

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Captive mines in Australia or Canada and importing coking coal from Soviet Union

*102. SHRI S. R. REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have captive mines in Australia or Canada and also to arrange long term imports from the Soviet Union for meeting the demands of coking coal in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). To ensure a steady and uninterrupted supply of high quality low ash coking coal for the steel plants, Government has been considered a number of alternatives including acquisition of coking coal mines abroad and/or finalisation of long term supply contracts with a number of countries including Australia, Canada and Soviet Union. The proposal is in an exploratory stage and a final view is yet to be taken. In the meantime, it has been decided to import 1 million tonnes of coking coal from Australia and Canada to meet the immediate requirements of steel plants.

SHRI S. R. REDDY: The Minister has been pleased to state that the Government is negotiating for acquiring coal from abroad—Australia and Canada. May I know what will be the terms and conditions of coal import from these countries?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Already the contract has been signed on the open global tender basis and some coal has arrived in India, and it is under test. These contracts were awarded on a global tender basis.

SHRI S. R. REDDY: May I know which are the countries which responded to the tender?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Germany, Australia, Canada and some parties from U. K.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: May I know what is actually the requirement of coking coal in our country and what steps the Government is taking for importing and having captive mines in other countries to extract coking coal from our own mines?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The present consumption is about 16 million tonnes. The Government is trying their best. The concerned authority has been ordered to search for more coking coal and the raising of coking coal is being augmented by the Ministry of Energy which is in charge of the coal and raising of coal in India. The capacity of the washeries is being increased. The law and order position in the Dhanbad area especially in the coal belt area, if I use the word 'miserable', is also being taken into consideration. All these factors have been taken into account, and it is under the active consideration and working of the Government. The production of the coking coal is being increased substantially. Even so, as I have stated earlier in this House several times, the Indian Coking Coal is a low grade coking coal with very high ash content. So, it is necessary for us to import low ash coking coal to have some blend with our coking coal at the optimum economic level.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Our Indian coal has high ash content but less of sulphur content, whereas the imported coal has more of sulphur content. Have you developed technology to minimise sulphur content so that it can be used in the blast furnace?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been given in the written answer.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The answer to the first question is, it is not correct. Nevertheless whatsoever sulphur is in the coking coal—whether indigenous or

imported, the new technology of desulphurisation, after the hot metal comes out of the blast furnace in the ladles is going to be implemented as a first experiment at Rourkela.

SHRI SURATH BAHADUR SHAH: The hon. Minister said 'in the exploratory stage'. May I know when does that stage start? When does he think that he will be in a position to decide about it?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Government will be able to take an appropriate decision only when this imported coal is tested in our blast furnaces in differentiators—at 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 25 per cent, 30 per cent and so on. Only when the results are known and the cost efficiency of production and the extra high cost of the coal is established to the convenience of the Government or the convenience of the nation, only then a firm decision will be taken.

Manufacture of Technical for formulating into Pesticides

*103. **SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total number and names of multi-national companies manufacturing Technical for formulation

into Pesticides and the total quantity manufactured (factory-wise);

(b) what is the total quantity of Technical being formulated by each multi-national company;

(c) is it a fact that certain multi-national companies are taking formulating companies on lease in spite of this industry being reserved for Small Scale;

(d) is it also a fact that a good number of Small Scale formulating industries are idle for want of raw materials (Technical) while multi-national companies are using this raw material (Technical) for formulating by themselves; and

(e) if so, what action Government is taking?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There are eight companies in the Organised sector having more than 40 per cent direct foreign equity, which are engaged in the manufacture of technical grade pesticides. Their names and their actual production of such material during 1978 are as under:

Name of the Company	Item of technical material	Production in 1978 (Tonnes)
1	2	3
1. Ciba Geigy of India Limited, Bombay	Phosphamidon	566
	DDVP	212
	Diethio Carbamate	92
2. Indofil Chemicals of India Limited, Bombay	Nitrofen/Propanil	12
	Zineb	534
	Maneb	1144
3. Union Carbide of India, New Delhi	Carbaryl	367
4. Bayer (India) Ltd., Bombay	Methyl Parathion	1879
	Fenitrothion	207
	Metasystox	213