

Polish Aid for Copper Mining

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*812. { Shri Radha Raman:
Shri S. C. Godara:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions between the Government of India and Polish Government have recently taken place regarding Polish assistance in the development of copper mining in India;

(b) whether such assistance is proposed to be accepted; and

(c) if so, on what terms and conditions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) to (c). Some preliminary discussions have taken place with the Polish authorities regarding their general offer of assistance in the development of Copper mining in India. It is still premature for the Government to say anything regarding (b) and (c).

Shri Radha Raman: May I know the nature of assistance and its form that had been envisaged in these preliminary negotiations?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I have already said that the discussion is preliminary. The Indian Bureau of Mines is carrying on the investigation. The question about other assistance will arise when the negotiations proceed further.

Shri Radha Raman: How long are these negotiations expected to take? May I also know whether the Government is exploring the possibility of getting such assistance from any other country than Poland?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Our technical experts had a discussion a few months before with Mr. Trampozyński, Minister of Foreign Trade of the Polish People's Republic who came here accompanied by the

Polish Ambassador and some other people. They had a discussion with our technical people, staff and the Director of the Indian Bureau of Mines. Therefore, the discussion has just begun and it will take some time before it will materialise. Then of course I will be in a position to say something about the type of aid.

Shri Radha Raman: The latter part of my question remains unanswered.

Shri Damanl: How many copper mines will be developed by the end of the Second Plan and what would be the production? Up to what extent they will meet the requirements of the country?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Mahavira): The latest position with regard to the development of copper mining is this. We have almost completed our present detailed investigation of Khetri copper mines. As soon as the detailed quantitative and qualitative examination is completed, we will start the mining project programme. By the end of the Second Plan, we hope to produce some copper ore from Khetri mines and may be also from Sikkim which Government had requested us to help it in the production of copper ores. This is all that we will be able to do by the end of the Second Plan.

Removal of Archaeological Antiquities to Foreign Countries

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*813. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Vishwanatha Reddy:

Will the Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases of removal to foreign countries of archaeological antiquities from un-protected monuments in various parts of the country have been brought to the notice of Government;