

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, April 15, 1966/Chaitra 25,
1888 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

पन्ना की हीरे की खानें

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* 1130. श्री भागवत झा आजाद :

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी :

श्री प्र० चं० बरुआ :

श्री सुबोध हंसदा :

श्री स० चं० सामन्त :

क्या खान तथा चातु मंत्री यह बताने की
कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पन्ना की हीरे की खानों को
राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम द्वारा अपने
अधिकार में ले लिये जाने के पश्चात् उनके
प्रबन्ध पर कितना व्यय हुआ है; और रॉ
की उत्पादन लागत क्या है ;

(ख) तब से कुल कितने मूल्य के हीरे
निकाले गये हैं ;

(ग) प्रबन्ध व्यय को कम करने तथा
अधिक हीरे निकालने की सम्भावनाओं के बारे
में विशेषज्ञों का क्या मत है ; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि पहले गैर-
सरकारी खान मालिक इन खानों से वर्तमान
व्यय की अपेक्षा कम प्रबन्ध पर व्यय करके
अधिक हीरे निकाला करते थे ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri S. A. Mehdi): (a) Regular production operations at Ramkheria and Majhgawn mines in Panna have not yet started. There has been some incidental recovery of diamonds in course of the prospecting work at these mines on which an expenditure of Rs. 154.17 lakhs has been incurred. The question of working out cost of production and expenses of management at this stage does not arise.

(b) 6,226 carats of diamonds valued at Rs. 21 lakhs approximately have been recovered during the course of prospecting and removal of overburden.

(c) The stage for consultation with experts has not yet arrived.

(d) No comparison is possible because information regarding cost of private miners is not available and, as stated before regular production at the mines under reference is yet to start.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Though it is difficult to comprehend all these 'Noes', yet, from memory may I ask why it is that since Government have taken over it has not been possible either to think in terms of costs or to compare in terms of past production and why it has not been possible to start production itself? What are the reasons for the several 'Noes' mentioned in the main answer?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: Since these mines have been taken over, there have been regular explorations, and a project report was prepared in 1961. It was re-examined, and a Third Plan project was prepared, which was again shown to our consultants. There were some difficulties in exploring the whole area. So the NMDC had consultants and experts to go into it, and the project report is still under consideration. The plan has been made and it is being considered by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry and it is expected that by another year or so the sanctions would be given and about eighteen months after that the work of mining will actually start.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The project report was sent in 1961 and now it is 1966, and yet we are told by the hon. Minister that possibly it may take about a year or even more to work the mines. May I know whether all these are the indicators of the efficiency of Government, and if not, the reasons for this long delay by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry and whether they would take another one year or couple of years or else at what stage the matter is at present?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: It is very difficult to say definitely, because it is the nature of the prospecting and the exploration of the mines themselves, which is taking all this time. As I have said already, whatever equipment or machinery the Indian Bureau of Mines had and whatever data they had was considered insufficient. So, they had to consult experts who are considered to be top experts in this line, and they have revised the projects and these projects are under the consideration of the Planning Commission and the Government.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: For six years?

Shri Subodh Hanada: The first phase of the exploratory work on the Ramkharia mines was completed in June, 1965, and accordingly a project report was prepared of the cost, and

the estimate was about Rs. 85.13 lakhs. May I know in how many phases the Ramkharia project will be completed?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: It is expected to be completed in two phases.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister Shri D. Sanjivayya while he was Minister of Mines and Metals visited this place, and if so, may I know the reaction he had and whether any fresh advice has been given?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): I could not follow the question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: While Shri D. Sanjivayya was the Minister of Mines and Metals, he visited these mines. May I know the reaction which he had?

Shri S. K. Dey: I cannot say what Shri Sanjiva Reddy had in his mind..

Shri S. C. Samanta: Shri Sanjivayya.

Shri S. K. Dey: Shri Sanjivayya was never in charge of this. Shri Sanjiva Reddy was. What reaction he had, I cannot say. But it is obvious that if he had not had a favourable reaction, he would not have pursued this project and got the top consultants from abroad to explore the project and give their opinion and tell us whether we should go ahead with it or not.

श्री बड़े : जब से यह मिनरल कारपोरेशन कायम हुआ है, तब से आपने एक्सपर्ट बलाए हैं। लेकिन पन्ना के जो खास एक्सपर्ट परम्परा से चले आ रहे हैं उनका कहना है कि डाइमंड मिलना तो तकदीर की बात है। इसलिए बे लौग छोटे छोटे बिट्स को ले कर छलनी से छानते हैं और उसमें उनको एक भ्राघा डाइमंड मिल जाता है। तो क्या आपने उनका कोई सहयोग लिया है ? और क्या यह बात सच है कि जब से यह कारपोरेशन हुआ है तब से पन्ना में डाइमंड मिलना कम हो गया है ?

Shri S. K. Dey: I am quite sure the House will appreciate that whether in the field of gems or in that of other minerals, we have been doing mining of a sort for hundreds of years. But today what is being attempted is to do it scientifically and not to do it in the grab and run method.

Shri Bade: Experience is better than your scientists.

Shri Heda: After the first report was submitted in 1961, what was the recurring expenditure in the last five years, and whether in the next one year—because that report is still reported to be under consideration—the same recurring expenditure would be incurred or it will be added to?

Shri S. K. Dey: The break-up of the expenditure I have here is as follows: cost of prospecting Rs. 63.70 lakhs, tools, plants and machines Rs. 32.99 lakhs, works Rs. 23.99 lakhs, stores Rs. 11.83 lakhs and establishment Rs. 21.66 lakhs, over a period of 5 or 6 years. So this is nothing alarming.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: How much on the foreign experts?

श्री रा० स० तिवारी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने जो यह हीरों की खान के काम का राष्ट्रीयकरण करके उसको शुरू किया है, तो इसका उद्देश्य वहाँ अपने कर्मचारियों का पालन पोषण करना है या राष्ट्रीय भाय को बढ़ाना ? जब गत वर्ष श्री संजीवैया साहब मंत्री के रूप में वहाँ गए थे तो मैं ने हिसाब पूछा था तो मुझे हिसाब नहीं बतलाया गया । इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार किस उद्देश्य से इस काम को कर रही है । सरकार इस पर खर्चा तो काफी कर रही है लेकिन इससे आमदनी एक पाई की भी नहीं हो रही है ।

Shri S. K. Dey: It is quite obvious that government officers engaged in a productive endeavour will have to be paid and maintained; it is also equally obvious that no government in its normal senses can start an eco-

nomie enterprise merely for maintaining government servants. The main purpose is to earn dividend for government.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : जहाँ तक हीरे का सम्बन्ध है, हीरे का काटना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है जैसे कि बेलजियन कट होता है । प्रगर अच्छी तरह से काटा जाता है तो एक हजार रुपए का हीरा बीस हजार में बेचा जा सकता है । क्या सरकार ने ऐसा कोई इन्तिजाम किया है कि बेलजियन कट की तरह से हिन्दुस्तान में भी हीरा काटा जाए ?

Shri S. K. Dey: As soon as we begin producing on a scale, the question of cutting the diamonds also will arise and we will do something about it.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार को यह पता है कि इतने बड़े उद्योग को चांस पर छोड़ देना सब से बड़ी गलती होगी । किस के ऊपर सरकार रिलाई करती है ? न तो यूनीवरसिटीज में इस का कोई कोर्स है । और जब से आपने इसका राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है तब से इस में घाटा हो रहा है । इसमें सरकार ने क्या अक्लमन्दी की है ? क्या सरकार इस मामले पर फिर गौर करने को तैयार है और इसके एक्सपर्ट्स का सहयोग लेने के लिए तैयार है । सरकार किस पर रिलाई करती है ?

Shri S. K. Dey: Government is always trying to take advantage of whatever expert services and knowledge are available in the country or abroad.

Shri Kapur Singh: Are Government aware that the pattern of production and cost hinted in part (d) of the question is almost a universal pattern in relation to the public and private sectors? If so, what are the reactions of Government thereto?

Shri S. K. Dey: I do not wish to make a general statement on this, but I can only say about myself. Since I came into it, the first consideration has been to see that the enterprises

under the Ministry of Mines and Metals can be enabled to run efficiently and we are taking all steps possible.

Shri Kapur Singh: He has answered some other question, not the question I put.

Shri S. K. Dey: Efficiency means profit, without profit there can be no efficiency.

Shri Kapur Singh: I said nothing about efficiency, I said nothing about profit.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what safeguards have been taken so that the diamonds which are expected do not go surreptitiously into the pockets of those who dig for them and also into the pockets of those who are running this corporation?

Shri S. K. Dey: I suppose that every action that need be taken to protect the interests of Government is taken in every such enterprise including gold mining or diamond mining.

Aluminium Smelting Plant in Gujarat

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- *1131. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Man Singh P. Patel:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an Aluminium Smelting Plant in Gujarat based on the bauxite deposits of Kutch;

(b) if so, whether this will be done by the Central or the State Government;

(c) whether the details of the project have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the estimated cost and capacity of the plant?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri S. A.

Mehdi): (a) and (b). An application for establishing an Alumina plant has been received from the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, a State Government undertaking. Another application from a private party has been received for the establishment of an aluminium smelter.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Firm estimates of costs are not available. The capacities proposed are:

- (i) 2,00,000 tonnes per annum alumina; and
 (ii) 50,000 tonnes per annum aluminium metal.

Shri Subodh Hansda: I would like to know when these applications were received by the Government and whether in the applications they have received they have asked for any consultancy services from the Government or from outside?

Shri Mehdi: This application was received only last year, and it is under consideration, as I have said, and the question of consultation will arise later on.

Shri Subodh Hansda: As a large number of aluminium smelting plants are going to be raised in our country, I would like to know whether there is any attempt on the part of the Government to develop these consultancy services so that we do not require consultancy services from other countries?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): It will be done. As the House is aware, there is also a public sector enterprise known as Bharat Aluminium which has already been brought into being, and we are trying to set up two aluminium smelters, one at Koyna and another at Korba. Once we begin operations, we shall have consultancy services of our own which we shall also make available to any one who wants consultancy services.