

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: The Minister has stated that Rs. 30 crores worth of textile machinery is being imported. In view of the fact that the textile machinery lasts for a long time, would the Government consider making a smaller import so that the indigenous industry gets a chance?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As a matter of fact, if it is possible to get any particular machinery by indigenous manufacture, we do not allow imports. It is only in special cases where immediately indigenous manufactured goods are not available that we import.

Lignite Deposits in Rajasthan

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- *888. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Bagri:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Tan Singh:

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

(a) whether a large amount of lignite deposits have been found in Khari village, 20 miles from Bikaner in Rajasthan State;

(b) the estimate of the deposits in the area and its neighbourhood;

(c) whether the samples of the lignite have been sent to the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad for scientific tests; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri Thimmaiah): (a) and (b). Some deposits of lignite have been found by the State Government in village Khari in Bikaner District, Rajasthan. The State Government are conducting investigations to find out the extent of the reserves.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The results are awaited.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether there is another project, namely, the Palana project in the same district?

Shri Thimmaiah: Yes, Sir.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Is there any estimate uptill now as to what will be the deposits there?

Shri Thimmaiah: In 1958, a Committee was appointed to prepare a preliminary project about this mine and they submitted certain reports and it is found that .6 million tons of ore can be exploited through this mine. The Government of India approved of this scheme and advised the State Government to go ahead with it.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Keeping in view the great importance of lignite, may I know why it has been left to the State Governments who have not got enough machinery to make the surveys and submit the reports quickly? Why is it that the Central Government is not taking it up or giving them some help in the matter?

Shri C. Subramaniam: In these cases, when the State Governments express their intention that they should do the work, we always permit them. It is only when they express their inability that the Central Government steps in.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether there are any indications, keeping in view the Palana project which has been passed first and the second the Khari project, of any large belt connecting the two?

Shri Thimmaiah: As I stated, in Khari area, upto 200 to 300 depth the ore has been located and the investigations have been carried out. After the investigation is completed, we can know the extent of deposits available in the Khari mine. As far as the Palana mine is concerned, we have already stated that that is being exploited by the State Government.