

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?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: According to the Industrial Policy resolution of Government, whatever mines are being operated by the private sector are not necessarily to be taken over but only new ventures have to be in the public sector.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know whether the nationalisation of these minerals has been ruled out or all the prospecting of industries also?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Nothing as such has been ruled out as said by the hon. Member.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to speed up the production of these mines and to ensure the stepping up of the setting up of these industries there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government is anxious to step up the production of zinc and with that end in view we have had several negotiations with the private company concerned and they have promised to step up production of zinc ore. But, there are certain conditions which are necessary; for instance, supply of power and communications. We are looking into that question and as soon as it is settled, we hope production of the ore will be stepped up.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Is there any programme for the stepping up of production and has the private enterprise kept up the promise?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There has been a programme settled between us for the stepping up of production. But, unfortunately, that programme has not been kept up by the private sector and we do not feel happy about it. Left to myself I would like this programme to be stepped up.

Palam Air Port

*85. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 295 on the 22nd November, 1956 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to separate civil air traffic from Palam air port; and

(b) if so, when will it be shifted from there?

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar): (a) The matter is still under the consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether there is any proposal to construct a new airport for civil traffic?

Shri Pataskar: So far as civil traffic is concerned we are anxious that it should be from the Palam aerodrome itself.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what is the position of the scheme which was under the consideration of Government some four years back for the construction of a civilian aerodrome in Delhi? How does that stand; has it been dropped?

Shri Pataskar: It is not dropped. At the present moment, the Palam airport is being used both by the Indian Air Force and the Civil Aviation Department and it has become very difficult either for the Defence Department or for the Civil Aviation Department to find a suitable place where they can construct a new aerodrome.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know whether the Government have considered the possibility of strengthening the Willingdon Airport so that bigger traffic or international traffic may be accommodated instead of having a separate airport?

Shri Pataskar: You mean the Saf-darganj airport. The difficulty is that it is too near habitation. We are going to have new aeroplanes of a bigger size and, therefore, this site will not be suitable.

Shri Joachim Alva: When the Russian jets arrived at Palam, there was difficulty about runways. The American Boeing jets are expected to come up soon and may I know what immediate arrangements have been made for enabling the Palam aerodrome to provide for the landing of these planes?