

Coal Washeries

- *674. { ⁺Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi: .

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Coal Washeries will be set up during the Third Plan period in public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the number of such washeries;

(c) when such washeries will be set up; and

(d) whether these washeries will be set up without any foreign technical assistance?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Thimmaiah): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). So far as the public sector is concerned, two existing washeries of the Hindustan Steel Ltd. will be expanded during the Third Plan period, and the National Coal Development Corporation is planning to set up 6 new washeries for coking coal and 2 new washeries for non-coking coal. 3 of the National Coal Development Corporation's washeries, however, may come up only in the Fourth Plan.

In addition to the above, two coking coal washeries are being planned for in the private sector.

(d) Some of the public sector washeries are being linked with foreign credits and in their case foreign technical assistance will be available. The intention is that progressively washeries are set up not only with indigenous plant and equipment but without even foreign technical assistance.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether, over and above the opening of these washeries, there is any proposal to expand some of the existing coal washeries?

Shri Thimmaiah: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the names?

Shri Thimmaiah: Two washeries under the Hindustan Steel, Ltd., are expected to be expanded, that is, Dugda and Bojudih.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The Minister said that for some of the washeries foreign aid will be available. May I know which are the foreign countries that will give technical aid to these washeries?

Shri Thimmaiah: I want notice.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोयले की घुलाई के कारखानों की स्थापना के सम्बन्ध में स्थान का निर्धारण कैसे किया जाता है ? क्या अधिकांश में ये कारखाने कोयले की खदानों के पास बनाए जाते हैं, और अगर अन्यत्र बनाए जाते हैं तो स्थान निर्धारण के सम्बन्ध में किन किन बातों का विचार किया जाता है ?

श्री के० दे० मालवीय : सब से बड़ी वजह तो यह होनी चाहिये कि ये कोयले की खानों के पास हों ताकि ट्रांसपोर्ट में सुविधा हो सके । इसके अलावा कोई दूसरा कारण तो तभी हो सकता है कि जब कोई स्थानिक बातें सामने आयें । लेकिन मुख्यतः इनको खानों के पास ही इसलिये स्थापित किया जाता है ताकि ट्रांसपोर्ट के बोझ को हल्का किया जा सके ।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In reference to part (d) of the question, could I know the target that has been assigned to the coal washeries that are likely to be set up in the private sector?

Shri Thimmaiah: In the third Plan, we have got to set up an additional washing capacity of 12.7 million tons, out of which 3.2 million tons will be set up by the Hindustan Steel, Ltd.

Shri Raghunath Singh: The question is about the private sector.

Shri Thimmaiah: In addition to our plants, the private sector washeries will be increased from 0.3 million tons to 2.2 million tons in one and in another from 1.5 million tons to three million tons.

Shri Hem Barua: He said there would be an increase from 3 million to 2 million. How is it an increase?

Mr. Speaker: Is it from 3 to 2?

Shri Thimmaiah: From 0.3 million to 2.2 million.

Mr. Speaker: So, it is from 0.3 to 2.2. That is an increase. Next question.

Prices of Steel and Pig Iron

*675. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 309 on the 1st May, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the retention prices of steel and pig iron for 1960-61 and 1961-62 have now been finally fixed;

(b) whether the prices conform to the recommendations of the Tariff Commission; and

(c) whether any fresh representations in this regard have been received from the private sector producers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). The Reports of the Tariff Commission on the retention prices payable for pig iron and steel have been received and are at present under examination.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I would like to know whether any assessment has been made by the Tariff Commission about the cost of production per ton of steel in the private sector as well as in the public sector and, if so, what is its finding.

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): The report is under consideration. I

do not think I will be able to give those details now.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the private sector producers have been given any sort of assurance that in case the Steel Wage Board which has been appointed now recommends an upward revision in the workers' wages this question of the retention price will be reopened again?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This report is with regard to price for 1960-61 and 1961-62. Therefore, the questions which the hon. Member has put do not apply.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I am not referring to the Tariff Commission's report. I want to know whether the Government has given any assurance?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I require notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the report submitted by the Tariff Commission is provisional or it is the final report?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is the final report; there is no question of interim report.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether the prices would be fixed retrospectively as they have been fixed till now or whether there is any proposal to fix the price prospectively also?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The report is with reference to 1960 to 1962, and we will have to fix for the future also.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: The Minister said that the report has been received and it is under consideration. May I know how long it will take for the Government to arrive at a decision?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Very soon.