

(ख) क्या यह सत्य है कि जोंक नदी के प्रस्तावित बांध के स्थान पर की चट्टानें कोमल, भुरभुरी और अनपयुक्त पाई गई हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The reply to first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the latter part, the project has been dropped as not being feasible.

(b) Yes, sir.

MID-DAY PROGRAMME IN CUTTACK RADIO STATION

***1054. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of the mid-day programme from the Cuttack Radio Station with effect from the second week of May, 1953;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa have been consulted beforehand in this regard;

(c) whether any representations have been received from the public for the restoration of the mid-day programme; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to restore the mid-day programme?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) The mid-day transmission from the Cuttack Station of All India Radio was discontinued with effect from 31st May 1953 in the interests of economy and with effect from the same date the mid-day Oriya news bulletin started being broadcast from Calcutta on the high power short wave as well as low power medium wave transmitters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes.

(d) No, Sir.

Shri Sanganna: May I know, Sir, whether the Programme Advisory Committee has been consulted?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir.

KORBA COAL FIELD

***1055. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it has been decided to open up the Korba coal fields in Madhya Pradesh and to link these coal-fields with the railhead at Champa by means of a new branch railway line from Champa to Korba?

(b) Was the Korba field properly prospected and proved, and if so, by whom?

(c) What are the main conclusions or data obtained by prospecting this coal-field with regard to the various coal seams, their location, thickness and quality?

(d) Was the Coal Commissioner consulted on the advisability of opening the Korba field and what was the advice that was tendered by him?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The Korba coalfield has been prospected and proved to some extent by private parties mainly Messrs. Dunlop Considine and by the Madhya Pradesh Government.

(c) From prospecting work it is revealed that altogether about twenty outcrops of coal varying in thickness from a few inches to 150 ft. have now been known to occur at different parts of the field. Of these, the Ghordewa (5 ft.), Rajgamar (6 ft.) seam are most attractive, but there is every probability that workable sections of the Korba (Jatrag) (70 ft.) and Sonpuri (26 ft.) will be found. Some of the samples both from the Ghordewa seam and Rajgamar seam indicate that the coal is of high quality.

(d) Yes, he was consulted and the development of Korba was favoured by the Coal Commissioner.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Messrs. Dunlop Considine Company, a German concern has been given mining lease

for only ten sq. miles of the Korba field to the west of the River Hasdo while the new line would be on the east side of the river?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Yes, Sir. They have been given licence for ten square miles.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कोरवा क्षेत्र में कोयले की खदानों को खोदन के लिए ग्रीर टेका लेने के लिए कितनी दरखास्तें आई हैं और कोयला खदानों का काम कब शुरू किया जा रहा है, और क्या यह सच नहीं है कि जो रेल लाप से कोरवा तक जाती है उससे कोयले की खदान कहीं दूर उत्तर की ओर है ?

श्री आर० जी० दुबे : कितनी दरखास्तें आयी हैं यह तो मैं नहीं बतला सकता लेकिन अब तक कोरवा कोलफील्ड के क्षेत्र में करीब करीब बीस-ब्लॉक्स बनाये गये हैं और यह प्राइवेट पार्टिज को बांटे गये हैं ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या यह सही है कि जो पश्चिमी लोग हैं उन लोगों को कोल माइन्स का ज्यादा टेका दिया गया है बनिस्बत उन लोगों के जो कि खास हिन्दुस्तान के रहने वाले हैं ?

श्री आर० जी० दुबे : वंसी चीज कोई नहीं है ।

Shri P. C. Bose: Has the coal been properly analysed and what is the grade of the coal?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Yes, Sir, the coal was analysed by the Coal Grading Board and it has been found, after examination, that it is upto the specifications laid down by the Coal Grading Board.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the period for which the lease has been granted to Messrs. Dunlop Company and what is the royalty they will pay?

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that there are no large scale consuming centres near about, and did the Government take into consideration, before deciding on opening this rail-head, that coal production in other coal-fields in Central India, Bihar and Bengal are languishing for lack of proper supply of transport facilities? It transpires from the answer given by the hon. Minister that.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is starting a discussion!

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): I may say that the whole question has been thoroughly gone into by several important bodies including the working party on coal recently—about two years back. Even before that, the Coal-fields Enquiry Committee had gone into the whole question and it was their main, definite recommendation that the Korba coal-fields should be opened up. Recently, other surveys were also made. The Planning Commission also recommended the Korba Coal Field must be opened, and it was also provided in the five year plan. It was after having thoroughly gone into the whole question, and also the factors mentioned by the hon. Member, namely, the availability of coal, their quality, etc., that it was finally decided to open up these fields. And from a long range point of view, it was thought that it will be most advantageous to the nation, and only after these considerations were gone into fully, that development of the Korba Coal-fields has been decided upon.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have allowed six or seven questions on this. The original person who has tabled the question was allowed three questions and whoever was interested in Madhya Pradesh was allowed supplementary questions

Shri K. C. Reddy: For the information of the House, I am prepared to circulate a note on this subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I suggest that all the three questions, 1056, 1057 and 1058, concerning the Hindusthan Housing Factory may be taken together? All these relate to the Hindusthan Housing Factory.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

HINDUSTHAN HOUSING FACTORY

*1056. **Shri Matthen:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to starred question No. 104 asked on the 17th February, 1953 and state the progress of the Hindusthan Housing Factory Ltd. (former Government Housing Factory) since they have taken charge of their factory and assets?

(b) Are Basakha Singh Wallenborg Ltd. still the Managing Agents of the said factory?

(c) Has there been any change in the constitution or personnel of this managing agency firm?

(d) Is the Swedish Firm still co-operating with the Managing Agents?

(e) If not, have Messrs. Basakha Singh secured any other technical advisers in place of the former?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Hindusthan Housing Factory Limited took over the buildings, plant and machinery of the Government Housing Factory on the 1st April 1953. At present they are busy reconditioning and repairing these machinery and buildings and appreciable progress has been made in this regard. They are also putting up additional constructions wherever necessary, procuring additional machinery from Messrs. Basakha Singh Wallenborg Ltd. on lease, and making necessary arrangements for starting production in all sections by about October, 1953.

(b) to (e). There was no proposal or intention at any time to appoint Managing Agents. Messrs. Basakha Singh Wallenborg Limited are equal partners with the Government of India in the Hindusthan Housing Factory
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Limited, a private Limited Company set up to manage the affairs of the Factory. There has been no change in the constitution or personnel of Messrs. Basakha Singh Wallenborg Limited. The foreign partners in that firm continue to co-operate.

MACHINERY FOR THE HINDUSTHAN HOUSING FACTORY

*1057. **Shri Matthen:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the machinery for the Hindusthan Housing Factory referred to in the answer to starred question No. 104 asked on the 17th February, 1953, has arrived or not?

(b) Have the Company been able to manufacture pre-stress concrete articles?

(c) If so, what is the quantity and value of the same?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The following items of machinery have already arrived:—

(i) Pipe making plant.

(ii) Wood-working plant.

Machinery for pre-stressed concrete manufacture has already been shipped from Europe.

Machinery suitable for steel fabrication and a few minor items of laboratory and other equipment not available in India are being ordered and procured abroad.

(b) and (c). The company expects to start production of pre-stressed concrete components in November, 1953.

PAYMENT OF RENT BY HINDUSTHAN HOUSING FACTORY

*1058. **Shri Matthen:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the Hindusthan Housing Factory has paid any part of the rent stipulated in the agreement?

(b) What is the present position of the large stock of material of the old Government Housing Factory and who is in charge of them?