

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

101

102

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 16th February, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRODUCTION IN RARE EARTHS FACTORY

*62. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether the whole output in the Rare Earths Factory, opened recently at Alwaye, in Travancore-Cochin State will be for internal consumption, or there will be any exports, if so, to which countries, in what quantities and for what purposes?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14]

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know, Sir, what is the total amount of thorium to be produced by this factory in a year?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Thorium and Uranium are left as by-products in the factory as cakes which are, however, going to be processed in another factory at Bombay.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I wanted to know the quantity. Is it possible for the hon. Minister to answer that?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am afraid I cannot say anything about the quantity.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know what will be the various branches of science and industry in which this thorium can be utilised in India?

457 PSD

Shri K. D. Malaviya: A Part of Thorium as nitrate will be utilised in the gas mantle industry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Is that the only industry in which it can be used in India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is what we know at present.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know how many foreigners are associated with this factory?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Well, so far as the factory at Alwaye is concerned, it is being run by us.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know the nationality of one Dr. John Philipose who is on the Board of Directors? Is he of Travancore-Cochin origin or a foreigner?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of any foreigner who has been mentioned by the hon. member, being on the board of Directors.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Is it a fact that there are three French technicians and two German technicians associated with this factory?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware, I require notice for that.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire, Sir, whether this factory has gone into production and from the experience so far, is it run on profit and if so, what is the profit?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Well, the factory was opened last month by the Prime Minister. Since then we have produced in January 77 tons of chlorides and 15 tons of carbonates. We are running it all right.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Has the hon. Minister any idea of the profit so far gained, and if so, what is the profit?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, I am afraid I cannot give any idea of the profit.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the importance of certain radio-active minerals to be produced in this factory is it the policy of the Government to associate foreigners in this industry?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We do not need to associate foreigners in this now. We want to do things by ourselves.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, how much monazite is used by the factory every month, and what is the price of the monazite?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot give exactly the quantity of monazite that is being used by the factory. But the factory is normally equipped to produce 1650 tons of rare earth chlorides or 1150 tons of carbonates.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What is it used for?

An Hon. Member: Ask for notice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such observations are unnecessary. The hon. member may do that when he becomes a Minister.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I know, Sir, the capital cost of this factory and its maintenance charges?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Eighty lakhs is the running capital.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Its maintenance charges?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of it just now.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether it has not gone into production before the formal opening by the Prime Minister and whether it is going into full production now?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Well, I cannot exactly give you the programme. But I have just now said that we have produced about 77 tons of rare earths chlorides in January.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Arising out of the answer that a fairly good quantity is internally consumed, may I know, Sir, if this commodity is fit for human consumption?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, the Statement laid on the Table does not answer the question I asked. I asked what would be the amount internally consumed and if there would be anything left for export, and if so, to which country and in what quantity. That is not answered.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is answered. More than that I am not in a position to answer hypothetically.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is not a hypothetical question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only a small quantity. It was opened only last month and the production is small.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Would this factory restrict itself to rare earth chlorides or whether there is arrangement for production of rare earth carbonates as well?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is designed to produce carbonates as well.

Shri Matthen rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have spent six minutes over this question. Next question.

HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT FACTORY,
BANGALORE

*63. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first aircraft trainer of India took off at Bangalore on the 3rd January, 1953;

(b) whether this was designed and built in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore; and

(c) whether all the parts were of indigenous manufacture?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The first Indian designed and manufactured prototype aircraft H. T. 2 took off on official test flight during August 1951. The "Type Certificate of Airworthiness" of the aircraft was formally handed over by the Minister for Communications on the 3rd January 1953.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Most of the parts are of indigenous manufacture.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What are the parts, Sir, that have to be imported yet?

Sardar Majithia: Instruments—for instance, air-speed indicator, altimeter, revolutions per minute indicator, all temperature gauge, all pressure gauge, fuel contents gauge etc.