

(b) Information is not available as the import of synthetic diamonds or stones is not separately recorded in the Import Trade Accounts.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know whether foreign capital would come i"t.o this project?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes. The particular project at Pykara envisages foreign investment.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Can we have

SHRI R. GUPTA: To what extent and which country.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Gupta, be chivalrous. Yes, Shrimati Violet Alva.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Can we have a rough idea of the percentage of foreign capital that will be invested?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The foreign capital envisaged in this scheme is about 49 per cent., in the shape of plant and machinery.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Have any Indians been sent abroad for training in this work?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The proposal is that the whole plant will be Imported into the country along with the experts who will work it here.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are we to understand, Sir, that these stones would be used for industrial purposes Or are they to be used for merely display and luxury purposes?

SHRI N. K A N U K G O : It is used for both, as we have requirements in both directions.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Why, in that case, are public funds and the resources of the country being dissipated in the manufacture of stones for luxury purposes?

I SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is not a Government proposal, but a private party proposal.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Since it is investment of foreign exchange, does it not mean that to that extent there is a drain on our foreign exchange and that the money is to be utilised for such purposes instead, for productive purposes?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: That was considered, but in view of the requirements of the country and the imports of these goods for some time and the potential imports necessary, it was thought wise to have the plant.

AMALGAMATION OF SMALL COLLIERIES

*52. SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision for the amalgamation of small collieries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): Government have decided to set up a Committee to study the problem and formulate proposals for Government's consideration.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Was not a circular issued by the Coal Commissioner in this connection, to representatives of colliery organisations?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: A meeting was held last month and in fact, all the colliery associations and the Colliery Federation have agreed in principle to the amalgamation of the small collieries. A Committee is being set up immediately—it may be set up within a week or two—to look into the whole question and to suggest detailed measures for the amalgamation of the collieries.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Has the hon. Minister received any representation from the Indian Colliery Owners' Association and may I know whether any representative of that association is also being nominated to serve on that committee? It is an association-truly representative of small collieries.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: As far as I know, there are three associations there and one representative of each of these associations will be associated with the work of the Committee.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if Government is aware of any popular demand that the coal mines should be nationalised rather than dealt with in this manner?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, that is a much larger question but, during the next Five Year Plan, there is going to be a large-scale expansion of the activity in the public sector as far as the production of coal is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

12 NOON

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

C?ENING OF RADIO STATIONS IN ANDHRA

*30. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHA-RAO: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee for opening of two more radio stations in Andhra; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on it?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KES-KAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 20 K.W. medium-wave transmitter is being installed at Vijayawada during the period of the First Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to instal an auxiliary studio at Kurnool during this period.

The question of adequate coverage of the Andhra area during the Second 3?lan period is being looked into

though this does not necessarily mean erection of two more stations.

SOIL EROSION'PROBLEMS IN THE DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

*35. DR. R A D H A K U M U D MOOKERJI: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the problems of soil erosion and conservation that have arisen as a result of the Damodar Valley Project;

;'b) how they are being dealt with; and

(c) what is the budgeted expenditure therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on tne Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The first place of the Damodar Valley Project envisaged construction of four major dams at Tilaiya, Konar, Maithon and Panchet Hill. These dams would impound the waters of Damodar and Barakar rivers and their tributaries, to prevent floods and provide irrigation and power facilities. The reservoirs are in the middle and lower reaches of the Damodar catchment. Due to erosion which results in the carriage of large quantities of silt down the rivers, the reservoirs are however liable to be affected adversely by gradual silting up. The DVC are alive to the urgency of this problem and are taking active steps to promote soil conservation in the Valley. There are badly eroded areas both in the upper and the lower catchments of Damodar. The country side is riddled with gullies and large areas of fertile land are being rendered waste. The objectives of anti-erosion and soil conservation measures are to check the rush of water which carries silt, by the construction of several small dams, and to cover up barren and gullied lands with suitable coverage like forest, pastures, crops, etc.