

Shri Hathi: I have no information, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the research work at UNESCO under an advisory committee of 9 scientists has in any way helped towards reclaiming areas especially in India?

Shri Hathi: The Committee referred to by the hon. Member was only an Advisory Committee and it was asked to formulate proposals as to what should be the equipment for the Centre and submit a report. So, nothing further has been done so far.

Shri Punnoose: Will this work be done in consultation with State Governments?

Shri Hathi: Work will be done with the co-operation of State Governments naturally.

MANGANESE ORE

*769. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is one of the largest suppliers of the world in metallurgical manganese ore?

(b) Is there any proposal for the Indian Standards Institution to issue standard specifications for manganese ore, one of battery grade and the other of metallurgical grade?

(c) Which country is India's biggest customer?

(d) Is it a fact that in E.C.A.F.E. region India continues to hold a principal position as exporter?

(e) Is it a fact that the Geological Survey of India had field operations in Orissa and Bihar and found new deposits of manganese ore at Amjhor in the Sahabad District of Bihar?

(f) Is it a fact that Amjhor, in the Sahabad District of Bihar was an important source of sulphur?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Indian Standards Institution has already issued standard specifications for manganese ore—Battery grade and manganese ore—Metallurgical Grade.

(c) U.S.A.

(d) Yes.

(e) Field officers of the Geological Survey of India conducted operations in Orissa and Bihar but no manganese

ore deposits were found in the Sahabad District of Bihar.

(f) Pyrites is available in that area and it is possible to extract sulphur from it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the name of the company which had been entrusted with the task of exploiting the Pyrite deposit in Amjhor?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The firm is named Kutchewar Lime and Stone Company.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that the best kind of manganese ore is found in Madhya Pradesh and is there a proposal for starting a manganese factory there?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As for the second part there have been various proposals but nothing has taken shape yet.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that in the United States this manganese ore is used to make such dangerous explosives as manganese heptoxide and may I also know whether the quantity which is expected to America.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does all that arise out of this question?

Shri V. P. Nayar: That country, the hon. Minister says, is India's biggest customer and it is necessary to know what use is made of it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question is not allowed.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In regard to para. (c) may I know the value countrywise of our customers?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have got a long statement here. I will place the statement on the Table of the House.

Shri Jaipal Singh: The first six biggest customers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The biggest is given in (c).

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to know the value countrywise of the first six.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That goes into details and will take time.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the estimated quantity of Pyrite deposits in Amjhor and what quality of that deposit is being exploited annually?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The estimated quantity is 30,000 tons. As to how much has been exploited, there is no information. The matter was taken in hand at a time when sulphur was scarce and sulphur prices were high because we were getting certain quantities of sulphur from outside owing to allocations made by the International Materials Conference. Now that sulphur supplies are easy, I am afraid this matter of exploiting Pyrites has been slowed down because of considerable accumulation of stocks at the pit-head.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I find from the commercial intelligence statistics published by the Commerce Ministry that the export of manganese ore has increased from 51,288 tons to 80,293 tons in 1951. May I know whether this increase in export has been due to the reciprocal arrangement on account of the wheat loan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I may add that the export has increased further to 1,268,000 tons. That is the latest figure we have on record. There is no such barter arrangement with any country.

RAIDING OF SHRI NAG'S HOUSE

*770. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that on the 16th December 1952 some miscreants raided the house of Shri Debendra Chandra Nag at Gavigaon under Chunarghat Police Station in Habiganj Sub-Division and carried away forcibly Mukulrani, wife of Shri Nag?

(b) Is it a fact that the police were informed and a case was instituted against the alleged abductors in Habiganj Court but nothing has come out?

(c) Do Government propose to take drastic steps to check such happenings and create confidence in the minorities?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). A complaint to this effect was received by the Minister for Minority Affairs from Shri Debendra Chandra Nag and the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan on 7th January, 1953. The Government of Pakistan have informed that the matter has been taken up with the authorities concerned. Their final reply is awaited.

(c) According to diplomatic procedure, we can protest about such cases to the Government of Pakistan and request early action. That has been done.

LAC INDUSTRY

*772. **Shri Jajware:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state in view of the gradual deterioration of the lac industry in India what specific steps are Government taking for the regulation of Forward Contracts, banning of speculation in shellac, and stabilising its price to save this cottage industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The question of bringing forward trading in shellac and seedlac within the purview of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952, is under consideration. The question of stabilising the prices of this commodity by fixing minimum and maximum prices statutorily is not considered feasible.

Shri Jajware: Is it a fact, Sir, that shellac worth ten to twelve crores are exported every year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Shellac exports, Sir, I have got in tonnage. In 1951-52 it was 24,736 tons and in the previous year 21,460 tons.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: It is generally found that the price of shellac appears to be fluctuating to a very large extent. Has Government thought of any measures to stop it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, it is a fact that the price is fluctuating very largely. In January 1952, it was Rs. 130 per md. and this year it is Rs. 73. The only way in which Government could perhaps try to stabilise prices is to control forward trading in this commodity, because this is a commodity which, essentially, depends on its price upon the export offers that it gets; and it happens that India has not got a monopoly of the supply of this commodity today because Siam also exports this commodity.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have Government ever considered the suggestion of utilising shellac here locally by our industries? Has anything been done in this matter?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I believe to the extent that it is possible shellac is used; particularly in some of the electrical industries, it is being done. But any further expansion of internal utilisation of shellac would depend upon the development of industries in which this can be utilised.

Shri Jasani: Have any recommendations been made by the Shellac Committee for banning forward trading in this commodity?