

**Shri Dasappa:** Have they done any renovation to the airport itself or only to the air strip?

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** To the runway only.

**Shri Dasappa:** We are not asking about the runway at all. The question does not pertain to the runway, but to the airport. The Minister is answering about the runway.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** There is negotiation going on with the Communications Ministry to put up a new terminal building. This matter is being negotiated between the HAL and the Transport Ministry.

#### Lignite

\*314. { **Shri Nambiar:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooh:**

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

(a) whether the production of lignite in Neyveli has started; and

(b) when the construction of the Power House is likely to be completed and the production of electricity begun?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) No. The mine is, however, ready for the production of lignite required for the first unit of the thermal power station.

(b) The erection of the first of the five 50 MW units of the thermal power station has been completed. The initial trial runs are now being conducted, and, after these have been completed, the unit will be commissioned for continuous generation of power, which may be about the middle of June, 1962. The remaining four units are expected to be commissioned thereafter, one by one. The entire power station is expected to be in full production by the middle of 1964.

**Shri Nambiar:** In view of the fact that we have not yet started mining lignite, may I know whether the

employees have been retrenched and if so, why?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Before actually producing lignite, we have to remove the overburden, in which people are employed. I do not think there is any question of removing the workers on work just now.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether there is a labour unrest now prevailing in Neyveli and if so, what it is due to?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I am not aware of any unrest. But if there is any special case in the mind of the hon. Member, he may let me know and I will find out.

**Shri P. C. Borooh:** May I know whether there is any delay in the supply of Soviet equipment and whether the power house construction has fallen behind time and if so, to what extent?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The power station programme has been somewhat delayed, but not very much.

**Shri Morarka:** May I know whether the Government has received the results of the tests which were to be carried out in Germany for which we sent 1,000 tons of lignite?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** This question relates to the programme of generating power from the lignite.

**Shri Morarka:** Part (a) of the question reads:

"Whether the production of lignite in Neyveli has started".

My question is, 1,000 tons of lignite were sent to Germany for testing purposes and I want to know whether the Government has received any report and if so, what is the result?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** That is in respect of steel production; that has nothing to do with this.

**Shri Morarka:** Whatever the purpose may be.

**Shri Heda:** One of the purposes of lignite was to manufacture briquettes for use as fuel. In view of the shortage of fuel in the cities of Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, etc., may I know why lignite is not yet used for the manufacture of briquettes?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** We have a programme of briquetting the lignite. About 1.4 million tons of lignite will be produced for briquetting purposes. This is also very much in our programme.

**Shri Heda:** When the programme is already there, why has not the manufacture yet started?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The entire lignite exploitation programme is under way. In order to produce about 3.5 million tons of lignite, we have to remove about 27 million cubic yards of overburden. Out of that about 22 million have already been removed. When the balance of 5 million cubic yards of overburden are also removed, we shall start producing lignite in a few months.

**Shri Dasappa:** May I know how far behind the schedule we are so far as removing the overburden is concerned, what was the original schedule and what is the revised schedule now?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I have not got the schedule of removal of overburden. I will require notice.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** The hon. Minister was just telling the House that there was delay in supply of Soviet certain equipments. May I know what was the cause of this delay?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** When equipments have to arrive from abroad, there are so many factors which have to be taken into account. We have to depend upon delivery from foreign countries. Therefore, sometimes delay becomes unavoidable.

**Shri Nambiar:** Are we to take it that because the construction of the power house is not yet complete, further digging of lignite has been stopped or is it due to any other reason?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No, no. The power generation programme is going on according to schedule. The first thermal power station of 50 MW units will start functioning next month or June.

#### "Birla Planetarium in Calcutta"

\*315. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Birla Planetarium in Calcutta has been set up and is projected to be run independently of any control or interest by the Govt. of India; and

(b) whether there are any other schemes regarding Planetaria in other cities of the country?

**The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a). It is understood that the Birla Planetarium in Calcutta is nearing completion. The Govt. of India have no control over or interest in it.

(b) A small planetarium, which was given as a gift by the German Democratic Republic in 1955, has been set up in the National Physical Laboratory, Delhi. According to available information, Patna University contemplates the setting up of a Planetarium. There is no information about any new Planetarium from other State.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know if the German Democratic Republic offered facilities for the erection of a planetarium in Calcutta first of all to the Government of India and it was the apathy of the Government of India which enabled the Birlas to get into the picture and get control of this planetarium?

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** We have no information about the German Democratic Republic offering any other planetarium either to the Government of India or to Mr. Birla.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the statements which we have seen published in the bulletin issued by the