

Shri P. K. Deo: In view of the fact that the import of copper from Congo and Rhodesia has been practically stopped, and for our transmission lines we need aluminium, and in view of the fact that there is a strong case for a greater production of aluminium in this country besides the production in Gujarat, and further, in view of the fact that there is a large deposit of bauxite available in Orissa and also cheap electricity, may I know whether the Government of India will consider the case of the Orissa State and consider the proposal to locate an aluminium plant in Orissa?

Dr. Channa Reddy: The facts about the availability of bauxite in different States are already available with the Ministry, and wherever there are possibilities we have given. At the moment, licences have been given for 3,73,000 tonnes.

Shri P. K. Deo: I asked about the location in Orissa.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Mahida.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: A large quantity of bauxite has been found in Gujarat and some of the industrialists have proposed to establish an aluminium plant there without any government assistance. May I know whether the Government will consider these offers from the industrialists of Gujarat and whether an aluminium plant will be located in Gujarat, without government assistance?

Dr. Channa Reddy: We have two proposals in Gujarat, apart from the proposal of the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. One is from Power Spark Cables, Private Limited, Bombay, and the other is from J. K. Group of companies, which have already one at Asansol; they want to establish one in Kerala and take the aluminium if possible, or, if allowed, even bauxite. The proposal of the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation is under consideration, and we are waiting for finalisation, and depending upon that, the other cases would be decided.

Public Tea Warehouse

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- *1449. **Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**
Shri A. N. Mulla:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Mohammad Ismail:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri S. M. Joshi:
Shri Molahu Frasad:
Shri Shiv Charan Lal:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in violation of the recommendations of the Plantation Enquiry Committee, the Tea Board management is considering the handing over of the Public Tea Warehouse in Calcutta to a private firm viz., M/s Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd., and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Mohd Shafiq Qureshi): (a) and (b). A new six-storeyed warehouse has been constructed at Calcutta by the Calcutta Port Commissioners. Owing to certain defects in the warehouse, the Tea Board has not yet taken over the building. The way in which the new warehouse should be run after it is taken over by the Tea Board, is being examined by a Sub-Committee set up by the Board. The Tea Board's recommendations in this behalf are awaited.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Although the Public Tea Warehouse belongs to the Calcutta Port Commissioner and it has been financed by our exchequer, still a British-controlled firm, Balmer Lawrie and Company had been running this warehouse and making money. This company has an export department, tea estates department and a warehousing department. Under the circumstances, have

the Government considered at any time whether Balmer Lawrie and Company should have been placed in charge of the warehouse?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: We are taking it over very soon from Balmer Lawrie and Company.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: The report of the Plantation Enquiry Commission was made in 1956. For 11 years, what were you doing?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: They had an agreement with the Port Commissioner and unless that agreement was terminated, it would be difficult for Government to take it over. Now the Port Commissioner has agreed that no further extension in lease will be granted to them.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that during the warehousing of tea, there is gain in weight to the extent of nearly 2 per cent and, if so, whether Balmer Lawrie and Company have been asked to calculate that in terms of their profit?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: I have to check up this information; I have no information on this at present.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: They want to increase the cess for the Tea Board, which is a white, elephant, in Calcutta.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: What were the specific recommendations of the Plantation Enquiry Commission regarding the control and management of the Public Tea warehouse and how has it come about that in violation of those recommendations so long this warehouse has been controlled or managed by Balmer Lawrie and Company?

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: The recommendations are that the Tea Board will take over the new warehouse as

soon as it is ready for occupation and it will run it for a period of 60 years from the dates of occupation. The rent will be Rs. 200 per thousand square feet per month for godown space.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The rent may be too much, but it cannot be a point of order.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: It should be Rs. 2 per 100 square feet.

Mr. Speaker: You are giving information, not seeking information..

Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi: The rent will be Rs. 300 per 1000 square feet per month for store and for office. The Tea Board will also take over the Public Tea Warehouse from Balmer Lawrie and Company from the date of termination of the lease, up to 31st March, 1990.

श्री मोल्लू प्रसाद : मंत्री महोदय क्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि चाय बोर्ड में झूटाचार के सम्बन्ध में और भी कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ? अगर हुई हैं तो उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है ।

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : चाय बोर्ड के सिलसिले में हमारे पास कोई शिकायत नहीं है । अगर उनको कोई शिकायत है तो हम को लिखकर भेजें ।

Export of Iron Ore

*1450. **Shri Kameshwar Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken up a new project to boost the export of iron ore;