

been refused by the merchants? I am asking this in reference to part (c) of my first question.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am not aware at the moment regarding the particular steps to clear the stocks, but I think they will be allowed to be sold.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: May I know the reasons as to why there were no sales in Mysore and Coimbatore in the months of January and February? And is it not one of the main reasons for the heavy rise in coffee prices?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I will find out the reasons why there were no sales in those two months. But so far as I can see, they were not the reason for the high price of coffee.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it not due to the fact that the Commerce Ministry in Delhi took a long time to arrive at a decision as regards the fixing up of the basic prices that the sales did not take place in the months January and February and the prices rose very high?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I do not think so, Sir.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Will the Government accept my statement if it is true?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: If it is true, I shall accept it.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: May I know why since January 1953 auctions in Mysore and Coimbatore have been stopped?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think it is the same question and the same answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. There is a Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED IRON AND STEEL PLANT.

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

(a) whether Government are deputed another team of experts to go into the findings of the Technical Mission which submitted its Report to the Government early this month regarding the location of the proposed Iron and Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the names of the personnel who will constitute the team; and

(c) the reasons for which Government propose to take the steps referred to in part (a) above?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that on the 23rd of last month in a high level conference that took place in Delhi it has been decided to refer the matter to another Expert Committee?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have seen such reports. I have only to say that the reports are very wide off the mark.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Some time ago the hon. Minister gave us to understand that the report of the Expert Committee which went into this question earlier would be decided upon very soon and that the hon. Minister for Production would be in a position to tell us what they were going to do about the location of the Steel Plant finally.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your question was whether another Expert Committee is being appointed. How does this arise?

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: It arises out of the fact that the Committee should have gone into the question of the location.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government reply was that it was under consideration.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I can give some information in connection with the location of this iron and steel plant. We have been trying to find a suitable technical and financial collaborator who will be ready to participate in the financial structure of the project up to about one-third of the capital investment that will be necessary for this project. We are making every investigation to find a suitable collaborator but we have not yet succeeded in naming the party. As soon as this is done, then it will be the proper time for finally making the choice as regards the location after taking the opinion of the collaborator whom we finally decide upon. This is the position. Under these circumstances, we have not yet finally made the choice regarding the location.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Can the hon. Minister give us any information as to the parties with whom they are seeking this collaboration?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Well, Sir, as hon. Members are aware, sometime ago we had an offer from the Japanese, but we could not accept their offer for several reasons; and we had to drop that proposal. We are carrying on discussions with certain German firms and the discussions are in an advanced stage. I am not in a position to give further details to this House at this stage.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PROTECTION OF DIBRUGARH TOWN FROM EROSION

*628. SHRI L. BOROOAH: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the progress so far made in the construction of a

revetment for the protection of the town of Dibrugarh, Assam, from erosion of the Brahmaputra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): The State Government have collected stones for revetment of the river bank over a distance of three furlongs. Temporary training works to silt up channel in town area and temporary protective measures against erosion in town and Maijan areas are in progress.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE IN ASSAM

*629. SHRI L. BOROOAH: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the embankment and drainage schemes for the protection of crops from the floods of the Kopili river in Nowgong district and the Dihing river in Lakhimpur and Sibsagar districts in Assam; and

(b) whether any experts have been sent by Government to Assam to supervise the construction of the revetment at Dibrugarh and the embankment and drainage, if any, in Kopili and Dihing rivers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) According to the report received from the Government of Assam, a scheme of flood control and drainage in the Kapilli basin which was started in 1948 is nearing completion. The work of providing openings in the road and railway embankments to pass the flood spill quickly has also been taken up. Two such openings in the road embankments were provided last year and one more is being completed this year. Another opening near Dharamtul will also be taken up early. A contour survey of the basin is also being carried out to see what further measures can be undertaken.