

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) Negotiations are still in the exploratory stage.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Last time the answer given was that the matter was still being examined in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Ministers concerned. Are the present negotiations beyond that stage or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The last answer was 'examination'; the present one is 'exploration'.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, this a complicated matter involving export of 2 million tons of iron ore per year which requires additional railway facilities, port development and so on; it naturally takes time. A representative of the Italian firm came to India in May. Then they sent two persons in October. Talks are going on. The main point is that the Italians themselves have to make up their mind as to whether they require so much quantity of iron ore per year and are ready to give financial assistance for this project.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I ask the Deputy Minister, Sir, whether there is any truth in the report which has appeared in some papers that this offer would be linked up with the suggestion for construction of an all-weather port in Mangalore and the construction of the Mangalore-Hassan railway line?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Yes, Sir. That is so. Supplies of this order can only be made if the port of Mangalore is developed as a major port. Apart from Mangalore-Hassan line, there is the question of construction of another railway line from Kottur to Harihar.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the stage of these negotiations and when did these people come here?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I said, Sir, that in October this year two representatives of that Italian firm came here from Italy for negotiations.

ATOMIC POWER STATIONS TO BE SET UP IN INDIA

*107. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atomic power stations which are likely to be set up in India; and

(b) when and where they are to be set up?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER-IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) and (b). The Atomic Energy Commission recommended that one million kilowatts of nuclear power be installed by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period and that this could be done by setting up two atomic power stations, each station consisting of two units of a quarter million kilowatts each. It is estimated that each of these units would take about four years to build. Government have decided that a minimum of 250,000 kilowatts of nuclear power be included in the power programme of the Third Plan. Exploratory talks with manufacturers of atomic power stations in other countries are in progress. As regards location, the matter is still under consideration.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether India wants to develop atomic energy primarily with its own resources or with foreign resources also?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: If by 'resources' the hon. Member means 'mineral resources' . . .

SHRI M. VALIULLA: To avoid foreign exchange business.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: If we develop atomic energy, we shall develop it largely with our resources, and we shall, if necessary, supplement

them with other resources. If it is important enough to develop it, it will be developed.

SHRI N. M. LING AM: May I know if the Prime Minister can give us an idea with regard to the estimated cost of the power stations and how will they compare with thermal power or hydro-electric power?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The present estimates are that even now the cost of atomic power will be comparable provided it is away from the coal-fields, that is to say, near a coal-field coal is cheaper and there is no transport charge involved. Therefore a thermal plant would be somewhat cheaper just like near hydro-electric works water is available, but any distance from there works in favour of the atomic plant. And there is another aspect of it also. The cost of production of atomic plants is becoming cheaper now. Partly this is the answer to a previous question too. Apart from our need for atomic power, because we have not got, in the long run, enough coal power or water power, it is essential to have atomic power in the future. It is hoped that there are inexhaustible supplies and we may produce it even from such things as sea water, one of the elements but our main supply will come from thorium. We cannot build a plant straightway from thorium. We have to remember that the first plant will be a little expensive but as soon as we shift over, in the second or third stage, to thorium, we will have a very large supply and also it will be cheaper.

CHANGE IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*108. SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any change has been made in the diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan on account of the abrogation of the constitution and the imposition of martial law in Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EX-
TERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAK-

SHMI MENON): No. Sir. The diplomatic relations are continuing as previously.

SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: May I know whether, after the abrogation of the Constitution of Pakistan, the new Government in Pakistan has made any approach to the Government of India for formal recognition?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is not necessary. I have already stated that diplomatic relations are continuing as before.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Was it not a fact that in the case of Iraq when the Government was changed after the military revolution it was necessary and if that was necessary then, why is it not so in the case of Pakistan?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I don't understand the hon. Member's warmth over this question.

DR. R. B. GOUR: You waited for a formal request from the Government of Iraq. Was it not necessary in the case of Pakistan? Why is it that the Government accept readily in this case though they waited for a formal request in the case of Iraq.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: So far as Iraq was concerned, we were constantly in touch. We never broke off relations at all. We were constantly in touch and dealing with them, but the change in Iraq, in some ways, went much further than this change. It was a formality which was observed in the case of Iraq by us and by various other countries. There was no break in our relations at all. In fact the new Government approached us and we replied to them accordingly accepting that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: When the Prime Minister was asked at the Press Conference about the recognition of Pakistan he said:

"That is a legal issue on which I would not like to express an opinion. But the fact is that the first *coup d'etat*, you know, was taken up to the Pakistan Supreme Court and they decided that revolution justi-