

COAL

*950. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to any decision on the question of increasing the price of coal as suggested by the Indian Mining Association;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision; and

(c) if not, the reasons why a decision is being delayed?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) and (b). It is presumed that the Member is referring to the suggestion made by the Indian Mining Association for restoring the cut in coal prices imposed in November 1949. Government have considered this suggestion but have decided not to re-open the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether Government are proposing to have a uniform price for coal, because the coal in Assam is more costly than coal produced in the Bihar and West Bengal collieries?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is a suggestion for action. We will consider it.

FINANCIAL AID TO RAJASTHAN

*952. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government have approached the Government of India for any financial aid for starting a Sulphur-cum-Cement Factory in that State; and

(b) if so, the amount of financial aid promised or granted in that connection?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Karni Singhji: In view of the importance of the sulphur industry to India, will the Government of India consider sponsoring one?

Shri Kanungo: The Rajasthan Government has sent a proposal to the Planning Commission for a sulphur-cum-cement plant to be included in the Second Five Year Plan. It is being examined in the Planning Commission.

Shri Karni Singhji: May I know where this will be located?

Shri Kanungo: It is too early to say.

SALE OF UNUSED AIRCRAFT

*953. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1457 asked on the 29th September, 1954 regarding the sale of aircraft and state:

(a) the number of aircrafts still lying in the Panagarh aerodrome at the end of November, 1954; and

(b) the name of the foreign firm which has bought those planes and the name of the Indian firm through which they were sold?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) Sixty-one.

(b) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 42.]

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know what the Government intend to do with these aircraft which are still lying and the number of which is so large?

Sardar Swaran Singh: They are intended to be sold.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The statement shows that some of the aircraft were re-sold by the Indian firm to foreign firms. May I know whether it is in the knowledge of Government at what price they were