

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 16, 1960
Kartika 25, 1882 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

बोकारो और रानीगंज के कोयला निक्षेप

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- *६५. { श्री दी० चं० शर्मा :
श्री खुशवक्त राय :
श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त :
श्रीमती इला पालचौधरी :
श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :
श्री भ्रमजद झली :
श्री पुष्पूस :
श्री त० ब० विट्ठल राव :
श्री साधन गुप्त :
डा० राम सुभग सिंह :
श्री सुबिमन घोष :
श्री जगन्नाथ राव :
श्री आचार :
श्री आस्रर :
श्री हाल्दर :
श्री हेम बरुआ :
कुमारी मो० वेद कुमारी :
श्रीमती रेणुका राय :
श्री दामानी :

क्या इस्पात, खान और ईंधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनुसन्धानों ने यह सिद्ध कर दिया है कि बोकारो और 1276(Ai) LSD—1.

रानीगंज के कोयला क्षेत्रों में फस्ट ग्रेड का कोयला उपलब्ध हो सकता है ;

(ख) क्या उक्त कोयले की वैज्ञानिक जांच की गई है ;

(ग) क्या इस बात का भी पता लगाया गया है कि उक्त कोयला क्षेत्रों से कोयला उपलब्ध होने पर भारत के सभी इस्पात कारखानों को कोयला उपलब्ध किया जा सकेगा ; और

(घ) इन कोयला क्षेत्रों में कोयला निकालने के लिये क्या प्रबन्ध किया गया है?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (d). A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 31.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement I find that in many places like Raniganj, Ramgarh and Hirakhun new seams have been discovered. What are the potentialities of these seams?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The Geological Survey of India have successfully carried out investigations in these areas of Raniganj, Ramgarh and Dishegarh and the bore holes undertaken by them show that significant quantities of coking coal, which is fit to be used for metallurgical purposes, had been discovered. These discoveries are likely to have far-reaching importance for our steel plants. The quantities of coal available in all these new seams have not been fully investigated because detailed prospecting is yet to follow.

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement I find that one block in the Raniganj area has been marked for development. May I know whether the blocks in other areas have also been marked for development?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As and when fuller investigations are completed and there are meetings between the G.S.I., IBM and the Coal Controller, more and more areas will be released for development.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What is the extent of the area on which these borings are being undertaken?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: In various sections areas have been delineated. For instance, in Dishergarh area, as I have stated coal seams have been marked out and about two sq. miles have been delineated for development. In Ramgarh 74 ft. thick seam have been encountered and the area has still to be delineated. Similarly, in other areas also work is going on and nothing can finally be said about the areas at this moment.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any assessment has been made of the total quantity of metallurgical coal which can be had from these three seams at Raniganj, Ramgarh and Dishergarh? How long can they meet the requirements of our steel plants?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said, these discoveries seem to be very significant to our steel plants because good quantities of metallurgical coal is likely to be struck out of these seams. But, as fuller investigations have not been completed yet, any assessment cannot be given with regard to the requirements of our steel plants which can be met out of this.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know whether any of these discoveries have been made in any of the existing mining leases and, if so, what is going to be the policy towards the exploitation of these deposits?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: These discoveries have mostly been made in the unleased areas. Unfortunately, these areas have been neglected by the coal mining industry in the past. Therefore, in the unleased area we had to carry out investigations and we made some discoveries.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether the building up of roads and rails will be taken up simultaneously so that the coal can be carried to the steel plants as soon as the mines are exploited? Also, since the mines are going to be in the public sector, will the very best modern kind of safety devices installed there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I presume that all these considerations are before the Government.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: The statement says:

“Mining of coal from these coal-fields will be considered after a thorough quantitative and qualitative assessment has been carried out.”

Although it is not possible, as the hon. Minister has just now stated, to have a detailed scheme now, may I know whether at least the mining of these new coal fields will be kept confined to the public sector according to the Industrial Policy Resolution or will it be leased out to private owners also?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The policy of the Government is before the House and there is no reason why Government should deviate from that policy.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that sometime back the hon. Minister made a statement to the effect that this discovery of coal deposits will go a long way towards the solution of the problem of coal to the steel plants for a pretty long time? If he has said like this, may I know whether he arrived at that conclusion without having any qualitative or quantitative assessment of the coal deposits?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: My own assessment was made after the report of the Geological Survey of India was out and after the discussions I had with them. But it is always subject to the technical assessment yet to be made and if my estimates go wrong I will stand up before the House and say “Well, they were wrong”.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know how these discoveries will affect the working costs of coal for our steel plants?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot say anything about it finally but it looks like improving the economic aspect of the working of coal mines, because the seams that are supposed to be quite deep, about 2,000 ft. are now bifurcated up to 1200 odd ft. Therefore, if these seams are extended quite long, then the economic aspect of the workability of coal mines becomes quite hopeful.

Shri Achar: May I know whether any particular investigation is going on in this area by the Geological Survey? How has it happened that they discovered the new discovery?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Actually, very extensive drilling is going on in this area. It is not by chance that the Geological Survey has hit upon this. A great deal of geological drilling is going on and as a result of that drilling, these seams have been discovered.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether any assessment has been made about the percentage of ash content in this coal?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes; in some areas, the ash content has been assessed.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: What is it?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got the figure here. In certain areas, in certain seams, the ash content seems to be high about 15 to 18 per cent.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the hon. Minister will explain what will be the economic aspect of the exploitation of this coal with reference to the steel plants?

Mr. Speaker: It was asked.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think, so far as the economic aspect with regard to the cost of coal is concerned there is not likely to be any significant

effect, because, as the House is already aware, the prices of coal are controlled. Any new discovery of metallurgical coal is most welcome because the Geological data which is already in possession of the geologists and others shows that the quantity of metallurgical coal is limited.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Has the hon. Minister's attention been invited to the news item appearing prominently in all the papers today that the private sector will now be taken in to exploit fresh fields of coal? May I know if this is not substantially correct? If it is not so, may I know what steps are being taken by the Government to step up the public sector?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this question. There is no meaning. It is a question of policy. The question was asked and the hon. Minister has replied. What is the meaning of pitching one Minister against another? He said definitely that there is absolutely no reason why there should be a change. It is a categorical reply to a similar question. What is the meaning of asking another Minister? Do you want them to contradict each other?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: No.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It has appeared in the morning papers that they are going to give the private sector the development of coal.

Mr. Speaker: That is why I allowed. I have got two adjournment motions. I have looked into them. That is why I allowed this question though it is a policy matter. The hon. Minister said that there is no reason why there should be a change. The hon. Members now ask him why this news appeared in the papers.

Shri Hem Barua: When the Ministers disagree, is it not an unedifying example of the Ministers indulging in the pastime of running one another down?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members will confine themselves to running one another down in this side.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think this insinuation is not correct. No one is contradicting each other. I do not know wherefrom Shri Hem Barua has got this. This is, I think, one of his usual...

Shri Hem Barua: That is what the Speaker said.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The second part of my question was this. I take it for granted that there is going to be no change. In view of that, what steps are being taken to step up the public sector? Because, we find that there has been a lot of shortfall in this. So, I naturally ask, there is a big find here, and in view of their reiterated policy that they are going not to allow the private sector, what are they going to do to step up the public sector?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may table a motion for that.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is not a question of a motion. It is a question arising out of this.

Mr. Speaker: I allowed questions to avoid any misunderstanding because it appeared in the newspapers. It is a matter of policy. There is no good pursuing this. Next question.

Sui Gas From Pakistan

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Shri D. C. Sharma:

Shri P. K. Deo:

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:

Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

*96. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Shri N. R. Muniswamy:

Shri Hem Barua:

Shri Damani:

Shri Achar:

Shri Osman Ali Khan:

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations for obtaining Sui gas from Pakistan were held recently; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). Some indications have lately been received that Pakistan would be interested to sell natural gas to India. No definite proposal has so far been received and no formal negotiations have taken place.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the difference between indication and formal negotiation and what are the stages to be undergone before indications are turned into formal negotiations?

Mr. Speaker: How does a general question arise?

Shri Goray: In view of the fact that the Gujerat State appointed a committee and after investigation, they have come to the conclusion that the Sui gas will not be an economic proposition, what do the Government propose to do about it when negotiations start?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not know what investigations have been made by the Gujerat Government except casually reading some news in the papers. Nor do I think how conclusively the Gujerat State Government can come to the conclusion at this stage that the Sui gas cannot be used by the Gujerat State industries. The whole question is still under consideration of the Government. Preliminary studies about the possibility of utilising the Pakistan gas are being made in consultation with the Ministries concerned and the State Governments.

Shri Osman Ali Khan: May I know whether the Government have explored the Jaisalmer area in India where the Sui gas seems to extend?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is a very incorrect notion which has been spread by certain newspapers of Delhi that the Sui gas has extended up to Jaisalmer area. There is nothing like that.