

SETTING UP OF A SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT

*351. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what fees are payable to the consultants invited for preparing project reports for the setting up of a synthetic oil plant in India;

(b) whether in 1948 Koppers Company of Pittsburg was invited to India to prepare a similar project report;

(c) what fees were paid to that company and what has happened to the report submitted by that company; and

(d) which States in India have made preliminary efforts for setting up synthetic oil plant?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) A fee of Rs. 1,67,070 is payable to one of the firms while the other two have offered to do the work free of charge.

(b) Yes.

(c) The fee paid to Koppers was Rs. 3,01,285-11. As the scheme was not taken up during the First Five Year Plan due to financial stringency, advantage could not be taken of that report. The data contained in the report would, however, still be utilised along with the latest data that will be available from the reports that have now been called for. The fresh reports will incorporate considerable technical developments that have taken place in the field since 1949.

(d) So far as is known, preliminary efforts for the setting up of a synthetic oil plant were made only in Orissa by a private party with the support of the State Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, may we know what are the specific new matters that the firms have been asked to examine?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Several technical developments have taken place since 1949 up till today and the firms have been asked to take note of these

technical developments and to give us project reports which will be latest in character.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Can I take it that the project report which was submitted by Koppers has become outdated in the meantime?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir; to a certain extent.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that Koppers are also one of the consultant firms which have been engaged for the second time?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir. One of the three firms is Koppers.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May we know in view of the fact that already we have paid more than Rs. 3 lakhs to Koppers as consultants for this project report which they had submitted, what was the necessity of again entrusting them for submitting the same project report?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The general reply that I gave covers this question also. Even Koppers cannot ignore the latest technical developments that have taken place. Their report of 1949 was based on the technical data available then and the processes perfected at that time. But as I have said, since then technical developments have taken place and so Koppers also would be in a position to give us the latest picture.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, a distinction has to be made between data and technical developments. In the beginning the hon. Minister said certain new data were available but now he says that certain new technical developments have taken place. May we have an idea of those technical developments?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I do not know what is the subtle distinction that the hon. Member is trying to draw between data and technical developments, but I should like to emphasize the technical developments that have taken place.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether any other synthetic oil has been produced by the plant except petrol?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I do not quite follow the question of the hon. Member.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether the Singareni Collieries of Hyderabad has sent any proposal for erecting a synthetic oil plant at Kothagudam or Ramakundam?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: No, Sir.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know if any additional fee is to be paid to Koppers for the opinion which they are now asked to give?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Koppers is one of the firms which have offered to do it free of charge.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: In reply to part (c) of the question the hon. Minister said that a sum of over Rs. 3 lakhs was paid to one firm while the other two firms were willing to do the work free. May I know what prompted the Government to take the services of that firm to which they paid over Rs. 3 lakhs?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: One of the firms to which a fee is being paid has offered to give a detailed report after a thorough study of the whole question. The other two firms are giving only preliminary reports on the basis of which we can later on ask them to give us detailed reports. A fee is paid in one case because the nature of the report is going to be a detailed one. In regard to the other two reports, they will be only preliminary reports.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know the names of the two firms who were willing to do the work free?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Koppers and Kellogs of U.S.A.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: But why have Koppers been paid over Rs. 3 lakhs?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That was for the report of 1949.

ACCOMMODATION FOR CLASS IV : EMPLOYEES

*352. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deputation of Class IV employees of the Government of India met him at Simla on the 29th June 1955 about their housing conditions; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is receiving attention.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know what are the main demands of the employees?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They are three. One is that another room should be added to the residential accommodation; the second is that the rent that is being charged is excessive; and thirdly, they say that the number of water taps in their accommodation is too small and that this amenity should be increased.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if it was brought to the attention of the Government that a large number of such employees did not have any accommodation at all and that they had to live with their friends and relatives?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is a separate question but certainly not included in the demands which were contained in the representation. It is, however, a fact that the accommodation position is not very easy but I cannot say that it is so difficult at Simla.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if it is a fact that it is about three or four years now that these