

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.