

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a very hypothetical question. Ratification has not yet taken place.

Shri Kamath: I did not follow.

Mr. Speaker: The decision has not yet been taken. Next question.

Neivelli Lignite Project

*52. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the position at present in the Neivelli Lignite Project?

Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): Government have approved in principle the Integrated Lignite Project and have specifically sanctioned the mining part of the Project at an estimated cost of about Rs. 17 crores. Orders for conventional and specialised equipment valued at about Rs. 5.5 crores have already been placed.

The site for the first mine cut has been selected and work is expected to start in May this year.

A Project Report for the 200,000 KW Thermal Power Station has been prepared by the Central Water & Power Commission. The planning work for the Fertiliser Unit and the Briquetting Plant is in hand.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it a fact that under-water pressure has been completely brought under control and the stage is now set for extracting lignite?

Shri Satish Chandra: It has been stated several times before in this House that the test carried out to control under-water have proved successful by determining the quantity of water to be pumped out. What we are now immediately aiming at is to get machinery for the mining part of the project so that the removal of over-burden can start immediately.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Unless under water pressure is completely controlled and there is technical assurance that it can be so controlled, what

would be the point in ordering the machinery? That is the assurance that I seek from the hon. Minister.

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, Sir. The technical advice is that it can be fully controlled.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether a qualified Mining Engineer has been appointed to take charge of the mine and if so whether the Engineer is an Indian or a foreigner?

Shri Satish Chandra: Negotiations are going on with a foreign concern and they are expected to be finalised very soon.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Which are the foreign countries that are giving technical advice in this matter?

Shri Satish Chandra: The underground problem was investigated with the assistance of Powell Dufferin Technical Services, U.K. whose services were originally obtained under the Technical Co-operation Scheme.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: For the work to be done hereafter, which are the countries that give technical assistance?

Shri Satish Chandra: There would be Technical consultants for different parts of the project. Which part is the hon. Member referring to?

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that the project report has been finalised. I want to know whether the test drilling in the area has been completed and if so, whether it would be possible to spare the machinery for test drilling for the Varkala project for which drilling has not commenced for want of machinery.

Shri Satish Chandra: The machinery is not only for test drilling. It has to be actually employed and a large number of bore-holes will have to be put in for actual mining operations to start.

Shri V. P. Nayar: My question was whether the machinery required for

test drilling used at Neiveli can be spared for test drilling in Varkala where the project has already been sanctioned.

Shri Satish Chandra: I said that this machinery will be required at Neiveli itself and more machinery will be required for the purpose, because, more bore-holes will have to be put in.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know what quantity of machinery has been received so far? May I also know whether there is any truth in the talk that the progress of this project has been slowed down?

Shri Satish Chandra: The order for conventional machinery was placed a few months ago. It is expected that all the conventional type of machinery which are readily available shall be delivered on the spot by April or in a month or two and the actual mining operations will start in May.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The second part of my question, Sir. There is a talk that the progress of the project has been slowed down. Is there any truth in it?

Shri Satish Chandra: On the other hand, it is gaining momentum.

Demonstrations in Pakistan

*54. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent months a number of demonstrations were held in East and West Pakistan when the Kashmir question was being discussed in the Security Council;

(b) whether any damage was done to the Indian High Commissioner's Office there;

(c) whether Government had lodged a protest to the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, whether any reply has been received so far?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Hyderabad, the demonstrators stoned the residence of the Assistant High Commissioner for India as a result of which glass panes of the windows on the upper floor were smashed. The demonstrators at Lahore hurled stones and shoes at the flag mast at the residence of the Indian Deputy High Commissioner. One stone hit the porch light.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have lodged strong protests with the Government of Pakistan against the demonstrations. The Pakistan Government's reply is still awaited.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the police was posted to control the demonstrators or not? If the answer is in the affirmative, may I know whether they controlled the situation?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The police controlled the situation in some places, but in Hyderabad neither the police nor the civil authorities did anything to keep off the demonstrators.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether Pakistani officials attended the reception given by our High Commissioner?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: No, Sir.

Shri Kamath: Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to tell the House whether the Nehru-Liaqat Ali Pact or agreement of the 8th April, 1950 which frowned upon or rather tabooed all hostile or war propaganda on either side has been repudiated or is dead for all practical purposes so far as Pakistan is concerned?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: There has been no repudiation of this pact by the Pakistan Government, that is to say the pact is there.

Shri Kamath: What is the attitude of the India Government towards this pact?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We adhere to the pact.