

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is a question which I am unable to answer.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Is it not a fact that as a result of the grading of coal, the price of lower grade coal as compared to high power coal will be automatically reduced?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : Yes ; the hon. Member is aware, there are various grades of coal and they are all graded very carefully on a very scientific basis and the prices of the various grades of coal also vary from region to region. If the hon. Member will kindly put a separate question, I shall give her detailed information.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact that the fixing of uniform price for coal has been a long-standing demand of the industries located very far from the coalfields, so that they also may have the same facility as others?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes. There has been this demand from the industries which are far away from the coal areas; and there will also be opposition from industries which are near the coal areas. We have, therefore, to take all these aspects into consideration when examining this question, which, as I have already said, is not a simple one.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: If such a policy is pursued, then will the harm or injury done to industries which have naturally grown up near coal areas also be taken into consideration by Government, and relief, if necessary, given to them?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The hon. Member, coming as he does from Calcutta, knows the probable results of introducing such a uniform price regarding coal. We shall keep in mind this point also which is an important one and we shall take it into consideration before coming to a decision.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND : Is the Government thinking of reducing the present rise in coal prices, if found necessary, and is such a proposal now under examination ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : There is no proposal to reduce the price of coal in the various collieries and for the various grades. After the recent Coal Tribunal's award, we have increased the prices of coal of the various types and there is no question now of reducing the price of coal. The question now is as to how to introduce a uniform price for coal by freight adjustments or something like that. That is the question before us.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Instead of producing 38 million tons, we will be producing 60 million tons of coal in the Second Five Year Plan period. So can we hope that this increase of 22 million tons in production will result in a reduction in the price of coal ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : Increased production does not necessarily result in a reduction in the price.

SULPHUR-CUM-CEMENT PLANT IN SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIOD

*440. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a sulphur plant or sulphur-cum-cement plant is proposed to be set up in the Second Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, where it will be set up; and

(c) what is its estimated production capacity?

THE MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI M. M. SHAH) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal for setting up a sulphur-cum-cement plant during the Second Five Year Plan. The question of extraction from pyrites available at Amjor has been off and on considered but no definite steps can be taken until the deposits are proven.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Was there any proposal from the Rajasthan Government that the Planning Commission

should give the permission for starting such a plant ?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: There is no proposal as such for a sulphur-cwm-cement plant. However, there was a proposal for the manufacture of sulphuric acid ' from gypsum, but the economics of the process are rather of an unfavourable nature and such a plant is not likely to materialise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In view of the fact that we are consuming huge sums on the import of sulphur, is the Government willing to encourage a firm to undertake this project?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: The Government is extremely keen to reach self-sufficiency in sulphur. So, there is an extensive work being done in locating iron pyrites, which is the only way in which the country can produce more sulphur.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: This work of locating pyrites has been going on for a pretty long time. Where is it that they have been able to locate exactly economic pyrites deposits?

SHRI M. M. SHAH : The notional locations are Amjor in Bihar, Tara Devi in Simla, +Chitaldrug in Mysore and Karwar in the Bombay State and some parts of Kashmir. But as the hon. Member knows, these deposits have not only to be qualitatively correct, but quantitatively also they should be sufficient. to feed an economic plant. That is where the present investigations are directed.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: When is Government likely to come to a conclusion on this matter?

SHRI M. M. SHAH: We are extremely keen and we shall try to come to a decision as early as possible

*441 to *446. [For answers, vide cols. 2727-33 infra.]

PROGRAMMES OF INVESTIGATION IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

*447. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to refer to page 382 of Second Five Year Plan and to state:

(a) Whether the target figures of production and export given under the

heading "Programmes of Investigation" are all meant for public sector or any part of it is meant for private sector also;

(b) whether the installed capacity of metalliferous mines is capable of meeting the targets proposed in the Second Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase these targets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) The target figures of production cover both the public and the private sectors.

(b) The present installed capacity of iron-ore and bauxite mines will not be capable of meeting the target proposed.

(c) No, Sir.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know what steps are being taken to increase the installed capacity for meeting the requirements according to the Second Five Year Plan ?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: They are matters of detailed surveys and investigations and, therefore, it has been indicated in the Plan, they are programmes under investigation.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether the Second Five Year Plan envisaged the export of these mineral ores through State Trading Corporations?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Although it is a very delicate question on which I would like my hon. colleague to throw light, I may say that it seems to be the general policy to canalise these exports of ores through State Trading Corporations. At the moment, private enterprise is also allowed to export ores.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In view of the fact that the Planning Commission envisages higher production of iron, may I know whether new iron-ore deposits are going to be exploited?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Yes, our requirements are so great that new iron-ore mines will have to be exploited.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether the All-India Ores Convention held recently put up some proposals before the Government and if so, what steps the Government have taken on those proposals?