

**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
**(Part I—Questions and Answers)**

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**LOK SABHA**

Wednesday, 27th March, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock,

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Aluminium Plant**

\*98. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industries be pleased to state the present position of the proposed Aluminium Plant at Mettur Dam to utilize the bauxite deposits of Salem District?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah):** The Rao Committee has recommended the establishment of a 10,000 ton smelter at Mettur and has also suggested that the quantities in different grades of the bauxite deposits in Shevaroy Hills in Salem District should be determined in detail, as an essential pre-requisite to the establishment of the smelter; necessary steps are being taken in that direction. The National Industrial Development Corporation is also exploring at the same time the possibility of securing suitable foreign collaboration for the execution of the project.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** It has been roughly estimated that the ore is of the order of 7 million tons, based on the assumption that the ore's depth is only up to 25 ft. Recently, the Industries Department of the Government of Madras conducted test borings and they have gone up to a depth of 70 ft. as I understand. May I know what is the revised estimate now of the total ore available?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** What the hon. Member says is correct. But the revised estimates are not yet ready with us. So far the firm estimates are 6.5 million tons of good quality bauxite.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Samples, I understand, have been sent to U.S. to Messrs. Reynolds. What is the report on these samples? May I also know whether the contract has been placed with Reynolds?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We have sent samples to three different countries. The Reynold analysis is there but the firm estimates have not been still received.

**Shri C. D. Pande:** May I know if Government have any proposal to develop the bauxite deposits for aluminium in Vindhya Pradesh in Madhya Pradesh?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The development of bauxite deposits is one thing and the installation of smelters for the manufacture of aluminium is another thing. As far as aluminium utilisation is concerned, for the present, as hon. Members are aware, I laid before the House a few days before the Aluminium Committee's report submitted to the Government of India. That report envisages two smelters, one in Rihand and another in Mettur.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** The hon. Minister stated that necessary steps are being taken for manufacturing Aluminium at Mettur. May I know some of the steps?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The project is in a very advanced stage of implementation. As the hon. Member from Salem already pointed out, we are

already negotiating with Reynolds and there are two other firms, one Italian and one French with whom also negotiations are in progress.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The Committee has also reported the existence of very extensive deposits of high-grade magnesite. It has also suggested that the scope for the setting up of a magnesium plant based on the magnesite resources of Salem for enabling special alloys containing aluminium and magnesium to be also produced in the Mettur factory should be investigated. May I know what steps are being taken in this direction also?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The metal magnesium is a sister metal of aluminium and practically all bauxite deposits in the country contain magnesium; but no active steps so far have been taken for the recovery of magnesium.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to a Press report to the effect that the bauxite ore found in the core of the drill hole is radio-active in that it contains Titanium oxide? May I know whether that information has been passed on either to the Atomic Commission or to the Natural Resources Ministry?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There is slight radio-activity in all the basic metals and it forms part of the constitution of all metals and Titanium cannot be extracted economically from these. It is only the radio-active metals and their isotopes that are generally useful for this purpose.

#### **Broadcasting Facilities to Political Parties**

\*98-A. { **Shri S. C. Samanta**  
**Shri Wodeyar:**  
**Shri Kamath:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the broadcasting facilities that were offered by Government to dif-

ferent political parties in India in the Second General Elections;

(b) which of them have been availed of and the names of the parties which availed themselves of them; and

(c) what are the grounds put forward for not availing themselves of the opportunities?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** A full and detailed statement was made by me on the floor of the House on the 19th of December, 1956. A copy of the statement is placed on the table of the Sabha.

(b) The Praja Socialist, Communist and Jana Sangha parties refused to accept the offer. As Government's intention was for equal utilisation by all parties, it was not thought advisable to proceed further with the matter and the offer was withdrawn.

(c) Two of the three parties had in reply sent copies of their resolutions on the subject. As these resolutions are very long and it will be difficult to summarise them I am placing copies of these resolutions and the other reply on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 23].

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether some constructive suggestions for giving broadcasting facilities to political parties have been submitted to Government; and, if so, whether those suggestions tally with the system prevalent in other countries?

**Dr. Keskar:** No such suggestions have come forward. As far as the question of systems prevailing in other countries is concerned, I had occasion in my statement to point out that they differ considerably in every country according to the conditions prevailing in that country itself.

**Shri Kamath:** Did the Congress Party accept the offer of Government and, if so, what facilities were given to the Congress Party in this connection?