

Mr. Speaker: I am being asked to take up Q. No. 1244. I can do so only if the hon. Members who have tabled Questions Nos. 1241, 1242 and 1243 forgo their right to ask those questions. Are they prepared to do so?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Then, I am sorry. Now, Q. No. 1241.

Sulphuric Acid Plant

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*1241. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri R. Barua:

Will the Minister of **Petroleum and Chemicals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to exploit the newly discovered deposits of pyrites found in the neighbourhood of Amjhore (Shahbad) through the Pyrites and Chemical Development Company;

(b) whether the Finnish authorities have agreed to help India in the venture;

(c) whether the German process of extracting sulphur and working of sulphuric acid plants has been studied; and

(d) the system which is proposed to be introduced in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Pyrites and Chemicals Development Company Ltd., a Government of India undertaking has planned to set up a 400 tonnes per day capacity plant at Sindri for the production of sulphuric acid directly from Amjhore pyrites ore. The Company is also investigating a suitable process for extraction of elemental sulphur from the ore.

(b) The Finnish Outokumpu process for the extraction of elemental sulphur from pyrites is under study and in the event of the process being found suitable for adoption for the

recovery of sulphur from Indian Ore, the possibility of utilising the Finnish know-how and part of the credit offered by the Metex Corporation Helsinki for purchase of plant and equipment will be considered.

(c) There is no known German process in commercial use for the extraction of sulphur from pyrites ore. The process for the manufacture of sulphuric acid from pyrites ore is standardised.

(d) As already stated, the process for the manufacture of sulphuric acid from pyrites ore is standardised and the question of selection of the plant will be decided on a competitive basis from the global tenders received by the Company. As regards extraction of elemental sulphur from pyrites ore, the Finnish process would be adopted if found suitable after successful completion of pilot plant trials.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the fact that so long India had no indigenous sources which form the basic elements of sulphuric acid, are Government taking up the question on a priority basis so as to tap all available resources for its production here?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, that is the idea. We are going to set up a sulphuric acid plant of 400 tonnes per day capacity. We also propose to mine about two to three lakh tonnes of pyrites ore at Amjhore.

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Re: Starred Question No. 1244

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्वेश्चन नम्बर १२४४ बड़े महत्व का है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं उससे इन्कार नहीं करता । लेकिन इस तरह के सवाल कई बार उठे हैं । अगर दरखास्त की जाए और मिनिस्टर साहब जवाब देना चाहते हों तो अलहदा बात है, वना मरे अखत्यार में यह नहीं है ।