

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** The answer given by the hon. Minister was not intelligible to me at least. In view of the fact that India is trying to promote the export of tea to earn dollar exchange, why was the export itself restricted and what is the correlation between the restriction of export to London and the export from Calcutta market? I should be thankful if the Minister will elaborate it.

**Shri Kanungo:** It will be a lengthy answer.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It can be as long as can be allowed in the Question Hour.

**Shri Kanungo:** The fact of the matter was that we wanted to encourage the export auction in Calcutta, and to that extent, we had quantitative restrictions for export to London auction. Therefore, there was a slight decrease in Indian tea being made available in London auctions.

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** It was available in Calcutta auction.

**Shri Kanungo:** They did not choose to buy in the Calcutta auction.

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** It remains obscure.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether there is any agency from India functioning in USA and, if so, who are those people and what is the expenditure on it?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Not so many questions in one.

**Shri Velayudhan:** I can omit the last two.

**Shri Kanungo:** There is no special agency for Indian tea as such in the U.S.A. The U.S.A. tea trade, in collaboration with other tea exporting countries, have got a programme of publicity in which India, Ceylon and Indonesia contribute for the expenses.

### Rubber Growers

\*226. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Rubber Growers of Kerala through the President of the All India Kisan Sabha and Travancore-Cochin State Kisan Sabha.

(b) if so, what are the demands mentioned in that memorandum on behalf of the rubber growers of Kerala; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet those demands?

**The Minister of Consumer Industries: (Shri Kanungo):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 97].

**Shri Punnoose:** In the statement it is said that there is a proposal to bring 50,000 acres of new land under rubber cultivation. May I know whether an extent of 100,000 acres was not recommended by the Rubber Board on various occasions and as stated many times on the floor of this House, and may I know how 50,000 acres were dropped out of this acreage? I would like to know the reasons for it.

**Shri Kanungo:** Even today, there was an offer of about 100,000 acres out of which 50,000 acres have been found to be quite unsuitable on account of their climatic condition.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether an enquiry was undertaken as to the suitability of land consisting of these 50,000 acres and may I know on what basis the hon. Minister says that that land is not suitable?

**Shri Kanungo:** The enquiry is continuing. 50,000 acres is the target for the next five years. But suitable land has not yet been located.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to make an investigation as to how much of land is available for new rubber cultivation in Kerala and other places?

**Shri Kanungo:** That is why I mentioned that the investigation is continuing.

**Shri I. Eacharan:** Out of these 50,000 acres, may I know what will be the extent of the area coming under Malabar, for rubber cultivation?

**Shri Kanungo:** That is only the target. We do not know as yet how much of suitable land is available and where.

**Shri Kottukappally:** Is the Government aware that a sub-committee has been formed by the Rubber Board to enquire as to the availability of suitable land for new cultivation of rubber?

**Shri Kanungo:** Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board is primarily responsible for putting through this programme.

**Shri Matthen:** I was told that there was a proposal to start a company initiated by the Kerala Government where the Government will take about 50 per cent of the shares and the others portion will be met by the public, for new plantation of rubber. Is there any truth in that?

**Shri Kanungo:** We have no information about it. But we would certainly like any State Government to undertake planning on its own account.

#### Neiveli Lignite Project

\*827. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**  
**Sardar Akarpuri:**  
**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1743 on the 12th September, 1956 and state:

(a) whether actual work on the Neiveli Lignite Project has started; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) and (b). The purchase of conventional earth moving machinery and specialised mining equipment at a cost of about Rs. 5.5 crores has been sanctioned so far. Acquisition of 26,750 acres of land has been sanctioned and steps are now being taken to acquire it. A Rehabilitation Officer has been appointed to resettle the displaced persons on forest lands to be made available by the Madras Government. A town Planner and an Architect have been appointed to plan the township and the industrial area. Construction of houses is in progress. The power Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission have set up a Planning Cell at Madras for drawing up the plans and specifications for the thermal Power station of 200MW. Certain foreign firms have been asked to indicate the terms and conditions of technical assistance in setting up the fertilizer factory. A pilot briquetting and carbonising plant is being acquired under the T.C.M. aid. The Neiveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. has been registered under the Companies Act to take over the management of the project.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether there is going to be any proposal to set up a fertilizer factory also in a nearby locality there?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The setting up of a fertilizer factory is part of the integrated project.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know whether the pumps that have been installed are enough to keep the pits completely dry?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know when the first ton of lignite will be raised at these mines?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** By about the middle of 1960.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether there has been any difference between the original estimated cost and the final estimated cost and, if so, may I know the difference?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The final estimated cost is yet to be assessed and so the question of difference does not arise now.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या सरकार इस बात का खयाल रखेगी कि जो लोग बर्पा डिसप्लेस होंगे उनको अच्छी तरह से बसाया जाये क्योंकि अब तक जहाँ जहाँ कारखाने बने हैं, उन कारखानों के स्थानों पर बसे जो लोग डिसप्लेस हुये हैं उनको ठीक तौर से नहीं बसाया गया है।

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I do not follow the question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is whether any arrangements have been made to rehabilitate the displaced persons at some place nearby.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I have already referred to it in the answer that I have read out. I said that a Rehabilitation Officer has been appointed to resettle the displaced persons on forestlands to be made available by the Madras Government.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** What will be the estimated annual output of these mines when they work in full swing?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I have not got the exact figure available with me; but, it is about 3 million tons.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** The hon. Minister said that plant and mining material are being imported from foreign countries. Is there any likelihood of any delay in this?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** There is no likelihood of delay.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question 829.

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** The Prime Minister wanted to reply to this question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It may be taken up later.