

Shri Kanungo: Yes, nurseries have been set up with stocks obtained from Malaya and other countries which are high-yielding stocks.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The Minister has stated that suitable areas will be found for new plantations. May I know the areas which have been selected, other than Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

Shri Kanungo: So far, plantation has been confined to Kerala only and a little bit in Mysore, possibly. Now, certain areas in Maharashtra and Andamans are found suitable and the Governments of those States have shown interest.

Shri Warrior: What are the steps taken by Government to safeguard new plantations from pests and insects and other damages? Are the Government undertaking measures to supply them with insecticides and pesticides?

Shri Kanungo: The Board provides plant protection measures, including spraying by aeroplanes.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: What was the amount set apart during the Third Plan for grant of loans for replanting and how much has already been spent? May I know whether the Ministry hopes to spend the whole amount during the Plan period?

Shri Kanungo: I have not got the full figures. From memory I can say that in the first two years the off-take was a little lower because the rates were lower. I think so far nearly Rs. 1 crore have been advanced.

Shri Kappen: Which are the agencies which are supplying the planting materials?

Shri Kanungo: The planting materials are supplied by private nurseries and nurseries of the Rubber Board. The original plants were obtained from Malaya.

Shri Koya: May I know whether any subsidy is given for replanting?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, the subsidy was raised from Rs. 400 per acre to Rs. 1,000 per acre:

श्री बड़े : मध्य प्रदेश में रबड़ प्लांटेशन करने का शासन का इरादा है क्या ? मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ एड देने का भी रबड़ प्लांटेशन के लिए सरकार का कोई इरादा है क्या ?

श्री कानूनगो : रिप्लांटेशन के लिए अभी बताया गया है कि सबसिडी दी जाती है । मध्य प्रदेश में भी कोई करना चाहे तो मिल सकती है ।

Shri Vishram Prasad: The hon. Minister has stated just now that we will not be reaching self-sufficiency in the near future. May I know the reasons?

Shri Kanungo: The demand for rubber is growing so fast that natural rubber can never satisfy the demand.

Production of Coal

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*421. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

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

(a) the steps taken to implement the recommendations made by a U.K. Coal Board member who recently visited India, to increase the production of coal; and

(b) the salient features thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (**Shri P. C. Sethi**): (a) and (b). The reference presumably is to the visit of Lord Robens, who is Chairman of the National Coal Board, U.K., and who was here in last October. The discussions with him did not centre round the general problem of increasing the production of coal. His emphasis mostly was on the importance of an adequate training programme for technicians, both for operating mining machinery and for their

maintenance. He also offered to render necessary help in drawing up and implementing such a programme. Further action to draw up such a training programme is being taken both by the National Coal Development Corporation and the private sector.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any committee has been set up consisting of the members of the National Coal Development Corporation and the private sector people to draw up a plan and, if so, at what stage that plan is?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): No committee has been formed. We have asked the private sector to submit proposals with regard to the training programme and the National Coal Development Corporation is also drawing up a programme of training.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In what respect or in what aspects did Lord Robens find our training programme deficient and, short of this committee meeting, will anything be done to make good the deficiency?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Hereafter mainly the mining will have to be deep mining involving a good deal of mechanisation. To that extent we will have to train technicians and various other persons for the purpose of operating and maintaining them. It is with reference to that that he indicated that we should have a large training programme.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि जो मेम्बर आये थे उनसे प्रोडक्शन के सम्बन्ध में बात नहीं की गई बल्कि है, कृनीशियन्स और मशीनरी के बारे में बात हुई। तो कोल इस्ट जो इतना वेस्ट होता है उसकी इंटें बन सकती हैं और प्रोडक्शन की कमी तरक्की हो सकती है। क्या इसके सम्बन्ध में टेकनीशियन्स और मशीनरी के बारे में कोई बात हुई है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No discussion with regard to this was had when Lord Robens visited India.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if any information, suggestion or guidance was sought from the expert who came from the U.K. regarding the utilisation of low-grade coal?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No, Sir. As I have already indicated the discussion mainly centred round the training of technicians.

Banana Powder Plant

*423. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a banana powder plant is going to be set up in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the capacity of the proposed plant; and

(c) the impact it is likely to have on the supply of fresh fruits?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) M/s. The Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd., Anand, have a proposal to manufacture banana milk powder in their existing industrial undertaking at Anand.

(b) The capacity of the proposed plant would be 1,000 tonnes per annum of banana milk powder.

(c) In view of the abundance of banana production in the Gujarat State, where it is proposed to manufacture banana milk powder, there will be no impact on the supply of fresh fruits.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether banana milk has got sufficient nutritive value so as to justify this factory's production?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, Sir. This has got the nutrition of both milk and banana.