pradesh which is to be developed under the National Coal Development Corporation will not be able to start working on the due date; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND FUEL (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Production in the Bisrampur Colliery started nine months ago. The colliery is, however, still under development and it will reach its targeted output of 2' 7 million tonnes per year in 1965-66.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know the total per tonne cost of production of coal from this colliery?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have the figures, Sir. We have started now and, as I said, the optimum production of 2:7 million tonnes per annum is expected to be achieved by March 1966. But the total non-recurring capital expenditure is Rs. 9,61.00.000.

EXPANSION OF PRIVATE SECTOR OIL REFINERIES

*5. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expansion of private sector oil refineries at Trombay and Vizagapatam has been permitted; and

(b) if so, the terms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND FUEL (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the shortage of petrol and petroleum products, will the Government consider expanding the private sector refineries as far as possible, when there is no possibility of any competition for a long time to come as far as the public sector refineries are concerned?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Without accepting the premise, Sir, I should like to say that we are having this