

Shri M. R. Krishna: Many years back it was examined whether bagasse produced in some of the Andhra sugar factories could be used for newsprint and it was found that bagasse could be used for that purpose. May I know why it is that the Ministry is waiting for getting some information from the United States of America when this experience is already available?

Shri Manubhai Shah: What the hon. Member refers to is the factory of paper in Andhra. That factory is making writing paper. It can be used for newspapers but the cost is very high, the rotaries cannot adjust it properly because it is a heavy paper. What is required is real long staple newsprint for the newspapers at a cheap cost. The two are not the same. The one already existing is producing printing paper and what we propose to produce is newsprint.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if there is any proposal with the Government of India to have a newsprint factory in the public sector at Bodhan for making use of bagasse?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If this process, which the other hon. Member referred to, comes out successful, we will certainly consider it.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question—Shri B. K. Das—absent—Dr. M. M. Das—

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: Sir, I suggest that Question No. 102 may also be taken along with this.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Minister is prepared to answer both of them together let him do so.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri Mehdi): I will answer them together

Airborne Geophysical Wing for Geological Survey of India

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98. **Dr. M. M. Das:**

Shri B. K. Das:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Dr. P. N. Khan:

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

(a) whether the decision has been taken to provide the Geological Survey of India with an airborne Geophysical Wing on a permanent basis;

(b) if so, what will be the functions of the Wing and what will be the expenditure for setting it up; and

(c) whether technical and financial foreign assistance will be necessary for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri Mehdi):

(a) and (b). No such decision has yet been taken.

(c) In the event of Government deciding to set up such a unit in Geological Survey of India, some assistance involving equipment and expertise from abroad may become necessary.

American Aid for Aerial Geological Survey

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*102. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Dr. M. M. Das:

Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

Shri J. B. S. Bist:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Shri D. C. Sharma:

Dr. P. N. Khan:

Shri Karni Singhji:

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

(a) whether the 'Operation hard rock', the countrywide aerial survey to locate non-ferrous metal deposits promised to be undertaken by an American firm of contractors has materialised;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement with the American Firm;

(c) the interest the Soviet and the East German authorities have shown in conducting aerial surveys in addition to the American firm; and

(d) the expenditure involved in the proposed survey and the benefits which are likely to accrue from the Project?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri Mehdi):

(a) Details of the contract with the American firm are still under negotiation.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7209/66].

(c) Proposals of airborne survey of certain other areas (not covered by the US, AID scheme) have been under discussion with the USSR authorities. Another proposal for similar surveys was received from East German Agency.

(d) The cost of the airborne survey under the US, AID Project is estimated at Rs. 4.6 crores of which the foreign exchange component will be 3.5 million dollars (Rs. 2.6 crores). Estimates of cost of surveys with USSR assistance have not been worked out. The main objective of the airborne survey programme is to quicken the process of locating and appraisal of mineable deposits of non-ferrous metals (i.e. copper, lead and zinc) and to accelerate the development of these deposits to meet India's growing requirements of non-ferrous metals.

Dr. M. M. Das: What will be the nature of the help that we are expecting by collaboration with these countries?

Shri Mehdi: That is already given in the statement.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the administrative and operational control of the new wing will be in the hands of Indians or with the foreign people?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: If it is about the new wing of the Geological Survey in the first question, as I have already stated, it is not yet considered. As far as the control in the second question is concerned, it will be entirely in the hands of the Controller who would be an Indian.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I would like to know whether there is any difference between aero-magnetic survey and airborne geophysical survey. I would also like to know whether sufficient experts have been sent abroad for training so that we can do the work ourselves after some time.

Shri S. A. Mehdi: We have no doubt the expertise. The idea is to get certain sophisticated equipments from abroad which are not available in the country and to use them to get quick results. Therefore, those few experts who come here will train our people.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know whether under the scheme the Indian personnel in GSI will be trained?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: Yes, those experts will train the members of the GSI.

श्री म० ना० द्विवेदी : जो करार अमरीकी फर्म से हुआ है उस करार के अन्तर्गत अमरीका की उस फर्म को क्या लाभ पहुंचेगा और वह और क्या दूसरी चीजें देगी और उस फर्म के काम के फलस्वरूप भारत सरकार को क्या फायदा होगा और इस ठेके में कुल कितनी रकम भारत सरकार की और अमरीका सरकार की लगने की सम्भावना है ?

श्री स० अ० मेहदी : जहाँ तक रकमों का ताल्लुक है वह मैं स्टेटमेंट में दे चुका हूँ और जहाँ तक लाभ का ताल्लुक है वह भारत सरकार को जो लाभ होगा वह भी उसमें दिया हुआ है।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : इस स्टेटमेंट में नहीं है।

श्री स० अ० मेहदी : वह दिया हुआ है।

श्री स० ला० द्विवेदी : अमरीकी फर्म को क्या लाभ होगा ?

श्री स० अ० मेहदी : वह भी इस स्टेटमेंट में दिया हुआ है।

Shri M. L. Dwivedy: On what basis are we having the contract? The contract has been given.

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): How can we estimate in advance as to what profit a particular organisation will make as a result of carrying out operations? It is only after the operation has been carried out that we can know the position.

Shri M. L. Dwivedy: What is the basis of the contract?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: I have given the cost in part (b).

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that in spite of the study of the Geological Survey of India many important mine-bearing areas are yet to be surveyed? If that is so, since they have entered into an agreement with an American firm, what steps are the Government going to take to have a quick survey of those areas where there are large deposits of minerals?

Shri S. K. Dey: As the hon. Member will appreciate carrying out intensive surveys of mineral-bearing areas is a time-consuming process, and the capacity of the Geological Survey of India cannot be expanded overnight to take care of our entire requirements. Nevertheless, there has been very substantial increase in the capacity of the Geological Survey, to some extent even beyond the control of the GSI organisation.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: According to this agreement aero-magnetic survey will be carried out over large parts of our country for discovery of non-ferrous metals which are of strategic nature and which have a vital bearing on our defence production too. So, in a case like this, when the contract is being handed over to an American firm for work of a strategic nature, are any special steps going to be taken to safeguard the security interests of the country, considering that the Americans are tied up with Pakistan in military matters?

Shri S. K. Dey: Yes, Sir. All steps will be taken. It is not mentioned in the answer. While the aircraft is flying, there would be the representatives of the India Government, Geological Survey of India, including security personnel.

Shri Subodh Hansda: I would like to know the percentage of minerals obtaining in various parts of the country as a result of the survey and the metal content in those cases.

Shri S. K. Dey: I could not exactly understand the question. Naturally, the metal content of the minerals varies from area to area and depth to depth. It is impossible to take a specific figure for the whole country. It will vary from area to area.

Dr. M. M. Das: As the demand for non-ferrous metals in the country is very great, what is the hon. Minister doing to finalise this agreement with the foreign country quickly so that the survey may be begun immediately, without further delay?

Shri S. K. Dey: We are taking all steps to see that we speedily conclude the agreement and it should take place in the next few days. Apart from this, we are also trying to accelerate the process of exploration by the existing personnel of the GSI with their existing resources in all parts of the country where we have located sizeable deposits of non-ferrous metals.