

Shri Kamath: The question is not answered.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of a judicial inquiry. The hon. Minister did not say that there would be a judicial inquiry.

Lignite in Kerala

*82. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 613 on the 13th August, 1956 and state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to investigate and exploit the lignite deposits in Warkala in Kerala State; and

(b) what is the estimate of the lignite resources there?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The Geological Survey of India has undertaken from February 1957, the detailed investigations with the help of drills. The question of exploitation can be considered after the investigations are over.

(b) A dependable assessment will be available after the investigation is completed.

Shri Matthen: How many drills have been provided? Also, what other equipment has been provided? Are all the drills in good working order?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far as my information goes, there is one drill which is operating there.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the investigations would be complete within a few months or whether they are going to take years?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are trying to finish it within a few months.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Have the samples so far taken by drilling been sent to the Fuel Research Institute? If so, has the analysis made so far revealed the presence of vanadium oxide in the lignite?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot give any information on this point just now.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The question asked was whether this was sent to the Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I answered it. I do not know whether it has been sent for the specific analysis referred to by the hon. Member.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that the Fuel Research Institute can do very good analysis on this, can the hon. Minister say that as soon as samples are taken from the various drills—holes—they will be sent to the Fuel Research Institute?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I said that for a good qualitative and quantitative assessment, we have to wait a little more. I would advise the hon. Member to wait a little more, till prospecting is complete. Then we will let him know. I hope I will give good news.

Shri Matthen: May I know whether the hon. Minister feels that the equipment is adequate; if not, will he provide additional equipment, a good drill rather?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do admit that the equipment operating there is not adequate according to my own assessment. But, I am sorry I cannot add to it because we are short of drills.

Zawar Mines

*84. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to nationalise Zawar Mines?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): No, Sir.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know why this has been ruled out when the non-ferrous minerals have been put in the public sector in the Industrial Policy of the Government?