

will not call him at all, but after going to another hon. Member, I come back to him, even when some others say that I do not stand by what I say. Many times I have done so.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: That is the privilege of that side only. This is only an arid zone. It is really unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker: It is the privilege of this side to rule, it is the privilege of that side to object. That is the reason. Next question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: 636. You are often very kind to me, Sir.

Middlings from Washeries

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 *636. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to his answer to Unstarred Question No. 3724 on the 21st April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since concluded their examination of the report of the Committee on Utilisation of Middlings from the washeries;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations accepted by Government; and

(c) when action will be initiated on those recommendations?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The report of the Committee on utilisation of middlings from the washeries is being examined in the light of the comments received from the various Departments/Ministries concerned. The main recommendation is that future planning of washeries and thermal power stations should, as far as possible, be integrated. This and the other recommendations are under examination. Action on these will be initiated when this examination has been concluded and Government has taken a decision on them.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the other Ministries and departments which are being consulted by this Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, in order to arrive at a decision?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I have said that several departments are consulted—for instance the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, because they are concerned with the utilisation of middlings.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the delay in the examination of the project is not proving harmful to our country in the matter of economic coal production?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: There is no question of delay in the consideration of this report. It has been received recently, and is being examined, and it takes some time because other Ministries like Railways and Irrigation and Power have to be consulted. Unless there is full consideration, it will not be proper for this Ministry to take any step.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know how it is that before a final decision has been taken on these recommendations, the Union Government has ordered last month that the transport of middlings from washeries to the consumers should be restricted to road transport only, as a result of which it is apprehended that there may be a very serious power crisis, because the transport of middlings by road is twice as expensive as that by rail; and whether any representation has been received from the Durgapur Industries and the thermal power plants in Durgapur as to the serious repercussions that there may be on their production?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Middlings move to power stations, and restrictions on middlings to power stations which had been imposed were not removed. And so—it is a fact—the Durgapur power station and the washeries also represented that movement of middlings to the Durgapur

power station should be allowed, and that has been allowed. Similarly, movement of middlings to the thermal power station at Jamshedpur also has been allowed. What has been restricted is the movement of middlings over long distances for other purposes, namely brick-burning and the like, because it was considered that where the transport availability was restricted, movement should be of other coal and not middlings.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In cases where the consumers have already entered into contracts with the washeries and it is not possible now for the washeries to provide them with substitutes for middlings, would not Government consider allowing them to transport it by rail, as, otherwise, over long distances the expense would be much more as compared to transport by rail?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the Committee has recommended the establishment of thermal power plants as also the utilisation of middlings from washeries, may I know how the Government proposes to integrate all these plans? The hon. Parliamentary Secretary was pleased to say that the Government was trying to integrate all the recommendations of this Committee, but the recommendations of the Committee are very varied, because they have recommended the establishment of thermal power plants also. Therefore, I want to know how the Government proposes to integrate the recommendations of the Committee.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know whether it is a question of language or a question of fact. The fact of the matter is that they have made a general recommendation that middlings produced in the washeries should be utilised in thermal stations, and that the thermal stations should be so located that the movement of middlings to them is smooth and is

not over long distances. This recommendation has been accepted. The implementation of it is to locate the thermal stations in such a manner that they are fed by the middlings.

Works Committees in Steel Plants

***637. Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 878 on the 15th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether registration of the Rourkela Steel Plant under the Factories Act has since been effected;

(b) if so, whether a works committee will now be set up for the plant;

(c) whether a joint committee has since been formed at Bhilai Steel Plant;

(d) when a works committee will be set up for Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(e) whether the uniform Grievance Procedure for all the three Plants has now been finalised?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps are being taken to set up a Works Committee.

(c) Not yet, Sir; but action is being taken to set up the Joint Committee.

(d) Preliminary steps are being taken to form Works Committee at Durgapur Steel Project and it should be set up within a month.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether this uniform grievance procedure for all the three plants will be in conformity with the grievance procedure which has been agreed upon by the Indian Labour Conference?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member is connected with the unions and by now he must have familiarised himself with this procedure. If he wants additional information, I will