

[Shri Raj Behari Behera]

namely, Talcher and Ib Valley. Talcher Coal Field is under the administrative control of Central Coal Field Ltd., Ranchi and Ib Valley is under the Western Coal fields, Nagpur. The two coal fields produce around 3 million tonnes of non-coking coal annually, which accounts for the 2.7 per cent of the total production of coal in the country. The reserves of coal in Talcher and Ib Valley Coal fields, which together constitute the largest non-coking coal fields in the country, have been estimated to be of the order of 35,000 million tonnes. Unfortunately, due attention has not been paid to development of coal in Orissa by Coal India Ltd., and its two subsidiaries viz., CCL and W.C.L.

For effective development of coal in Orissa, it is necessary that the two coal fields are brought under the administrative control of a separate subsidiary company of Coal India Ltd., with its headquarters at Bhubaneswar or Talcher or Brajraj Nagar as may be convenient. The large quarriable reserves of coal in Ib Valley Coal Fields can sustain establishment of a Super Thermal Power Station in the area which can meet the growing needs of power in the industrial belt of Orissa.

In view of this, I request the Hon. Minister of Energy, Coal and Petroleum to look into it and extend all possible help for the development of coal in Orissa.

(iv) SETTING UP OF NICKEL PROJECT AT SUKINDA ORISSA).

*SHRI A. C. DAS (Jajpur): A serious discontentment has arisen among the people of Orissa due to the inordinate delay in setting up of Sukinda Nickel Project. Geological Survey of India discovered huge deposits of nickel ore in the Sukinda Valley in Cuttack district in 1970. Subsequently, a project for indigenous production of nickely metal was conceived by Government of India during 1971-72. But it is regrettable that the proposal to set up the above plant has not been implemented though more than a decade has passed. India imports her entire require-

ment of nickel and cobalt and the annual foreign exchange outgo is now more than Rs. 30 crores. The plant sanctioned by Government of India was to have an annual capacity of 5,000 tonnes. For a viable plant, the minimum capacity should not be less than 10,000 tonnes per annum, which would be adequate to meet the annual requirements of the country for some years to come.

If the Nickel plant is set up at Sukinda the import bill of the Government will be reduced to the tune of several Crores every year. Besides, the above plant will generate employment for some thousands of people. An annual capacity of 5,000 tonnes was envisaged on the basis of availability of 15 million tonnes of nickel-ore in Kansa sector in Sukinda Valley. As additional measures of the order of 14 million tonnes of nickel have since been found in Sukinda Valley, it should be possible to set up a Nickel plant of minimum 10,000 tonnes annual capacity.

In view of this, I urge the Government of India to take expeditious steps in this connection so that an important and strategic project of this nature can be set up in the State of Orissa in national interest.

(v) NEED FOR ELECTRIFICATION OF DURG-BHUBANVAL RAILWAY LINE ON PRIORITY BASIS.

श्री केशवराव पाण्डी (भंडारा) :
वाम्बे-हावड़ा (कलकत्ता) में रेलवे लाइन है जिसमें वाम्बे से भुसावल तक रेलवे लाइन का इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन हो चुका है जो कि सेप्टल रेलवे के अधीन है और हावड़ा से दुर्ग तक रेलवे लाइन का भी इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन हो चुका है। जीक साउथ ईस्टर्न रेलवे के अधीन है। बीच में दुर्ग से लेकर भुसावल तक रेलवे लाइन का इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन हुआ नहीं है। जब कि इसी लाइन पर भिलाई जैसा लोहे का कारखाना, फैरोमैंगनीज के तीन कारखाने और अकोला, अमरावती, नागपुर, गोंदिया, राजनन्दगांव जैसे औद्योगिक नगर हैं। बिजली के सभी