

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Dasappa: May I know the proportion of.....

Shri Datar: That has been made clear in the reply....

Mr. Speaker: I have already called the next question.

Neiveli Lignite Project

*69. **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 52 on the 22nd March, 1957 and state:

(a) whether all the machinery for extracting lignite at Neiveli has arrived; and

(b) if so, whether the extraction has commenced during this month as was stated in the previous reply?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Practically, all the conventional items of earth moving machinery ordered have arrived at the site. The first unit of the specialised mining machines will be shipped early in 1958 and the last unit, late in 1959.

(b) Earth moving operations in the first mine cut will be inaugurated on the 20th May, 1957 with the conventional machinery. Actual extraction of lignite is expected to start by the middle of 1960.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: May I know what is the time schedule for starting the thermal station and the fertilizer plant and the briquetting plant?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? The hon. Member might have added that question also.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: The question deals with the lignite project and it is difficult to separate.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The lignite seam in the first cut is expected to be exposed early in 1960 and by the middle of that year the quantity required for the first unit of the

thermal power station will be mined; and the full production of the mine will be reached by the end of 1960.

So far as the thermal station is concerned, the first unit is expected to be commissioned by the middle of 1960 and the remaining unit or units by the end of that year.

So far as the fertiliser plant is concerned, the erection of the plant is expected to be completed in all respects and production commenced by the middle of 1961.

Shri Tangamani: May I know if the lignite that is going to be extracted will be used for domestic purposes or industrial purposes? If it is going to be used for industrial purposes, may I know whether there is any proposal for utilising it for any steel plant which may come up in Salem?

Mr. Speaker: Any future steel plant.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The first use of the extracted lignite will be for the thermal power station and once electricity is generated it can be used both for domestic purposes as also for industrial purposes. There is a great demand for electric power in that area for small-scale industries, for agricultural purposes and for a number of other things. So far as the part relating to fertiliser is concerned, obviously, fertiliser will be for agricultural purposes. The briquettes will be used as fuel both for industrial and domestic purposes.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री मशुदाय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस स्कीम पर कितना रुपया खर्च करने का एस्टीमेट है ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the mining part of the project is concerned, the estimated cost is about Rs. 17 crores. With regard to the fertiliser and thermal power plants, firm figures are not available but the total expenditure is of the order of Rs. 50-60 crores.

Shri Tangamani: I wanted to find out whether it is going to be used for industrial purposes, particularly for the steel plant at Salem, in view of the statement made by a Minister on the floor of the Madras Assembly that it was going to be used only for domestic purposes.

Mr. Speaker: It appears that some Minister stated in the Madras Assembly that all this lignite would be used only for domestic purposes. Is there any prospect of its being utilised for any future steel plant that is going to be established at Salem? That is what the hon. Member wants to know.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would like to study the statement supposed to have been made by the Madras Minister before I could offer any useful comment thereon. But, so far as the utilisation of the power is concerned, I have tried to explain it here.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister has said that the mining plant will go into full swing by the end of 1960. What would be the output? Will it be the original target of three million tons per annum?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think our target is 3.5 million tons.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will it go into full production by 1960 to produce 3.5 million tons?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir; a little later, I think.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know the value of machinery imported and the names of countries from which they were imported?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The value of the machinery that has already been received is of the order of Rs. 5.5 crores and I have not got readily the names of countries from which they were imported.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: May we know the employment potential of the integrated scheme?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That does not arise out of this.

Mr. Speaker: They ask for machinery and go to employment. Next question.

Uniform Coal Price

***70. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the proposal to have uniform price for coal all over the country;

(b) when the proposal is likely to be finalised; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). Government would like to study the recommendations of the Rail-Sea Coordination Committee and the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee before proceeding further.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if the Government proposes to enlarge the terms of reference of the Committee which has been appointed recently to go into the price structure of coal by including this subject as well?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir, that is not the intention.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the coal-bearing States of Bihar and Bengal have been consulted in the matter and if so, what their views are?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Consult them for what? I do not follow. All that I have said is that we are studying the reports of the Rail-Sea Co-ordination Committee and the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee. Surely, all interests including the interests pointed out by the hon. Member will be consulted before a final decision is taken.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister please tell us if his attention