

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

daily witnessing the closure of factories.

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Banerjee:

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Some time back there was coal shortage and scarcity in the industrial units in U.P. May I know whether that problem has been solved and there is a constant flow of coal to the industries in U.P.?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as industrial users are concerned, their requirements have by and large been met. But it may be that for brick burning purposes coal has not moved in sufficient quantity to U.P., because this movement is above Mughalsarai, and there have been difficulties of movement of coal above Mughalsarai.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Recently, a few days ago a factory which is situated within sixty miles of coal mines on either side has been closed down. The fact is that coal mines are not able to meet the demand. That is the position in the country today.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If the hon. Member gives me the particulars of that factory I will look into that matter.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is the Ajam Jahi Mills in Warrangal, in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member may bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister. It may be due to coal shortage or shortage of finance.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Why should I bring it to his notice. It is published in big headlines in the papers.

Mr. Speaker: Then why did he put the question?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The hon. Minister said that for brick burning purposes the coal mines might not have moved coal to U.P. May I know whether Government are taking any steps to keep the coal moved for these purposes also in U.P.?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Coal for brick burning purposes to U.P. and to the Punjab has to move above Mughalsarai. Coal for brick burning purposes has lower priority, because other industrial users should get coal prior to this—'other industrial users' being the industrial manufacturing units, the thermal electric power stations and the like—and there have been difficulties. As I have said, the total movement that can take place above Mughalsarai being limited, the various competing priorities have to fit in with that.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that due to the short supply of coal, tea estates of Assam are suffering; and, if so, what steps Government are taking in this direction?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think that the tea industry in Assam has brought this specifically to Government's notice. I thought there is coal available in Assam itself, and the leads also are not pretty long; and I will be surprised if the tea industry has suffered.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member seems to be a tea grower himself.

Shri Gulam Mohideen: By using coal only as fuel, are we not losing most of its economic benefits; and, if so, may I know what steps Government are taking to prevent it?

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Minister been able to follow the question?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir. He says that coal is being used as fuel and we are losing the essential, perhaps volatile material, from coal.

Shri Gulam Mohideen: Yes,, nitrogen and all these things for manufacturing fertilisers and many such things from coal. And by using it as fuel we are losing all these benefits.

Sardar Swaran Singh: A large quantity of coal will continue to be used as fuel. It is true that gas from coal can be utilised for chemical industries and the like. It is being used for that purpose also in the coke

oven batteries at Sindri and at the West Bengal coke oven plant and also in the integrated steel plants, but in our present state of economy, the major part of coal will continue to be used as fuel because we have got no other fuel which can substitute coal.

Water in Jaisalmer

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{ **Shri Goray:**
*98. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
 { **Shri R. C. Majhi:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that while drilling for oil the Geological Survey team in the Jaisalmer area had discovered substantial reserves of water; and

(b) whether Government are planning to tap these resources on a bigger scale?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Goray: It has appeared in the press that while we were drilling for oil, enough quantity of good water was discovered. If he says "no", then I have nothing to say.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, next question.

Shri Goray: I would like to know whether it is a fact or not.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The drilling was conducted by the exploratory tubewells organisation to tap underground water, but we have not got the details of the report. It is with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. What happened in the case of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is that they drilled two tubewells and from their shallow hole drillings they got brackish water.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is the hon. Minister aware that it is under the Food and Agriculture Ministry that there has been exploration and a good find of water in that area? Has he some information from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in this matter?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have heard about it. I have already said I have not received any report from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. If the hon. Member so wishes, we can get this information and pass it on to him.

Shri Basappa: Is it a fact that the Chandan Well in that area yielding 55,000 gallons of water per hour will be coming up, and it is good water?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): There is a well giving water up to 51,000 gallons, but there is also the fact that this being a coal area with minerals etc., brackishness of water is a possibility which we cannot underestimate.

Shri Goray: In view of the fact that in Rajasthan water is a very valuable commodity, will not Government investigate the matter further and find out what the truth is?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are investigating for water in that area and we shall be very happy if we can get water, because I entirely agree with the hon. Member that water is a great necessity.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The water has been gushing there for several weeks, if not months. Has not any one tasted whether the water is brackish? The Minister says that possibility of brackish water is there.

Shri S. K. Patil: The hon. Member has misunderstood my reply. There have been already two wells where copious supply of water has been found. A third well, I am told, is being dug, but there are some other wells also. I was merely saying that in a mineral area brackish water was a possibility, not that it is definite.