

DEVELOPMENT OF KORBA COALFIELD

*41. **Shri. Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of Korba coalfield in Madhya Pradesh has been included in the Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether any move is in contemplation to develop it through Private Sector?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) A Mining Lease for a portion of the field has already been granted to a private firm.

PRESS ATTACHES IN EMBASSIES AND LEGATIONS

*42. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our embassies and legations in the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries do not have press attaches;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to have them in future;

(c) whether it is a fact that not a single handout issued by our embassies and legations in these countries have so far been published in the papers of these countries; and

(d) whether arrangements are made to translate writings in the newspapers in these countries about our country?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri. Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not proposed to send any Press Attache either to Moscow or Prague in the near future. These are the only two Eastern European capitals where the Government of India maintains missions.

(c) In Moscow, no press handouts have been issued by the Embassy. Information regarding Prague is being obtained and will be placed before the House as soon as it is available.

(d) Yes.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR STARTING A STEEL PLANT

*43. **Shri D. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations are going on between the Government of India and a firm jointly owned by American and Japanese Business interests for the starting of a steel plant in India; and

(b) whether the site has been selected?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Government are discussing with a party consisting of some Japanese and American interests the project to set up an integrated iron and steel plant in India. It is not in the public interest to disclose further details at this stage.

(b) The site for any future steel plant will be selected later in consultation with the technical experts. Government has an open mind on the subject at present.

REFUGEES FROM FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

*44. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the sad plight of the refugees from French Settlements in India?

(b) What is the total number of men, women and children who have fled from French territory due to harassment and settled in the Indian Union territory?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) Exact figures are not available. According to such information as has been received, about 1500 persons have migrated from the French Settlements to India as a result of harassment there. During the last few weeks, 50 families are reported to have migrated from Pondicherry to India.

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURE IN INDIA

*45. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Anglo-American automobile firms linked with Indian financiers are experiencing great difficulty in finding a market for their products against the imported vehicles?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to help these firms to manufacture cars in India?

(c) If so, what are the specific advantages that Government have decided to offer these firms?

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

(a) If it is the intention of the hon. Member to ascertain whether the Indian firms who are manufacturing automobiles in technical collaboration with Anglo-American firms are experiencing difficulty in finding a market as against those who are merely assembling vehicles from imported C.K.D. kits, the answer is that difficulties, if any, experienced by