

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT

IN THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

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

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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 Chengalvaroyan (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?

346 RSD—1

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 consulta-
tion 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 ex-
ported 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 pleas-
ed 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 like-
ly 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 Lal 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, exploders, main mine ventilators, and sundry spare parts

DR A SUBBA RAO May I know, Sir, the value of the machineries proposed to be purchased and 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 then 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 PARMANAND—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