

(3) In the event of default in repayment of any loan, the loss will be shared between the guarantee organisation, i.e. the Refinance Corporation and the bank concerned in the ratio of 65:35.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What were the circumstances which necessitated the offering of this assistance or guarantee of the loan to the private sector?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The whole question was considered in its broadest aspects and it was considered that the profitability of the coal industry was not as satisfactory as would permit it to get loans from the normal sources. In the meantime the foreign exchange availability had been arranged for in order to expand the coal production programme. The coal industry expressed its inability to find the rupee finance to match the scheme. So, after a lot of consideration the Government of India, that is, the Finance Ministry and other ministries concerned, came to the conclusion that we should guarantee a part of the loans in a particular way as specified in the answer to the question. I think, those colliery-owners who have taken advantage of loans from foreign sources will be able to utilise this help that the Government of India have offered them.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, I request that Question No. 698 may be taken up.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: It is a very important question. It is in connection with the death of a New Delhi journalist.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Minister thinks that it is very important and that he would like to answer it, he may.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): Sir, I will read out the main answer. Further supplementaries may not be asked in view of the fact that investigation is still proceeding.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says that he can read out the answer but that he would not answer supplementaries. But if the question is answered and the hon. Member wants to ask supplementaries and if those supplementaries are relevant, how shall I refuse them? When the Question Hour is over, it is only at the request of the hon. Minister, that is, if he thinks that some question is important and he wants to answer it, that I can call upon him to answer.

Shri Hem Barua: We thought that we will use it as a precedent.

Mr. Speaker: That is my difficulty. The hon. Minister says, "No". Then, I am sorry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS
Coking Coal

*690. **Shri G. Basu:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of coking coal at present; and

(b) whether the estimated reserves of coking coal are considered adequate to meet the current requirements and the requirements when full target capacity of the three plants in the Public Sector and two steel plants in the Private Sector is reached?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The estimated reserves of coking coal are of the order of 2500 million tons, based on assessment made in 1950. A fresh estimate is under preparation.

(b) Yes.