

good look at it and solve any difficulty.

**Shri Morarka:** I was not referring to any press reports. The directors of Hindustan Steel, in the annual report which was placed on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister, have complained about the quality of the raw materials, and therefore, I wanted to know whether this Committee has examined the question of the quality and whether they have taken steps to improve the quality of the raw materials.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** It is the function of this Committee to ensure that, within the physical limits, the quality of raw materials that is supplied is the best that is possible. That is obviously the purpose of a committee of this kind.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** May I know if the Government have any idea of the extra cost that has been incurred by the Hindustan Steel because the contemplated source of the raw material could not be developed in time?

**Mr. Speaker:** This is the same question that was put by Shri Morarka.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** I wanted to know the quantum which was less.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister said that there is no such thing.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** I wanted to know whether they have any idea of it.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** This question really does not arise out of that. The extra cost that might be incurred by getting materials from sources other than those which were originally contemplated, is a separate question altogether and it is much too general. If the hon. Member specifies limestone, iron ore or coal, I might attempt some reply.

**Shri C. D. Pande:** The biggest handicap in raw material is supply of metallurgical coal, because there are

not sufficient washeries, and washeries are lacking in their output. Will Government lay emphasis on the development of washeries?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Coal is certainly an important raw material, but so are other raw materials; they are equally important. May be on one occasion one particular raw material is highlighted. But in an integrated steel plan, every type of raw material is equally important. But I do accept the suggestion of the hon. Member that washing of coal is an important activity and we are proposing to pay considerable attention to speeding up the completion of the new washeries.

#### Testing of Neyveli Lignite by East German Experts

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\*1488. { **Shri Morarka:**  
          **Shri Nathwani:**

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 658 on the 2nd December, 1980 regarding the supply of 1,000 tons of Neyveli Lignite to East German Experts for test and state:

(a) whether it is usual to require such huge quantity of lignite for test;

(b) what tests of Neyveli lignite would be carried out; and

(c) what is the cost of these 1,000 tons of lignite?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). The quantity of lignite required for any tests essentially depends upon the type of tests to be carried out. The East German experts have asked for 1,000 tons of lignite for a semi-commercial test in a pilotplant, for tests on drying, briquetting, high temperature carbonisation and the use of high temperature carbonised briquettes in the smelting of approximately 100 tons of Salem iron ore.

(c) When the mine goes into production, the cost of 1,000 tons of raw

lignite is expected to be about Rs. 12,000. This cost is exclusive of packing, forwarding and freight charges.

**Shri Morarka:** May I know what will be the total cost of carrying out these tests?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I am afraid I have not got that figure. I do not think the actual cost has been negotiated yet with the East German firm.

**Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman:** Has it been arranged directly with the East German experts or has it been channelled through Government?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The Madras Government have been in touch with the East German technicians. This is an arrangement between the East German technicians and the Government of Madras.

**Shri Nathwani:** May I know when the result of these tests will be known?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Obviously after we are able to supply the lignite. Even after the lignite is supplied, in the pilot plant this will have to be worked for about three weeks or so.

**Shri Basappa:** May I know by which time we can send this for testing?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I had attempted to place the relevant material on the floor of the House on an earlier occasion. The mining conditions of lignite at Neyveli are peculiar on account of the upward thrust of water and there cannot be selective mining in an area like that. Therefore, we can send this quantity of lignite only when we are at the point of actual mining of the lignite. That again is linked with the utilisation of lignite. It may take some months more.

**Shri Morarka:** One of the purposes for which the test is to be carried out is for briquetting. We have already ordered the briquetting plant. May I know whether this test would have

any effect on the nature and size of the plant to be purchased or not?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not think so, because the test would be essentially confined to the smelting quality of the briquettes.

### Overcrowding in Universities

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**Shri Hem Raj:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
 \*1489. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**  
**Shri Pahadia:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 530 on the 29th November, 1960 and state the further progress made in the proposal to introduce a suitable test for admission to universities with a view to reducing overcrowding in colleges and universities?

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall):** The matter is still under the consideration of the University Grants Commission.

**Shri Hem Raj:** This question is under examination for such a long time. May I know how much longer it will take to decide it?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** This question was considered at the Ministers' conference in 1959. The Ministry of Education in consultation with the University Grants Commission had placed certain proposals before the conference. The Ministers expressed the view that they would like to have some time before they can come to a final decision about this matter.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** Are Government aware that if such a test is introduced; higher education will become the monopoly of the advanced classes and the backward classes will be kept backward permanently?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** The universities and the University Grants Commission are quite competent to take a decision in this matter. I think the presumptions of the hon. Member are absolutely wrong.