

coal has been estimated in the foothills of the Darjeeling district. The copper ore occurrences in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts have been found to be sporadic.

(c) The survey is being continued.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** The Parliamentary Secretary just now stated that deposits of dolomite. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Why should he repeat what he has stated and take the time of the House? He remembers well what he has stated just now.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** May I know what steps Government have taken to exploit all the reserves?

**Shri Thimmaiah:** The detailed investigation of dolomite occurrences in Jalpaiguri District was carried out during 1959-62 on the basis of which the deposits have been demarcated for exploitation by Hindustan Steel Limited.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** May I know whether any person has applied for the lease of these coal and dolomite deposits?

**Shri Thimmaiah:** It is not to our knowledge. I want notice for that.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether Cooch-Bihar District which is by the side of Jalpaiguri District has also been surveyed?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajar-navis):** We do not have information about that at present with us.

**Shri Manaan:** In which part of Darjeeling District has coal been found and, would the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please tell us, what is the quality of coal that has been found?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is going into too much of detail, I suppose.

**Shri Tyagi:** It is black coal!

**Shri Hajar-navis:** I cannot specify the exact part in Darjeeling District. The quality is non-coking and plaky.

### Import of Furnace Oil

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Shri Bibhuti Misra:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri N. R. Laskar:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri Daji:  
Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
\*177. Shri Warrior:  
Shri Mohsin:  
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri Bhakt Darshan:  
Shri S. B. Patil:  
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
Shri Mate:  
Shri Morarka:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Managing Director of Indian Oil Company visited U.S.S.R. for talks with the U.S.S.R. Government for import of furnace oil; and

(b) if so, the results of the talk?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Thimmaiah):** (a) and (b). As a result of his visit to the U.S.S.R., the Managing Director, Indian Oil Company Limited, has been able to arrange for the import of additional quantities of furnace oil needed by the Company.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : फरनेस आयल कितनी मात्रा में मंगाया है और उसकी पर टा क्या कामत होनी ?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajar-navis):** So far as the quantity is concerned, I think the figure will have to be determined from time to time. As regards the price, it is something which is not disclosed by any company.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह कोई ऐसा मेटर है कि जिसको डिस्क्लोज न किया (Interruptions.)

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** What? The price cannot be disclosed?

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Why can the price not be disclosed?

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a point of order, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any special reasons for the price not being disclosed?

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it still under negotiation or has it been fixed?

**Shri Hajarnavis:** Sir, it is like this. It is a company which competes with other firms. Other firms are under no obligation and are reluctant to give this information. They do not supply that information even to the Government. So, should a Government Corporation be put in a position which is somewhat at a disadvantage to private companies?

**Mr. Speaker:** Then he should seek refuge under 'public interest'. He must say that.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** This is an agreement with USSR. Is there any private company functioning in USSR?

**Shri Hajarnavis:** The Managing Director does think that it would not be in the public interest to disclose it.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Sir, he is shilly-shallying and dilly-dallying.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** How can it be in the public interest?

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** This must be clarified.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has said that private companies do not want to disclose it, that they do not even tell this to the Government. But this is an agreement with USSR and there is no question of any private company coming in. What is the ground on which it is being refused? That could not be the ground for it; if there is anything else, that might be told to the House.

**Shri Hajarnavis:** So far as the quantity is concerned. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** He has said that he is not prepared to disclose the price.

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** It is mainly the question of availability of discount from the USSR in order to make the price competitive. We think that we have got sufficiently good discount from them. The Indian Oil Company is reluctant to indicate it to us because of the competitive pressure of other private companies. We have asked that they might reconsider the advisability of letting us know as to what the quantum of discount is. If they tell that to us, we should certainly tell it to the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** By private company it was intended to convey that it was our company?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No, Sir. Private companies are also competing and they want to know as to what the quantum of discount is which we are getting from USSR. If they indicate the price, they will certainly know all about it. Therefore, although we appreciate the difficulties of the Indian Oil Company, perhaps they would be well advised if they indicate to us as to what the quantum of the discount is. So far they were reluctant to give. If they give us the information we will certainly give it. (*Interruption*).

**Several Hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I do not know why hon. Members should be so anxious to probe into this thing. Do they consider that there is some mischief being played there? If the agreement is with the U.S.S.R., of course, there cannot be anything fishy in that. If it is with the Government, at this time, the Minister feels that it is not in the public interest. Should we press it further?

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** That is not the point. The point is different. According to him, the private company may come to know of the price. It will be to our interest that private companies may offer the thing at a lower rate than that. What disadvantage is

will be to our country by private companies knowing about the price?

**Mr. Speaker:** I cannot enter into that discussion unless I am convinced that there is something very radically wrong. I have to accept the statement when the Minister says.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** May I remind you, Sir, it was you who suggested public interest? He was hesitant as to whether it was public interest or Government or Russian interest.

**Mr. Speaker:** Because if the Minister says that it is not desirable, Mr. Kamath will stand up and say that that is no excuse. Therefore I suggested directly that he should say that it is not in the public interest. Now, the Senior Minister has said that it is not in the public interest.

**Shri Hem Barua:** It is something else that he has stated. It is the Indian Oil company that refuses to disclose the price.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member should realise that if the Minister says that it is not in the public interest, *prima facie*, I should accept it.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Besides that, he has also stated that it is the Indian Oil Co. that refuses to disclose the price to the Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** I should not enter into detailed arguments just at this moment.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it a State to State transaction? That would clear.

**Shri Hem Barua:** How does the Indian Oil Co. come in? The Indian Oil Co. is a Government company. How is it that it does not disclose the price to the Government?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** There should be a Half-an-hour discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Bibhuti Mishra.

**श्री बिभूति मिश्र :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने और देशों

फर्नेस आयाल के बारे में सीक्रेटली पूछ ताछ की है कि उन के तेल का क्या भाव पड़ता है ? और अगर पता लगाया है तो क्या इस की कोई जांच पड़ताल की है कि कहां से तेल ज्यादा और सस्ता मिलेगा ?

**श्री के० दे० मालवीय :** हम को बहुत सस्ता फर्नेस आयाल मिलता है और दाम बहुत मुनासिब हैं जो हम से लिल जाते हैं, और कम्पीटीशन में, मेरा ख्याल है, हम ने दूसरी प्राइवेट कम्पनियों की बनिस्बत ज्यादा रकम बचाई है । लेकिन मैं हाउस से यह दरखास्त करूंगा कि हमें मजबूर न करें क्योंकि मैं समझता हूँ कि यह पब्लिक इंटरैस्ट में नहीं है, बावजूद इस के कि हम ने आयाल इंडिया कम्पनी से यह कहा है कि वह मुनासिब समझते हों तो फिर इस मामले पर गौर करें ताकि हाउस को सन्तोष हो सके ।

**Some Hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Should any further supplementaries be put?

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a point of order, Sir, the Minister again has admitted that it is the Indian Oil Company which functions under the Government that refuses to let the Government know about the prices. How is it that a department or autonomous body. . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The company can also put it to the Government that it is not advisable. If the Government agrees, it would remain there. If the Government does not, certainly they should give direction that it must be done in this manner. Where is the harm? I do not see anything.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Has it given any direction? I agree with you entirely.

**Mr. Speaker:** If he agrees, he might kindly resume his seat.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** From which other countries we were so long importing furnace oil and how the quality of these imported articles compare with the present one from the U.S.S.R.?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Private oil companies which are having refineries here are supplying us petroleum products including furnace oil also. From where they purchase it and supply it to us is not known to us. They are one bloc of suppliers. The other bloc is the USSR which supplies under rupee payment arrangement. These are the two blocs of suppliers and we are trying to get petroleum products including furnace oil from some other sources.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Have there been any efforts to import furnace oil from other countries and if so, what quantities are being imported or are being proposed to be imported from countries other than the USSR at present?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The bulk of the supplies is from non-USSR sources, in respect of furnace oil.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** What is the percentage?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I have not got the percentage with me just now.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Co. is faced with a very serious shortage of storage capacity for this furnace oil and other petroleum products, and if so, whether any plan has been undertaken to keep pace with these imports which are being contracted for, in the matter of developing the storage capacity?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** It is true that we are short of storage facilities. We are only a two-year-old baby now, as against 50-year or 60-year-old establishments of the Standard Vacuums and the Burmah Shells who have got their storage capacities. We are very fastly developing our installations, and we hope that next year, we shall be adequately equipped with all these storage facilities.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know to what extent the present negotiations will be able to cover the gap?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The consumption of furnace oil is mounting at a

very high rate in the country because of many factors such as the growth of industry, the expansion of our plants and also the comparative shortage of coal etc. Therefore, the gap is also increasing. We are trying to reduce the gap by import from all sources and also by increasing the capacity in our own refineries, but there is a limit to increasing the capacity.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question. Q. No. 178.

**An Hon. Member:** May I suggest that Q. No. 185 also may be taken along with this?

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon. Minister agrees, I have no objection.

#### Gauhati Refinery

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 Shri Subodh Hansda:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri N. R. Laskar:  
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
 Shri Y. N. Singha:  
 Shri P. K. Ghosh:  
 Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of the Gauhati refinery was suspended during the recent floods in Assam;

(b) if so, for how many days it was suspended;

(c) whether any damage was caused to the refinery due to this flood; and

(d) if so, the amount involved therein?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 days.

(c) No damage to the refinery units or equipment was caused.

(d) Does not arise.