

specific matter arises, the rest is only a hypothetical matter.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether the West Bengal Government proposes to open up new coal mines within the State?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have attempted to reply that in parts (b) and (c) of the answer. I have said that they have expressed a desire to exploit some coal mine in the State of West Bengal.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In view of the fact that extension of mining leases has been given to Bengal Coals Company, where is the objection on the part of the Government of India to allow the West Bengal Government to work up new mines?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as extension of leases to private companies are concerned, that does not arise out of this. Merely because some extension of lease has been granted to some private company, it should not be linked with the policy of permitting the development of mines by a State Government. The two are not connected with each other at all.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Which of the coal mines have been referred to by the West Bengal Government for being opened up by them? Have the new coal mines in Purulia and Bankura Districts been included?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is a matter of detail.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: The hon. Minister referred to the targets of coal production which have already been laid down in the Third Plan. Since we are short of coal and more coal will be welcome, could not the targets be revised if the State Government puts forward a project which is approved by the Central Government?

Sardar Swaran Singh: If the targets are revised, this question could be considered as to what should be the agency for producing that addi-

tional quantity. But at the moment the targets are which have been mentioned in the Third Five Year Plan and which have actually been discussed in Parliament.

Shri Subodh Hansda: In view of the fact that West Bengal is experiencing a shortage of coal that is why the West Bengal Government has put up a proposal for opening up new coal mines, what steps Government has taken to meet this shortage of coal in West Bengal?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The two points have been lumped together by the hon. Member. There are shortages of coal in West Bengal and in other States as well. That matter has been discussed quite often. The main difficulty is transport availability. Whatever the shortages attempts are being made to ration out those shortages in an equitable manner. Additional production to meet the requirements of any particular State have to be related to the overall coal development and utilisation plan for the country. We cannot consider each State separately. We must have an overall national plan.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether the proposals of the West Bengal Government that have been sent to the Central Government have been rejected?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member has apparently missed the last sentence of my reply to part (b) and (c) of the question. I have said that the matter is under consideration.

Sui Gas

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*309. { Shri Hem Barua:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

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

reply given to Starred Question No. 174 on the 9th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any information has since been received from the Government of Pakistan for obtaining Sui Gas from that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government of India's reaction thereto?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Hem Barua: During April, 1961 there were exploratory talks with the Pakistan delegation on the issue of Sui gas. May I know whether the industrial needs of Pakistan, because the Pakistan economy is also a developing economy, as also the political relations between the two countries at present were also discussed during these talks?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: How is the hon. Minister of Oil concerned with those talks? Shri Sarhadi.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Could it be taken that the negotiations have broken down?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: For all practical purposes it seems that they are not responding now to our desire of resuming negotiations. This is all that I can say.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this gas is available adjacent to our border, may I know whether attempts have been made to discover similar gas in our areas?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are already aware that geologically perhaps it is possible to find some gas and oil on our side. Therefore we are taking steps to make our own preparations in this connection and try to search gas and oil.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if some French experts have visited Jaisalmer area and in view of their report and our prospects of finding our own gas in Jaisalmer area, may I know if we are at all interested in Sui gas now?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no report from the French side with regard to possibilities on this side. We have our own assessment made. We know about it. The French party will come and assist us if we require their assistance. Even if we discover some gas, there may still perhaps be scope for consuming gas from this side if Pakistan is desirous of selling it to us.

Air Force College, Hyderabad

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*310. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air Force College at Hyderabad is being established;

(b) if so, how much amount has been sanctioned for the same; and

(c) other details of the scheme?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) A proposal for this purpose has been accepted and is being examined.

(b) No amount has been sanctioned so far.

(c) Details of the scheme are being worked out.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether there is any proposal under consideration to have an Air Force College somewhere else also besides Hyderabad?

Shri Krishna Menon: No, Sir. Not of this type.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether this college will coordinate the various training centres which we