

approved under the Industries Act for manufacture of castings to the extent of 1,59,710 tons per annum, using scrap.

#### Lignite

- \*990. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
Shri Warrior:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri M. K. Kumaran:  
Shri Dharmalingam:  
Shri Sezhiyan:  
Shri Muthu Gounder:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of lignite has been sent abroad for tests to determine its technical feasibility of being useful at the steel plants;

(b) whether any reports regarding this have been received; and

(c) if so, the particulars of the report?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) Yes, Sir. 2000 tons of Neyveli Lignite has been sent to German Democratic Republic for production of coke which could be used for smelting tests to establish possibility of its use for making of iron. 20 tons of carbonised lignite are also being sent to Norway for carrying out tests on the application of electric smelting techniques for making of iron.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Preliminary report on the briquetting and coking tests on laboratory scale with Neyveli Lignite in the German Democratic Republic in connection with the project for production of pig iron has been received. The briquetting and coking tests confirm the earlier indication that lignite coke would be suitable for the production of iron in low shaft or electric furnaces. Further tests are being undertaken.

#### Kiriburu Iron Ore Project

\*991. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Mines & Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government on the Railway Board's proposal for bearing the entire capital and maintenance cost of the Railway line from Karampada to Kiriburu Iron Ore Project;

(b) if not, how long it will take to arrive at a final decision; and

(c) when the construction of the Railway line will start?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines & Fuel (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) to (c). The construction of the line from Karampada to loading point of the Kiriburu mine has already been in progress; more than half of the work has already been completed. It is expected to be ready for traffic by the middle of 1963. The commitment for export of iron-ore to Japan from Kiriburu commences from the beginning of 1964.

The Railway Board is bearing the entire capital & maintenance cost. They have proposed an extra freight which question is under the consideration of Government.

#### Fire in Gidi Colliery

\*992. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry committee constituted to investigate into the Gidi Colliery fire last year has submitted its report;

(b) if so, its main findings as regards cause of the fire; and

(c) what recommendations have been made by the Committee to improve the condition of the colliery?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes.

(b) The Enquiry Committee has taken the view that the probable