

done by us about ground water in India.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What was the main recommendation of this conference regarding the exploration of ground water and also various other minerals which have been found in great quantities in India?

Shri Thimmaiah: The foreign scientists brought out a paper about ground water prospects, which was very important from the point of view of ground water investigations in India. Our scientists noted it with great interest.

श्री हुकूम खन्व कद्दावाय : इन विशेषज्ञों ने भारत में ऐसे कितने स्थान बतलाये हैं जहाँ पर कि हम को कुछ तेल प्राप्त हो सकता है और जिस से कि हमारी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हो सकती है ?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): They discussed in general; I do not think they picked up any particular spot and analysed it.

Shri Kapur Singh: Did the learned geologists assembled here indicate any possibility of the Himalayas submerging into the seas out of which they recently emerged, so as to obliterate our land frontiers with China?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: That is what we read in the Press. I do not think they considered it.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : जिम्नोलोजिकल वर्क्स के सम्बन्ध में जो विभिन्न स्थानों पर अनुसंधान चल रहे हैं उस के प्रतिवेदन या उस के सम्बन्ध में कोई विचार इस कान्फेंस में हुआ था; यदि हाँ, तो किन किन विषयों के सम्बन्ध में किया गया था और उस पर क्या निर्णय लिया गया ?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: My friend explained in detail the subjects they discussed. After all, it is an international conference represented by 88 countries. You cannot expect them to go into details.

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी : उन प्रतिनिधियों का यह मत था कि हिन्दुस्तान अपनी धुरी से दूर हट गया है तो क्या उन की राय में यहाँ की जलवायु में भी कोई अन्तर पड़ा है या नहीं ?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: I am not in a position to explain the scientific approach to it and say whether it has gone 2,000 miles or not. I do not think they discussed these details.

Shri Sree Narayan Das: May I know whether besides the officers of the Geological Survey of India experts from universities were also invited to participate in the deliberations; if so, how they were selected?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: A large number of Indians came there as observers. There were about 35 delegates. The delegates were chosen by the Geological Survey of India; they were the organisers and they were in charge of the whole conference.

Shri Sree Narayan Das: I want to know whether experts from the universities were also invited?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: I am not very sure about it.

भारतीय वाणिज्य दूत

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* 598. { श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :
श्री स० खं० सामन्त :
श्री यज्ञपाल सिंह :
श्री टिम्मर्तसिंहका :
श्री रामेश्वर ठाटिया :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने में कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विदेशों में स्थित भारतीय दूतावासों में वाणिज्यिक दूतों के कार्य को देखरेख की क्या व्यवस्था है तथा जिन दूतावासों का काम संतोषजनक नहीं है, उनके कार्य में सुधार करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं; और

(ख) इन दूतावासों को मुख्य रूप से क्या काम सौंपा गया है ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Our Commercial Offices abroad, which form an integral part of the Indian missions, come under the direct control of the heads of missions. The work of the Commercial Representatives is directed and supervised by the various territorial divisions of the Ministry of Commerce which are headed by Joint Secretaries or Directors. The territorial divisions in the Ministry ensure that the Commercial Representatives effectively discharge the duties assigned to them according to instructions issued to them periodically. While no adverse reports on the working of our Commercial offices abroad have come to our notice, it has been the constant endeavour of the Ministry to guide our Commercial Representatives in their work in order to make them effective instruments in implementing Government's foreign trade policy in general and promotion of exports in particular. The Commerce Minister during his visits abroad usually calls meetings of Commercial Representatives in the regions to discuss with them problems relating to their work and advise them on the general question of promotion of exports. Senior officers in the Ministry, during their visits abroad, take the opportunity of guiding the Commercial Representatives in the area in their work.

(b) A statement on the main functions of our Commercial Representatives abroad is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-4073/65].

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want to know if the functions of these Consuls also include sending of timely information to the Government and the public here about the new devices and machineries which are being invented in other countries so that our country may be able to learn and prepare something here?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They are expected to do that. They are expected to send periodical reports on the economic, financial and commercial conditions in their area.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want to know whether any such information of outstanding merit has been received recently; if so, whether any advantage has been taken out of it?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I would not be able to say that off-hand; I want notice for it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there is any proposal to increase the number of trade Consuls as some of them have to attend to more than one Mission?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Sometimes it is so, depending upon the nature of the work. Depending upon the quantum of work they may be looking after one or two missions.

श्री ब्रह्मपाल सिंह : यह हमारे वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के मातहत काम करते हैं या हमारी फॉरेन मिनिस्ट्री के मातहत काम करते हैं ?

श्रीधर महोदय : यह तो उन्होंने कहा है ।

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I have said that they are immediately under the heads of Missions there. Therefore, so far as the service . . .

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered it.

Shri Himatsingka: There is a general complaint that proper information is not supplied by our representatives there. Does the Government propose to give instructions that if any enquiries are made by the trade here the information should be sent soon?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I cannot subscribe to the view that there are any general complaints. I have myself been abroad and seen the working of

several of these establishments. There are no complaints.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : विदेशों में जो व्यापारी व्यक्तिगत तौर पर जाते हैं और उन मुल्कों से व्यापार सम्बन्धी वार्ता व सलाह आदि करते हैं तो उस पर वाणिज्य दूतावास का कोई कंट्रोल होता है या वे आजाद तौर से इसे करते हैं ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Private traders are also entitled to go and negotiate trade plans, but they generally seek the advice of the commercial Attaches of the respective missions abroad which is readily given.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether the Commerce Ministry has set up a particular machinery to screen and scrutinise all these reports—consular reports—petraining to new inventions and discoveries in foreign lands on a commercial basis so that they may be used by commercial firms here?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I may submit that the Ministry of Commerce deals only with trade. So far as inventions are concerned, perhaps they are sent to the Ministry of Industry also.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Is it not a general complaint that when the Consuls send information and give suggestions or advice to our businessmen here, they do not respond and when the businessmen want any particular information about some useful work they do not get it in time? What steps are the Government going to take to have better co-ordination between these two agencies?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As far as possible, our Missions are very helpful. If they cannot supply the information immediately, they collect it and supply it. I do not think the charge that there is lack of coordination is correct.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I have visited several embassies abroad, one of them, Sir, under your leadership. But I

have not found any show-room anywhere. Which are the Embassies to which show-rooms are attached?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have about 17 show-rooms. They are located at important places. But every Embassy has got show cases exhibiting prominently some of our important products.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know how the Trade Consuls are selected? Is the Ministry of Commerce or Industry consulted to know whether they have the capacity to handle matters belonging to trade?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the Ministry of Commerce is consulted about the selection and appointment of Trade Consuls to ensure that they are equipped with those qualifications which will make them fit for the work they have to discharge?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There is a joint council the Foreign Service Board in which the Ministry of Commerce is also represented.

Shri Biswanath Roy: May I know whether the Government have ever received complaints from any Indian or foreign traders to the effect that the Trade Consuls of the Indian Embassies do not fully co-operate with them and, if so, whether any step has been taken to remedy the situation?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is a very broad question.

Mr. Speaker: Were any complaints received?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy. So far as I know, there has not been any.

Shri Basumatari: To what extent is the information correct that the private businessmen who go abroad to meet foreign traders do not get the necessary help from the Trade Consuls attached to our Embassies?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I repeat that our Embassies abroad and our Commercial Attachees are very helpful. To the extent it is possible for them, they render all possible help.

Shri Sheo Narain: May I know whether these Consuls are working under the guidance of the Ambassador?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As I said, they are immediately under the Heads of Missions.

श्री मधु लिमये : मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि हमारे विदेशी दूतावासों में जो व्यापारिक प्रतिनिधि होते हैं, वे अपना काम ठीक ढंग से नहीं कर रहे हैं। कुछ दिन पहले खबर आई थी कि पूर्वी जर्मनी में जो एक औद्योगिक मेला रखा गया था, वहां हमारा प्रसिद्धि का जो सामान था, कितानें वगैरह थीं, वे सारी अंग्रेजी भाषा में थीं। क्या हमारे दूतावासों के प्रतिनिधि यह समझते हैं कि जर्मनी में भी अंग्रेजी बोली जाती है और उस में भी अंग्रेजी बोली जाती है? मैं इस तथ्य की ओर माननीय मंत्री का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य ने केवल ध्यान खींचा है।

श्री मधु लिमये : प्रश्न भी पूछा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रश्न तो कुछ नहीं हुआ।

Amalgamation of Collieries

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- *599. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri Himatsingka:

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

(a) whether the committee set up to

promote voluntary amalgamation of small and uneconomic collieries have been able to persuade them for amalgamation;

(b) the number of collieries which have agreed to do so;

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation for the compulsory amalgamation of all the uneconomic collieries; and

(d) if so, when a final decision will be taken in this regard?

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

(b) 111 collieries have agreed to amalgamate and the Voluntary Amalgamation Committee approved their amalgamation into 54 units.

(c) and (d). A Bill to provide for compulsory amalgamation is in the drafting stage and the details of various provisions to be made under it are presently under the consideration of Government.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether any of the uneconomic collieries have been closed since this amalgamation scheme has been taken up by Government and, if so, how many workers are affected by this closure?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): Some uneconomic holdings might have closed down. I do not have the figures with me. But this amalgamation scheme will help uneconomic mines to become economic by becoming bigger.

Shri Subodh Hansda: I wanted to know how many workers are affected by their closure.

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: I want notice.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Since the Minister stated that 111 are uneconomic coal mines that require to be