

Shri R. G. Dubey: I am not aware.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Was not that question put yesterday or a few days ago?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that all the collieries are not running to full capacity, and therefore there is under-employment of labour there?

Shri R. G. Dubey: No, Sir. Actually, the figures belie this assertion because the production is going up, and it has reached a high level.

Dr. M. M. Das: One more question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have allowed three questions.

Next question.

EXTRACTION OF PETROL FROM INDIAN COAL

***1351. Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to reply to starred question No. 562 asked on 6th March, 1953 and state:

(a) whether Sri Bijayananda Patnaik had submitted in 1948, a scheme to extract petrol from Indian coal;

(b) whether the scheme was examined by the Synthetic Petrol Committee of the then Industry and Supply Ministry, and whether certain French experts were called in with a view to elicit further information; and

(c) what were the conclusions of the Committee as to the soundness and the commercial feasibility of the scheme?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee did not make any recommendation regarding the technical soundness or the economic feasibility of the scheme, but they stated that the Government would be justified in granting permission to the com-

pany to go ahead with their scheme at their own risk.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the same scheme was later on submitted to the Government of Orissa, and if so, did the Government of Orissa seek any advice as to the feasibility and economic possibility of the scheme?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am at a slight disadvantage in this matter in that much of what my hon. friend refers to is in the womb of the past, but according to the files that I have with me here I do see that there has been correspondence between the Government of Orissa and the Government of India in this matter and all that the Government of India have indicated to the Government of Orissa is the opinion given by the special committee, viz., that while they are not prepared to certify that the scheme is technically sound or otherwise feasible, they do not mind if private enterprise takes a hand in it.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if in spite of that advice the scheme was sponsored by the Government of Orissa and a sum of £ 50,000 was advanced to the party for preliminary investigations and preparation of the scheme?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot give any definite information though the sum of £ 50,000 does occur in the correspondence. It was suggested that the sponsor of the scheme would require about £ 50,000 for investigation. I am not exactly sure in my mind whether the entire money was to be found by the Government of Orissa or only a portion of it.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India had wanted an accounting of the £50,000 as to how it was spent?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know how the Government of India can call upon anybody to account for any money which they have not given.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Am I to understand, Sir, then that such accounting was not called for?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is, what he says.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Precisely, Sir. The Government of India's part in this matter is strictly circumscribed. They have given no money and they cannot call for an account. If somebody gives money Government of India cannot call for an account. It is a matter to be dealt with by the authorities that have given the money.

Shri Nanadas: Who invited the French experts and what is the expenditure incurred on that account?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think my hon. friend is at a slight disadvantage here, because while the gentleman who tabled the question knows all about the facts, my friend wants to know information. It seems that it is a private firm that took up this matter, and the French expert or the so-called expert came at their invitation.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know, Sir, whether Government has sought assistance from the foreign oil companies to give chances to our young men to test petrol contents found anywhere in India?

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

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it has been found out that extraction of petrol is possible from all kinds of coal, and may I also know whether any attempt was made to examine the coal available at Naiveli in South Arcot District, Madras State?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In regard to the second part, we are not quite sure whether what you call brown coal can be exploited on a commercial basis at Naiveli. When that becomes a fact, the other things will follow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: One more question, Sir. May I know if Government are aware if any report was given by the party after making preliminary investigations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To the Central Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The file here would indicate that in the mass of correspondence relating to this particular matter there were reports and revised reports. All that I can say is that nothing has come out of it all.

GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION

*1352. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aim to house every Government servant; and

(b) if so, how and by what period?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). All Government servants may not necessarily want accommodation owned by Government. Having regard to this and within the resources available, Government aim at providing as large a proportion of them as practicable, with such accommodation.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the Government's housing programme is keeping pace with the increasing number of the servants?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid not, Sir.

Shri Heda: If so, how do Government hope that at one stage or other they would be able to accommodate all those who want accommodation?

Sardar Swaran Singh: We are passing through the period of planning and our resources have to be spent elsewhere. So, I am afraid Government servants will have to wait a little more till the Government's aim is realised by way of providing accommodation.