

their nominations to the National Academy of Letters?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Many States are still to send their names. But, as I said, the composition is almost complete. The names of the representatives of the National Academy of Art, Dance and Drama have not yet been received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has Orissa sent in its nominations?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Orissa has not yet sent its name.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the scope of the work of the Academy been defined?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The constitution and composition will both be placed on the Table. Is it not so?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir. I have said already that the composition of the Academy is almost complete and the scope has been announced.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, during the last session the resolution on literature moved by my hon. friend, Mr. Rama Rao, was withdrawn—he was persuaded to withdraw it—on the assurance that the work indicated in that resolution will be included within the scope of the work of this Academy.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I think that within the next few weeks this Academy will be established.

SHRI K. RAMA RAO: This Academy has nothing to do with my resolution.

RECOVERY OF SULPHUR FROM COAL

*85. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state;

(a) whether any investigations have been carried on for the recovery of sulphur from coal;

(b) if so, (i) what are the results of the investigation, (ii) what is the type of coal suitable for the same, and (iii) what is the total estimated amount of deposits of the said coal available at present;

(c) whether the method of recovery has been perfected and tried under commercial conditions; if so, what are the results; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any special measures for the speedy completion of this investigation and for the early implementation of its findings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Laboratory experiments have been conducted at the Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, on the desulphurisation of Assam coal and on the recovery of pyritic sulphur from coal of Nowrozabad Colliery, Vindhya Pradesh. The desulphurisation experiments of Assam coal have shown that steam, water gas and coal gas are good desulphurisation media, if supplied continuously throughout the process of carbonisation of coal. Most of the sulphur is removed and is recoverable as hydrogen sulphide. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research propose to follow up the Laboratory experiments by semi-pilot plant scale experiments.

The coal of Nowrozabad Colliery, Vindhya Pradesh contains from 0.8 to 1.3 per cent. of pyritic sulphur. The washability investigations on this coal conducted at the Fuel Research Institute have shown that roughly 1.6 tons of pyrites per 100 tons of coal can be obtained in the rejects. The

experiments have also shown that concentration of the pyrites is feasible by "tabling" the washery rejects from the coal obtained by cutting at 1.6 specific gravity. The pyrite "concentrate" obtained is within the normal specification for the manufacture of sulphuric acid. The total pyrites recoverable is of the order of 50 per cent. of that present in the raw coal. On the basis of 150 tons per hour coal-washing plant about 48 tons of pyritic 'concentrates' (equivalent to about 23 tons of sulphur) can be obtained per day. The Associated Cement Company of Bombay have shown an interest in this process, and it is understood that they propose to instal a Coal Washery and Pyrites Recovery Plant.

Reserves of Coal

The coal reserves of Upper Assam are estimated to be 1,000 million tons and those of Garo and Khasi Hills 1,200 million tons making a total of about 2,200 million tons. The coal reserves in Vindhya Pradesh are approximately 4,160 million tons.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: If the experiments undertaken show that pyritic sulphur can be profitably extracted from Assam and Vindhya Pradesh coal, may I know what steps the Government have taken so far to extract sulphur from these sources?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Laboratory experiments have been conducted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. They are going to conduct further experiments. As soon as a pilot plant has been received, they propose to extend the experiments on a pilot scale.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: May I know for how long the Government will rest content with merely conducting experiments?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Experiments will go on so long as we are not satisfied that economic extraction

of sulphur is possible from our coal in these regions.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it not a fact that every year we are importing more and more sulphur?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We are importing sulphur for the production of sulphuric acid. The only source of sulphur is our Assam and Vindhya Pradesh coal.

PROF. G. RANGA: Wherefrom are we expecting the machinery that is needed for conducting these researches?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not think any particular type of machinery is required. Our laboratory experiments have been completed, and we propose to extend these experiments on a pilot scale.

PROF. G. RANGA: Has there been any proposal for the further extension of researches and, if so, what is it?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is no specific proposal for the extension of experiments.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: The statement attached to the answer says that the Associated Cement Company of Bombay have shown an interest in this process. May I know what sort of interest they have shown in this and what steps have been taken to facilitate extraction of sulphur?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: They are interested in the recovery of pyritic sulphur from the coal of Nowrozabad Colliery. They have been following our experiments and perhaps they think that they can do it profitably for themselves?

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Does the hon. Minister know that sulphur is needed not only for making sulphuric acid but also for making safety matches and so this cottage industry is handicapped for want of a continuous supply of sulphur.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: If there is scarcity of sulphur in the country, I know that many industries will suffer.

WORKING OF THE TEXT BOOKS SCANDAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE IN PEPSU

*86. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Text Book Scandal Enquiry Committee appointed by the PEPSU Government is still continuing its work; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what stage the Committee has reached in its enquiry and when it is expected to finish its work?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) Yes.

(b) The Committee has practically completed the enquiry and its report is expected to be ready within the next month or two.

TRIBAL RESEARCH BUREAU IN ORISSA

*87. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India is in any way connected with the Tribal Research Bureau set up by the Orissa Government;

(b) if so, what is the work of the proposed Bureau; and

(c) whether there are proposals for setting up such bodies in other States also where there is a large number of tribes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) In their welfare programme for tribal people for the year 1953-54, the Government of Orissa included a scheme for the establishment of a Tribal Research Bureau for a grant-in-aid from the Centre under article 275 of the Constitution. This scheme has been approved by the

Government of India; but they have no information as to whether or not the Bureau has been actually established.

(b) It was reported by the State Government that the function of the Bureau would be to find out the special characteristics and problems prevailing among the tribes of different zones with a view to having a scientific study of the cultures of different tribal zones for facilitating welfare work.

(c) Government of India have no information, as this is a matter which is primarily the concern of the State Governments.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But is it not a fact that the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes is also a matter which concerns the Central Government?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: This deals with Scheduled Tribes and it is not a matter for the Central Government but it is a matter for the State Government.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But the Central Government has appointed a Scheduled Caste Commissioner whose reports are submitted before Parliament.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The Commissioner's duties are only confined to the question of finding out the actual conditions and ultimately the report has to be acted upon and recommendations implemented by the State Governments.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to take it that the Government of India have no concern to interest itself in the researches as regards culture, language and other aspects of life of the tribal people?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The Government of India are concerned because they are making grants to the tune of Rs. 26.2 crores.