

(c) whether the above variety of coal is best suited for tobacco curing ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) A representation was received by the Coal Commissioner from the Guntur District Tobacco Growers & Curers Co-operative Society, Limited, Ongole, I for the supply of the major portion, of their quota of coal from Siaganeri Collieries.

(b) The current programme provides for the supply of 84% of the quota from the Siaganeri Collieries and the balance from Bengal/Bihar and j Talcher Coalfields.

(c) It would be difficult to say so without examining the suitability of all other coals for tobacco curing.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why not the full quota of coal required by the tobacco growers in Andhra be supplied from the Singaneri Collieries which are very near to them ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : As I have already said in the course of my answer, the major portion of it is being supplied from Siaganeri Collieries about 84%. A good part of the production is also necessary for the South Indian Railways and so, we have got to make a judicious allocation of the coal available from the Singaneri Collieries to all the primary consumers in South India.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Sir, if the coal required by the tobacco growers is supplied from Singaneri, which is nearer to them, they can get it cheaper ; when that is the position, why can't the whole amount of coal required be supplied to the tobacco growers from Singaneri instead of being imported from thousands of miles away, from Calcutta?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : It would be very desirable, Sir, if we could supply the entire quantity required by them from the Singaneri Collieries but, there are certain practical difficulties. As the hon. Member will please see, we

already supply a very good part of the requirements from the Siaganeri Collieries and every attempt will be made to see that the maximum quantity required for tobacco curing purposes is supplied from Siaganeri. Only a very small quantity is supplied from Bcaga!. Bihar and Talcher. Anyway, I shall have the matter looked into again, Sir.

PROTECTION OF DIBRL/CARH FROM FLOODS

•141. DR. R. B. GOUR (on beha'f of SHRI V. K. DHAGE) : Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representations to take permanent measures to stop damage to the town of Dibrugarh by the yearly overflowing of Brahmaputra river, by including the same in the Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) and (b). The scheme for the protection of Dibrugarh town has been accepted by the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Five Year Plan. The attention of the hon. Member is also drawn to the detailed statement on the matter made by the Prime Minister on the 13th November 1952.

DISCOVERY OF COAL IN ORISSA

•142. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a sixty feet seam of easily workable coal has been found near Talcher Colliery in Orissa ; and

(b) if so, when it was found ; and whether work for extracting coal from that seam has been started ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) A seam of coal 35' to 50' in thickness occurs in the property adjacent to the Talcher Colliery.

(b) Indications of this seam were found in the original prospecting of the area about 25 to 30 years back. Work for extracting coal from the seam has not yet started ; the Government of India's application for the grant of a prospecting licence and mining lease to work the area is now pending with the Government of Orissa.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What are the conditions that the Orissa Government is laying for the grant of licence ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : They have not laid down any conditions so far. We have yet to hear from them.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know why there is such a long delay in working out a scheme ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : There is no delay on our part, Sir. These areas belong to the Orissa State at present. They were originally given to a private firm and the private firm did not consider it worthwhile to exploit these mines. It was only in the year 1950 that the Railway Colliery Committee that had been set up recommended that a portion of this may be taken over by the Government of India and worked for purposes of extracting coal. After the receipt of the Report, Government of India went into the question, worked out the cost of exploiting these mines and have now applied for a mineral lease. We are awaiting the reply from the Orissa Government to proceed.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : How long ago did the Government of India apply for the lease ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I am not quite sure, but about 8 or 10 months ago. The Government of Orissa feel that this is a very complicated matter and they would like to go into all aspects of the matter before taking a decision.

We have again reminded the Orissa Government and we are expecting a reply from them early.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know, Sir, if the Government have thought of the possibility of tapping gas straight from the seam and if so, when they operate this field are they thinking of tapping coal gas straight from the seam ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I am afraid Sir, that that does not arise out of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said "while operating this, whether you would consider tapping gas".

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : He has answered, Sir, that it is a 60 'workable seam that has been discovered in the Talcher Collieries. I wanted to know whether they know that there are possibilities of tapping coal gas straight from the seam and, if so, whether they would examine this question.

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I am sorry, Sir, I cannot give any definite answer to that question at present.

OFFICERS KNOWING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

♦143. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how many officers in the Indian Foreign Service know any of the European or Asian languages in addition to English and the Indian regional languages ;

(b) whether Government have any definite scheme to encourage these officers to learn additional foreign languages and gain requisite proficiency in them ; and

(c) if so, what particular languages are recommended to these officers for study ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA) : (a) 67.