

कोयला

*७३७. श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या उत्पादन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) धातु शोधन के काम में भ्राने वाले कोयले के खर्च में बचत करने के लिये क्या सरकार ने कोई योजना तैयार की है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और वह कब तक क्रियान्वित की जायेगी ?

उत्पादन उप-मंत्री (श्री सतीश चन्द्र) :

(क) सिद्धान्त रूप में यह निर्णय कर लिया गया है कि जहां तक सम्भव हो सके, भविष्य में धातु शोधन के काम में भ्राने वाले सभी कोयले को उपयोग करने से पहले धोया जाए तथा उसका उपयोग केवल धातु शोधन के लिये ही किया जाए।

(ख) बोकारो कर्गली की कोयले की खान में कोयला धोने का एक यंत्र खरीदने के लिए आदेश जारी किये जा चुके हैं। आशा है यह यंत्र १९५८ में कार्य आरम्भ करेगा। इस्पात कारखानों की बाकी मांग की पूर्ति के लिए, कोयले की धुलाई के और यंत्र लगाने पर विचार हो रहा है।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार ने अन्दाज लगाया है कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में धातु शोधन करने वाले कोयले की क्या तादाद है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : इस्पात के नये कारखाने जब लग जायेंगे तो १,६०,००,००० मन कोयले की आवश्यकता होगी।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं ने यह पछा था कि सरकार के पास कितनी तादाद में यह कोयला है, क्या इसका कुछ अन्दाजा लगाया है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : अन्दाजा यह है कि अगर इसको धोने के बाँद ठीक तरह से इस्तेमाल किया जाये तो करीब सौ साल तक चलेगा।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know what further steps are being taken to discourage the use of metallurgical coal in Locomotives in view of the fact that we could not keep up to the schedule in the first Five Year Plan ?

Shri Satish Chandra : As soon as these steel plants have been erected no metallurgical coal will be used for any

other purpose. As we are trying at present to expand the production of metallurgical coal, some of it is being used in the interim period by the Railways.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : हिन्दुस्तान के किस हिस्से में यह धातु शोधन करने वाला कोयला पाया जाता है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : यह मुख्यतः बंगाल, बिहार में रानीगंज, झरिया आदि के कोलफील्ड्स में पाया जाता है।

Shri P. C. Bose : May I know whether Government have considered the question that if low-grade coal is used by the locomotives, the boilers etc. will have to be changed ?

Shri Satish Chandra : Medium grade coal which is next to the metallurgical coal can be used by the Railways.

SOAP

*738. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the requirements of the country in respect of soap are met by indigenous productions and imports respectively ;

(b) the share of the cottage industry in the indigenous production ;

(c) the number of persons earning their livelihood through indigenous production ;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to make India self-sufficient in this respect ; and

(e) if so, with what result ?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) Almost the entire requirements are met by indigenous production.

(b) Out of the total production of about 2,15,000 tons, the share of the small scale and cottage industry units is estimated to be 1,20,000 tons.

(c) Information is not available.

(d) The country is already self-sufficient in respect of soap.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know what is the amount of foreign capital invested in the soap industry in India and what is the amount of Indian capital invested in this industry ?

Shri Kanungo : I could not give the figures of the investment capital but I can say that establishments financed from foreign sources produce roughly 58,000 tons of soap per year.

Shri D. C. Sharma : What are the comparative figures so far as production of soap is concerned—production by foreign firms and indigenous firms ?

Shri Kanungo : I have said that the total production in the large-scale sector is 99,000 tons a year out of which foreign-owned firms produce 58,000 tons.

Shri Joachim Alva : Has Government seen the piteous appeal of the Indian Soap and Toiletries Makers' Association when they said : "In the name of Bharat... save 73 national soap units from extinction." ?

Shri Kanungo : We have not seen that particular appeal but we are in constant touch with the soap makers about their difficulties.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I enquire whether it is a fact that no other concern in India is in a position to compete with Lever Brothers ? If so what are the reasons and what steps do Government propose to take ?

Shri Kanungo : At the present time the step that we have taken is that no increase in the capacity of soap making of Lever Brothers has been permitted.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : How many large-scale producing units are foreign-owned and how many of them are Indian-owned ?

Shri Kanungo : Three of them are foreign-owned and the rest are Indian-owned.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : How many is the 'rest' ?

Shri Kanungo : Round about sixty.

Shrimati Jayashri : May I know whether the representation of Soap Manufacturers Association and the Non-Power Soap Manufacturers Association of Bombay with respect to the proposed excise duties on soap manufactured by non-power units has been received by the Government ?

Shri Kanungo : Obviously, it must have gone to the Finance Ministry.

Shri Joachim Alva : Is it true that the sales of Lever Brothers form seventy per cent of the soap sales in India and has the Commerce Ministry noted the declaration of the hon. Prime Minister made before the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on the 12th January saying that in producing wealth, the kinds and methods have to be considered because they should not adopt methods which should set up wrong trends, namely, those leading to the growth of monopolies ?

Shri Kanungo : We are aware of the statement which the hon. Prime Minister has made and we are taking steps accordingly.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know if it is a fact that due to these big producers producing quite a large part of the requirements of the country, the smaller producers are having idle capacity ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : The point really is this. If it is the intention that we should help the smaller producers by making the consumer pay more, it could be done. But if it is proved that the bigger producers are undercutting the smaller ones we can take some action. I do not think that either point is now clear.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know if the Government had decided about the place of soap as a small-scale

industry or cottage industry in the next Plan and if so what is the plan?

Shri Kanungo : In fact, the bulk of the soap is produced in the cottage and small-scale industry sector.

Shri D. C. Sharma : I want to know if they have formulated any exact plan.

Shri Kanungo : The whole policy of taxation and organisation is on that basis.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

*740. **Shri B. S. Murthy** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has offered any help for the development of the pharmaceutical industry in India ; and

(b) if so, the nature of help offered?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Soviet Government have sent to India a team of experts to make a preliminary survey of the pharmaceutical industry and draw up a plan for its future development.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know if they have finalised their plan and if so the results of the plan?

Shri Kanungo : They have just arrived in March.

Shri Keshavaiah : May I know if it is a fact that Government was pleased to appoint a Committee under the Chairmanship of Major Gen. Bhatia and whether it has submitted a report regarding this industry? May I also know if any of its recommendations have been accepted by the Government and if so what steps are being taken in that regard?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the committee was appointed and it is also a fact that it has reported. It is also a fact that the report was

placed before the House and from time to time we have given to the House the steps that have been taken to implement the recommendations.

Shri G. P. Sinha : May I know if West Germany has also offered to help us in the manufacture of these products?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : No, Sir.

Shri Joachim Alva : Has Government drawn up any costing system in regard to the pharmaceutical products that are being produced in India by foreign combines—we have the American combine, we have the English combine and we have the German combine. What will be the cost of the pharmaceutical product that will be produced as a result of the visit of the Soviet experts?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I am afraid I must confess to complete incompetence in this matter of imagining all kinds of possibilities and trying to meet them.

INDIAN LEGATION AT LAOS

*743. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd** : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India and the Government of Laos have decided to establish diplomatic relations at legation level; and

(b) if so, when India will send her representative to Laos?

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

(b) Our Consulate-General at Vientiane has been raised to the level of a Legation and the Consul General has been designated as Charge-d'Affairs *ad interim*.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd : May I know the expenditure involved in raising the status?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : I do not think it will be very much considering that we had already a Consulate-General there. It might mean a little more.

Shri Kamath : Considering that the post-Geneva Commission—Neutral