

Gazette & Debates Section  
Printed by the Government  
of Madras  
No. 10-10-53  
Block 107  
Assn. No. 25126  
2-11-2014

THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

1049

1050

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 16th March, 1953

*The House met at Two of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

ARID AREAS (RESEARCH CENTRE)

\*765. **Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether proposals for the establishment of a research centre to study problems of arid areas have been completed?

(b) If so, where is it to be set up and when will it start work?

(c) What will be the main lines on which work will be carried on at this centre?

(d) What will be the total initial expenditure on this centre?

(e) Are Government receiving any help from any foreign source like the UNESCO, in setting up this centre?

(f) If so, to what extent and in what form?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) No Sir. The proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b) It is proposed to set up the Centre at Jodhpur in Rajasthan. It is not possible to say at present when the Centre will start work.

(c) The work contemplated includes hydrological, geological, geophysical and agricultural surveys and investigations primarily relating to the exploitation of water resources of the arid areas of Rajasthan. Setting up of a necessary meteorological observations stations is also part of the proposal.

(d) Rs. 26,70,000.

548 PSD

(e) and (f). Government have made a request to the U. N. for technical assistance to the extent of Rs. 3,60,000 to cover expenditure on the salary of a foreign geophysical expert and on necessary equipment.

**Shri Eswara Reddy:** May I know whether this research centre will deal with the problems of semi-arid zones in Bombay, Hyderabad and Madras States?

**Shri Hathi:** This will deal chiefly with the arid zones.

**Shri Eswara Reddy:** I would like to know whether it will benefit the perpetually affected famine areas.

**Shri Hathi:** The idea of having this centre is chiefly to deal with the problems arising from arid zones and the surveys and investigations will be in relation to the arid zones and not scarcity areas.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether the proposals under consideration of Government include any proposal for investigating the possibility of introducing extensive protective afforestation?

**Shri Hathi:** There is another scheme under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. They have already taken action for the cultivation of a protective belt also.

**Shri Eswara Reddy:** I came to know from Professor S. K. Banerjee's report that successful experiments have been conducted.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is the question that the hon. Member wants to put. He need not read all that.

**Shri Eswara Reddy:** ..... in inducing the clouds to deliver the rains. If that is true, may I know whether the Government will implement that experiment in the arid and semi-arid zones by producing artificial rains?

**Shri Hathi:** I have no information, Sir.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the research work at UNESCO under an advisory committee of 9 scientists has in any way helped towards reclaiming areas especially in India?

**Shri Hathi:** The Committee referred to by the hon. Member was only an Advisory Committee and it was asked to formulate proposals as to what should be the equipment for the Centre and submit a report. So, nothing further has been done so far.

**Shri Punnoose:** Will this work be done in consultation with State Governments?

**Shri Hathi:** Work will be done with the co-operation of State Governments naturally.

#### MANGANESE ORE

\*769. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is one of the largest suppliers of the world in metallurgical manganese ore?

(b) Is there any proposal for the Indian Standards Institution to issue standard specifications for manganese ore, one of battery grade and the other of metallurgical grade?

(c) Which country is India's biggest customer?

(d) Is it a fact that in E.C.A.F.E. region India continues to hold a principal position as exporter?

(e) Is it a fact that the Geological Survey of India had field operations in Orissa and Bihar and found new deposits of manganese ore at Amjhor in the Sahabad District of Bihar?

(f) Is it a fact that Amjhor, in the Sahabad District of Bihar was an important source of sulphur?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):**  
(a) Yes.

(b) The Indian Standards Institution has already issued standard specifications for manganese ore—Battery grade and manganese ore—Metallurgical Grade.

(c) U.S.A.

(d) Yes.

(e) Field officers of the Geological Survey of India conducted operations in Orissa and Bihar but no manganese

ore deposits were found in the Sahabad District of Bihar.

(f) Pyrites is available in that area and it is possible to extract sulphur from it.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the name of the company which had been entrusted with the task of exploiting the Pyrite deposit in Amjhor?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The firm is named Kutchewar Lime and Stone Company.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it a fact that the best kind of manganese ore is found in Madhya Pradesh and is there a proposal for starting a manganese factory there?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As for the second part there have been various proposals but nothing has taken shape yet.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Is it a fact that in the United States this manganese ore is used to make such dangerous explosives as manganese heptoxide and may I also know whether the quantity which is expected to America.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How does all that arise out of this question?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** That country, the hon. Minister says, is India's biggest customer and it is necessary to know what use is made of it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This question is not allowed.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** In regard to para. (c) may I know the value country-wise of our customers?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I have got a long statement here. I will place the statement on the Table of the House.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** The first six biggest customers?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The biggest is given in (c).

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** I want to know the value countrywise of the first six.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That goes into details and will take time.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the estimated quantity of Pyrite deposits in Amjhor and what quality of that deposit is being exploited annually?