

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I then know by what proportion the acreage under cultivation and the quantity produced has decreased?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Every year 10 per cent. has to be decreased and by 1959 there will be no consumption in India.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: That is well known; that is in the agreement. I am asking about the actual decrease in the acreage and to that extent in production.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The acreage has gone down from 3,00,000 acres to 50,000 acres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

STOPPAGE OF GRANT OF LEASES OF COAL MINES

*50. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND (ON BEHALF OF SHRI RATANLAL KISHORI LAL MALVIYA): Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision to stop grant of leases of coal mines to private firms and individuals and if so, from which date?

THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Yes, Sir.

Instructions were issued on 16th April, 1956 to all State Governments that no prospecting licences and mining leases should be granted to private parties.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: Have the Government made any declaration of the date from which they will not issue fresh leases?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The date which I have mentioned has been notified to the State Governments but this question of a general declaration

that henceforward licences will not be issued for private sector has not, so far as I remember, been made public.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: As a result does the Government intend opening new Government-run coal mines? If so, when and if not, why not?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The entire programme is under way. Under the second Plan we have a target of 23 million tons to be produced per year by 1960-61, out of which 15 million tons will be in public sector and 8 million tons in private sector.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: Does the Government intend issuing notices to leaseholders who hold leases above the limit that is permissible under the present law asking them to surrender the areas not being worked? Also what is the limit which is permissible per lessee?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: All that has already been undertaken and as I said, steps are being taken to prevent the expansion of coal mining under private sector but in exceptional circumstances where it is absolutely necessary, we have allowed private parties also to obtain licence under exceptional circumstances.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: How long is this question to be under consideration and how long is likely to be taken to come to a decision?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: It is not under consideration. The policy has been decided upon, that is, 15 million tons will be produced by 1960-61 under public sector and 8 million tons will be allowed to be continued to be worked under private sector. And all steps to ensure this programme are being taken.

SHRI MAHESHWAR NAIN: May I know whether this policy is confined only to coal or it is extended to other minerals also?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: This policy is specifically limited to coal.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What use will be made of the surrendered area which is above the permissible limit?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: If practical Government will do it themselves.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The hon. Minister has said that it has been decided that the private sector would produce only up to 8 million tons and it will not be extended further. Am I correct in that?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I could not catch the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it decided that the private sector will be confined to expansion up to 8 million tons and no further?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is no hard and fast rigidity about it. The Government in the Production Ministry are looking into this matter so far as details are concerned. The aim is to produce as much coal as possible and also as much of it as possible will be undertaken by the public sector. If there is anywhere any special reason, we will surely examine it and perhaps the Production Ministry in the Government will assign fields also to the private sector.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I am rather confused, because the hon. Minister stated that a policy decision has been taken not to permit private coalmine owners to have further leases and that must be in view of certain limitations placed upon their output. If that is not so, then why has Government embarked upon a policy of not permitting private coalmine owners to have leases of further land to exploit coal?

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SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I have stated that the Government in the Ministry of Production have issued instructions to all State Governments requesting that no prospecting licences for coal should be given to private parties except under exceptional circumstances. Therefore, the logical sequence of this would be that the private sector will be contracted and the public sector will expand.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That I understand. So far as prospecting is concerned, it is all right. But I believe I heard the hon. Minister say that even future leases will not be permitted to them. If that is so, that is not a question of prospecting for coal.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, but it will also not be renewed or given to them.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That means that the Government have decided that there will be no further expansion beyond a certain limit so far as the private sector is concerned.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: They already hold prospecting licences and mining leases of areas which they are not developing. They are expected to develop mines which might result in the production of coal to eight million tons or more, as the case may be.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: What quantity of coal is consumed in India every year?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not know, Sir. I require notice to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He cannot answer it now. Mr. Dasappa, Question No. 51.

TRAINING IN OIL TECHNOLOGY

*51. SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (ON BEHALF OF (SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY): Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state the steps taken by