

**Shri Karmarkar:** For all the States that made the request.

ARID ZONE RESEARCH

**\*756. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jaswant College at Jodhpur has been associated with the arid zone programme of the UNESCO;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) what are the advantages derived by this college by such association?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathl):** (a) Yes.

(b) April, 1952.

(c) The advantages are:—

(i) The institution will be included in the mailing list of the UNESCO and will be able to obtain various publications of U. N. O. on the subject of arid zone.

(ii) It will get preferential treatment for financial assistance for work under arid Zone programme of UNESCO.

(iii) Research done at the institution will be co-ordinated with that done at other institutions in India and abroad.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** In the fourth session of the Arid Zone Advisory Committee, it was discussed that a training centre will be established in Delhi. May I know whether this has been established?

**Shri Hathl:** No, Sir.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the arid zone research station, that was decided to be established in Rajasthan, will be established near about this college?

**Shri Hathl:** That is going to be discussed in the next session to be held in Paris in May 1954.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether any periodical conference of

the heads of such institutions are held for co-ordinating the research done in the Jodhpur college?

**Shri Hathl:** No, Sir. The work has not actually started yet.

MANUFACTURE OF FOUNTAIN PENS AND INK

**\*757. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new plant for the manufacture of fountain pens and ink is to be set up at Bangalore;

(b) what would be the total expenditure involved in setting up this plant; and

(c) when it is expected to go into production?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capital of the company is Rs. 5 lakhs.

(c) The ink is expected to be put on the market shortly. The production of fountain pens will start in about a year.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know when the new plant comes under production, how its capacity would compare with foreign production that has been operating in India?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The production capacity immediately would be about 800 gross per annum, which could be stepped up by 50 per cent. in the second year, and it could be raised further thereafter to 3,000 gross per annum.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know if it is a fact that the indigenous industry is facing difficulties in competing with the foreign production and if it has requested Government to supply it with cheaper raw materials?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Care has been taken in this matter. The indigenous industry is concerned with the production of fountain pens of Rs. 10 and below, but this particular concern

manufactures three qualities of fountain pens—Rs. 12, Rs. 18 and Rs. 25 each—and so, this will not overlap on the indigenous production that is already in action.

**Shri Sidananjappa:** What is the estimated cost of this factory?

**Mr. Speaker:** He said the capital of the company was five lakhs or so.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Perhaps, the hon. Member wants to know the value of the machinery but I am afraid I have not got the information at the moment.

**Shri N. Somana:** Who is the owner of this plant?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This has been floated under the name of Rightoids (Orient) Ltd.

#### NEIVELI LIGNITE MINES

\*758. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been receiving any periodical reports regarding the progress of Neiveli Lignite Investigation Project in the Madras State;

(b) if so, how far it has progressed;

(c) whether the Madras Government have made experiments on the efficacy of the coal obtained from Neiveli;

(d) whether this coal has been found cheaper and more effective for use in buses; and

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal to use this coal for industrial purposes all over India?

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

(b) The excavation of a quarry over an area of 600' × 600' is in progress. Over 1/3rd of the total quantity of excavation has been completed.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Madras Government have reported that experiments carried out so far seem to be promising.

(e) No. The matter is still in the experimental stage.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that for want of machinery and proper equipment the progress of excavation has been very slow?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** The progress as such is not slow; but I might say that we are waiting to receive two shovels from T. C. M. After we receive them within about six months' time the whole work will be completed.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know, Sir, who is the officer or technician in charge of the administrative control of this lignite mine?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** I am sorry I could not say that.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think I can allow names being mentioned here. If the hon. Member has any other question, he may put it.

**Shri Muniswamy:** Are Government aware that there are a lot of complaints made in the South Arcot district and the surrounding areas of this lignite mine about the improper administration and the partiality shown by this officer?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** It is a question that mainly pertains to the Madras Government. The Madras Government is in sole charge of the working of this project and questions of the kind that are being put regarding its administration are out of place here.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** Has this coal been analysed, and if what is the ash percentage and fixed carbon percentage?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** The coal was tested in India as well as abroad and it was found suitable for industrial as well as domestic purposes.