

(b) the number of witnesses examined by the Committee up to the end of January 1953; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Committee during the said period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a), (b) and (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Can we know at least when the Committee is likely to conclude its tour, Sir?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Committee is likely to conclude its tours by the early part of March, i.e., next month.

LOANS BY THE INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION

*49. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) who are the managing agents of each of the Electric Supply Companies which have been granted loans by the 'Industrial Finance Corporation'; and

(b) the purpose for which the loans were given to the Electric Supply Companies of Purulia and Muzafferpore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) Three electric supply companies were sanctioned loans by the Industrial Finance Corporation namely, (i) Purulia Electric Supply Corporation Ltd., (ii) Cuttack Electric Supply Co. Ltd., and (iii) Muzafferpore Electric Supply Co., Ltd. Of these only the Purulia Electric Supply Corporation actually availed of the loan and the other two sanctions have lapsed. The Managing Agents for the first company are Messrs Purulia Trading. Co. and for the other two Messrs Octavius Steel and -U. Ltd.

(b) The Purulia Electric Supply-Corporation was granted the loan for completing the scheme for the supply of electrical energy to Purulia and the loan to Muzafferpore Electric Supply Co. Ltd., had been sanctioned to finance their scheme of expansion.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether the Octavius Steel and Co. is an Indian concern?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have no information on that point, but, I have got the names of the Directors from which it appears that foreigners are more than Indians.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: How did the Indian Finance Corporation sanction a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Cuttack Electric Supply Co., which is owned mostly by British people?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The Industrial Finance Corporation advances loans to the public limited companies registered in India and, therefore, there is no distinction between a public limited company owned by the Europeans or the Indians.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: That I know. Sir; but, in the course of the speech on the Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, it was no less than the Deputy Minister for Finance, who is now replying, who said that no loan was ever sanctioned to any company which is owned by foreign interests.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I do not remember to have said so.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: You may see your recorded speech.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The scope of the Act and the conditions are in section 2 where 'company' has been defined.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Would this policy of the Government mean that inviting foreign aid from foreign sources would ultimately result in our giving aid to them?

(*Shri M. C. Shah stood up*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That question does not require an answer.

DEPOSITS OF LIMESTONE IN BIHAR

"50. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether deposits of crystalline limestone have been discovered in Bihar;

(b) the extent of the area where the limestone has been discovered and the estimated quantity of limestone available there; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for the utilisation of this deposit?

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

(c) Information has been called for from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the Council when received.

STATEMENT

The Director, Geological Survey of India has reported that the Geological Survey of India is not aware of any recent discovery of crystalline limestone deposits in the Bihar State. He has added that Bihar is fairly well supplied with limestone which is known to occur in the following areas:—

Hazaribagh district.—In the area around Bhurkund (23°39'. 85°21') there are two deposits of crystalline limestone in the Bundu-Basaria and Kurkuta-Religara areas respectively. An approximate estimate of limestones

suitable for the manufacture of port-land cement by selective mining in. Bundu-Basaria area works out to 3,000,000 tons.

In the Kurkuta-Religara area, the • reserves appear to be large, but detailed prospecting has not been. completed.

Small limestone bands are also met with in a number of other localities, particularly between Bhurkunda and Sondimara.

Manbhum district.—The deposits in this district occur at Hansapathar, Asta, Kulbana and Dhanara. Total reserves of crystalline limestone have been estimated at 1,250,000 tons. But the analysis of representative samples show that the percentage of insolubles is far too high in the rock for its use in the manufacture of cement.

Limestones are also known to occur near Baghmara (23°39' : 86°45') northwest of Panchet hill.

Ranchi district.—The crystalline limestone deposits occur along a zone between Babbane-Hoyar-Khalari (23°38' : 23°40' : 85°00'-85°04'). It is 500-800 ft. thick and is worked for cement.

Shahabad district.—The best and most extensive limestone deposits in Bihar are those of Vindhyan age in the Sone Valley in the Shahabad district. It is the chief source of high grade lime in Bihar. The length of the outcrop is about 45 miles and at Chunhattar (24° 36' : 83° 52'). the minimum thickness recorded is 500 feet. The composition of the Rhotas limestone varies as follows:

CaCO_3	80 to 90%
MgCO_3	2 to 3%
FeO_2	1.5 to 2%
SiO_2	3 to 12%

The limestone is extensively quarried for the manufacture of cement. The reserves are large.