

(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, for the supply of the major portion of their quota of coal from Singaneri Collieries.

(b) The current programme provides for the supply of 84% of the quota from the Singaneri Collieries and the balance from Bengal/Bihar and 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 Singaneri 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 Singaneri Collieries and every attempt will be made to see that the maximum quantity required for tobacco curing purposes is supplied from Singaneri. Only a very small quantity is supplied from Bengal, Bihar and Talcher. Anyway, I shall have the matter looked into again, Sir.

#### PROTECTION OF DIBRUGARH FROM FLOODS

\*141. DR. R. B. GOUR (on behalf 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 ?