

नागपुर भेजा था और मध्य प्रदेश को सरकार ने कोई राय नहीं दी ?

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, the question of the distribution of the cost of investigation between the two Governments and the time of payment etc. has been considered several times and the latest proposals of the Central Government have not yet been finally agreed to by the Madhya Pradesh Government and the talks are still in progress.

**श्री बांगड़े :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जोंक नदी घाटी की मौक़े पर जांच करने के लिये वहाँ के सब डिबीज़िनल इंजीनियर के सिवाय मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट और केन्द्रीय सरकार के कोई ऊँचे कर्मचारी जांच करने के लिये नहीं गये थे ?

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, several visits have been paid and the position regarding that project is that some unforeseen difficulties were faced and on that account the investigation period had to be extended as has been stated in the answer and now it is likely that by October it will be done.

**श्री बांगड़े :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में कितनी नदी घाटियों का भूमापन काम बन्द कर दिया गया है ?

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, investigations by the Central Government have been in progress not only in this project but some other river projects also. But in this project the progress has been made to the extent that in a few months the project investigations will be completed.

**स्वामी रामानन्द शास्त्री :** इस का उत्तर हिन्दी में दिया जाय ।

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**श्री बांगड़े :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में कितनी नदी घाटियों का भूमापन काम बन्द कर दिया गया है उस भूमापन काम में अब तक कितना व्यय हुआ है ! ?

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, so far as the State Government is concerned, it is true

that they undertook some investigations and they have not carried them forward but I haven't got details of their expenditure.

#### COAL WASHERIES

**\*896. Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) how many coal washeries have been erected and how many are under construction in India; and

(b) what quantity of inferior coal is being washed at present and thereby what quantity of good coking coal is being saved?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) One coal washery has been completed and is in operation. A second one is under construction.

(b) About 20,000 tons a month. The saving in good quality coking coal is estimated at about 16,000 tons a month.

**Shri Barman:** Have the Government fixed any target as regards the number and capacity of washeries that are going to be installed in the near future?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I am afraid I want notice to answer that.

**Shri Barman:** May I ask another question? In view of what is stated at page 40 of the Report of the Committee on Conservation of Metallurgical Coal that "washing of all coking coals to an ash content of 15 per cent. maximum should be enforced by legislative measures at the earliest possible date" have the Government given any consideration to that recommendation?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Action is being taken by the Government, Sir, with regard to all the recommendations made in the Report of the Committee on Conservation of Metallurgical Coal, one by one and with regard to this washing of coal also, with a view to conserve our reserves of metallurgical coal, all possible steps are being taken. I am not in a position to say now exactly as to what steps Government have taken so far.

#### METALLURGICAL COAL

**\*897. Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the present reserve of metallurgical coal of different grades in India?

(b) What quantity of metallurgical coal was used in Railways and by other concerns in 1951 and what quantity was exported in that year?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) A statement giving

the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 12.]

(b) The quantity of Selected Grade coal consumed by the Railways in 1951 was 1,139,193 tons. The quantity exported during the same year was 443,351 tons.

The figures of consumption by other users are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, in due course.

**Shri Barman:** I again refer to page 41 of the same Committee's Report where it is stated that "a time limit of say 5 years should be given for the implementation of the scheme after which output of metallurgical coal should be adjusted to the absolutely necessary requirements of the metallurgical industry". What steps have Government taken in that direction?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Sir, as I have said in my answer to the supplementary put on the previous question, every possible step is being taken and so far some action has been taken by the Government with regard to the consumption of metallurgical coal by the railways by reducing the metallurgical coal used and using other kind of coal instead and several other steps are also being taken. If the hon. Member wants further information, I will be prepared to give it on receiving a fresh notice of the question.

**Shri Barman:** I do not deny that Government has taken steps. My query is what is the period after which Government propose to stop the use of metallurgical coal for non-essential purposes?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** As early as possible. The process is going on and we do not want to wait even till the five-year period. We want to make progress every few months and I may assure the hon. Member that very energetic action is being taken along these lines.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know the countries to which metallurgical coal is exported?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** For example, Japan.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** In view of the shortage of metallurgical coal and its industrial requirements in this country, does the Government consider the possibility of stopping further exports?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** There is no shortage of

metallurgical coal. I do not know how this impression has arisen. There is coal enough to last for 200 years probably, and certainly for 100 years. But nevertheless it is highly desirable to conserve it—that is another matter—because one does not know what use there might be in the future, therefore we ought not to waste it or use it for other purposes for which it is not necessary. But there is no shortage.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** I did not mean shortage as such but considering the industrial requirements of the future India.

#### INDO-BRITISH TRADE AGREEMENT

\*898. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the report of the Fiscal Commission regarding the Indo-British Trade Agreement; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to commence negotiations with the United Kingdom and the Colonies for reviewing the trade position and the question of continuance or otherwise of preferences?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):**

(a) The question is under examination.

(b)\* Does not arise.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know if Government has ever applied its mind to the overall working of this trade agreement to see whether it is to the advantage or disadvantage of India and, if so, may I know what was the net loss or gain to this country in 1951-52?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The question is being continuously examined. We have certain benefits in that we get a 2 d. reduction in the duty on tea. The Department is trying to estimate the question of loss but we have not been able to arrive at any definite figure so that I am unable to commit myself to any statement. But it is a thing which varies and I do not think it is a very appreciable figure any way. Even these estimates are largely in the realm of conjecture.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know whether the Government thinks the continuance of this preference is consistent with India's position as a sovereign independent country?