

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think this insinuation is not correct. No one is contradicting each other. I do not know wherefrom Shri Hem Barua has got this. This is, I think, one of his usual...

Shri Hem Barua: That is what the Speaker said.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The second part of my question was this. I take it for granted that there is going to be no change. In view of that, what steps are being taken to step up the public sector? Because, we find that there has been a lot of shortfall in this. So, I naturally ask, there is a big find here, and in view of their reiterated policy that they are going not to allow the private sector, what are they going to do to step up the public sector?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may table a motion for that.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is not a question of a motion. It is a question arising out of this.

Mr. Speaker: I allowed questions to avoid any misunderstanding because it appeared in the newspapers. It is a matter of policy. There is no good pursuing this. Next question.

Sui Gas From Pakistan

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Shri D. C. Sharma:

Shri P. K. Deo:

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:

Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

*96. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Shri N. R. Muniswamy:

Shri Hem Barua:

Shri Damani:

Shri Achar:

Shri Osman Ali Khan:

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations for obtaining Sui gas from Pakistan were held recently; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). Some indications have lately been received that Pakistan would be interested to sell natural gas to India. No definite proposal has so far been received and no formal negotiations have taken place.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the difference between indication and formal negotiation and what are the stages to be undergone before indications are turned into formal negotiations?

Mr. Speaker: How does a general question arise?

Shri Goray: In view of the fact that the Gujerat State appointed a committee and after investigation, they have come to the conclusion that the Sui gas will not be an economic proposition, what do the Government propose to do about it when negotiations start?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not know what investigations have been made by the Gujerat Government except casually reading some news in the papers. Nor do I think how conclusively the Gujerat State Government can come to the conclusion at this stage that the Sui gas cannot be used by the Gujerat State industries. The whole question is still under consideration of the Government. Preliminary studies about the possibility of utilising the Pakistan gas are being made in consultation with the Ministries concerned and the State Governments.

Shri Osman Ali Khan: May I know whether the Government have explored the Jaisalmer area in India where the Sui gas seems to extend?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is a very incorrect notion which has been spread by certain newspapers of Delhi that the Sui gas has extended up to Jaisalmer area. There is nothing like that.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know when India is going to utilise her own gas from Jwalamukhi?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As soon as some quantity of gas in Jwalamukhi or any other area has been established.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India is not prepared to receive a delegation from Pakistan to talk about the price of the natural gas since the Government of India is not posted with all the information regarding the technical and other matters?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is not a fact that the Government is not prepared to receive any delegation from Pakistan. As a matter of fact, we are waiting to have the reactions of the Pakistan Government with regard to the proposals indicated by them. We are already examining the possibilities of utilising the gas from that country. All such aspects like price, possibility of transportation are being examined and presumably they must also be examining all these questions.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know whether it is a fact that Pakistan has indicated that it will be able to supply unlimited quantity of Sui gas to the Indian Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not know that.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: What steps are the Government taking to encourage that proposal?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: If there is a proposal made, the Government of India will give it its earnest consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister said that there is no proposal, but there are indications.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: My question is, if the indications are there, have any steps been taken by the Government to encourage such a proposal.

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Achar: What exactly are the proposals, and may I know whether we have sent any reply to those proposals?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All that has so far happened is that this question of sale of Pakistan gas to India was referred to at the Prime Ministers' Conference: the Prime Minister of Pakistan did make a reference about that; this question was also raised at the Conference between the Finance Ministers and the representatives of their Governments. But after that we have so far not received any proposals specifically which may lead us to an examination of the question. In anticipation of such a possibility the Government of India are making an examination of the entire question by themselves, and I presume that the Pakistan Government might also be doing so. As soon as a definite proposal is made, the Government of India will certainly consider the possibilities of purchasing Sui gas from that country.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister said that a very wrong impression was created that Sui gas extends to Jaisalmer. May I know if it is not a fact that the STANVAC Company had offered to expose gas in the Jaisalmer area, indicating that they have every reason to believe that there are good prospects?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is some confusion between Sui gas and the possibility of gas being found in the Jaisalmer area. Right on the border of Jaisalmer, there is an area in Pakistan where STANVAC have successfully found out some gas, and that is known as Mari gas, Mari being the name of the place where the gas has been discovered. Sui is further off, north-west or west of Mari, and it is not likely, it is most unlikely, perhaps not possible, that Sui gas has extended up to the Jaisalmer area. It is possible that Mari gas extensions might be found in Jaisalmer—if there is some gas in Jaisalmer.

Mr. Speaker: Sui and Mari are two villages.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: They are the names of the places where the gas has been found.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are under the impression that Sui gas is a gas of a particular chemical content!

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the deficiencies in our economy so far as the supply of energy is concerned which will be satisfied by this Sui gas when the negotiations mature?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The gas is a fuel which can be utilised for generating energy. There are areas in our country on the western borders where coal is difficult to reach; the transportation costs become higher. All these questions will be taken into consideration if gas from Pakistan known as Sui gas, or any other gas, is to be supplied to our country.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know whether it is a fact that at the time of the Nehru-Ayub talks it was indicated that the purchase of Sui gas by India was linked with various economic exchanges to take place between the two countries, like the purchase of cement and iron and steel by Pakistan and sale of jute and cotton and rock salt also?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware

Shri Hem Barua rose—

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question. There are a hundred questions every day, but we get bogged with one or two questions.

Coal Stocks

*97. **Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has appealed to industrial users of coal to build up adequate coal stocks;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this the prices of coal have gone up; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to check the prices and ensure speedy and continuous supply to industrial users of coal?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b). Every year, during the slack season of the Railways between July and October, all consumers of coal, including industrial users, are requested to take advantage of the easy transport position and build up stocks. The price of coal being controlled, there is no question of this price going up on this account.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know whether Government is sure that coal is being sold at controlled rates?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Unless anything to the contrary is specifically pointed out by the hon. Member or by anybody else, there is no reason to have a feeling that it is not being sold at the controlled price.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if during the slack season, that is July to October, the coal mines have enough stocks to supply to the industrialists?

Sardar Swaran Singh: They had fairly large stocks, but during this July period, as the hon. Member is no doubt aware, the transport was affected as a result of the strike.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if we are in a position when we are able to meet all our demands with regard to coal in India?

Sardar Swaran Singh: All the planning is to that effect, that we should be able to meet the coal requirements of the country. That is the meaning of the planning.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Banerjee.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether we are in a position to meet all our coal requirements? We are