

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday March 22, 1985 | Chaitra 1, 1907
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Availability of Coal in Chandrapur, Nagpur and Yeotmal Districts of Maharashtra

*141. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that coal is available in abundance in Chandrapur, Nagpur, and Yeotmal districts in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal available there;

(c) the production and requirement of coal in the country at present and the quantity of coal likely to be required after ten years;

(d) the time by which mining work in coal mines of these areas will be started with a view to meet the coal requirement of the country; and

(e) whether preference will be given to the people of Vidarbha in the matter of providing employment therein?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes Sir.

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(b) Wardha Valley Coalfield spread over Chandrapur and Yeotmal Districts and Umrer, Kamptee Silewara Coalfields spread over to Nagpur District of Maharashtra have proven reserves of coal nearly 1257 and 785 million tonnes respectively.

(c) In 1984-85, the estimated total production of coal is 146.57 million tonnes. At this level of production, the requirements of consumers would be met. In fact, pithead stocks of coal have increased from 22.69 million tonnes at the beginning of the current financial year to 26.29 million tonnes as on 1.3.1985. The production of coal in 1994-95 is estimated to be around 325 million tonnes. This level the production will fully take care of the estimated demand.

(d) Coal mining in these coalfields has been going on for many years and the present production from the mines under Wardha area is 6.24 million tonnes. The mines of Nagpur area are presently producing 3.35 million tonnes of coal. A number of new mining projects have been identified to be opened in these two coalfields during the 7th Five Year Plan. Some of the projects that have been identified to be opened in the Districts of Chandrapur and Yeotmal are Rayatwari-Mahakali opencast, Paili-Bhatadih opencast, Mungeli opencast, Gauri opencast, Gauri underground, Behraband, Kolar-Pipri, Wirurchinchuli, Babupeth and Bander. Geological investigation in some of the mining blocks have already been completed and the work in some other areas is in progress.

In case of Nagpur District, new mines to be taken during the 7th Five Year Plan include Gondegaon, Patanaongi Shaft Mine, Saoner Expansion and Kamptee opencast. The project reports for some of these mines are under formulation.

(e) All recruitment is done by the coal company from out of names recommended by the local employment exchange, with

reference to norms and eligibility and suitability of applicants.

Over and above this, land losers are also provided employment as per laid down norms for this purpose.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Coal has sufficient stock of coal to run the two Super Thermal Power Stations of 4000 megawatt capacity which have been sanctioned by the Central Government in District Chandrapur, keeping in view the huge deposits of coal in Chandrapur, Nagpur and Yeotmal Districts, and if not, how Government propose to meet the requirement of coal.

May I also know what financial provision has been made for mining work in these mines and how many people will get employment thereby?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the coal required for the proposed two Super Thermal Power Stations is available. We propose to produce at least 14.93 million tonnes of coal during the Seventh Plan period. Out of that twelve million tonnes of coal will be required in the two Super Thermal Power Stations when they are completed. The coal is available with us. Financial provision has been made for it. The work has started and coal will be available from all the mines to the full extent.

So far as employment is concerned, it is estimated that about 10 million tonnes of coal will be produced and at least ten thousand persons will get employment thereby.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : The hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that coal mining is likely to be started at several places. In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry intends to give priority to backward areas for mining of coal. I would also like to know when the mining work will be started in the Bandar mine in Cheemur tehsil which has a capacity of 90 lakh tonnes and whether any financial provision has been made therefore, if so, whether a pragmatic approach would be adopted at the time of giving compensation to those whose lands would be acquired and whether preference

would be given to the people of that area in employment.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, Sir, backward areas are paid, and would be paid, more attention. So far as Bandar is concerned, it has been included in the Seventh Plan and work is in progress there. In the Plan, about 90 lakh tonnes of coal is estimated to be extracted and the investment on it will be of the order of Rs. 9 crores. Initially, we have made a provision of Rs. 1½ crores this year and the work is in progress there. As per our present policy, wherever mining operations are undertaken, the local people are given employment to the maximum extent.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE : An open cast mine is proposed to be operated in Chandrapur for which the lands of the farmers are being acquired. I would like to know whether any compensation has been demanded in lieu thereof and whether any memorandum has been received by the hon. Minister in that connection, and if so, what decision is being taken in the matter?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have not received any memorandum. We will be able to take a decision only after a memorandum has been received keeping in view their demand and the amount of compensation that could be given.

[*English*]

SHRI D.B. PATIL : Sir, it has been stated in reply to part (e) of the question that employment is made available to the agriculturists, whose lands have been acquired, as per the norms laid down by the Government. I would like to know what are the norms and whether those norms are followed strictly so far as his Ministry is concerned.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not have the standard norms here with me. I will pass them on to the hon. Member. But I can assure him that every effort is made to follow the norms strictly.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : In view of the fact that modernisation of coal mines has been under Government's consideration for long, I would like to know whether the

Government have fixed any time-limit for completion of this work, and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has always been our endeavour to see that modern techniques are used in every field to the maximum possible extent, and it is all the more needed in the field of coal mines. For modernisation of coal mines, a Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has been set up at Ranchi. It is their constant endeavour to see how new techniques can be used, such as for example the techniques of open cast mining. It is their endeavour to find out how to achieve maximum production of coal at minimum cost by adopting new techniques.

[English]

Reorganisation of NTC

*142. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been undertaken regarding organisational structure of the National Textile Corporation and also to assess the manpower requirement of the Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A study has been entrusted to a consultant regarding organisational structure and manpower requirement of National Textile Corporation (Holding Company). The study includes determination of the role/function of National Textile Corporation (Holding Co.) and streamlining the functions of various divisions as well.

(c) and (d). The report of the Consultant has not yet been received.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: In view of the fact that the National Textile Corporation over the years has mainly, or perhaps wholly, been engaged in taking over mills, which were sick or closed by the private

employers, it is not surprising that the financial performance of the NTC has been somewhat dismal and there have been losses continuously, though I find that in 1983-84 the cumulative result seems to indicate some profit for the first time, according to the volumes which have been given to us recently. I would like to know whether this enquiry or study, which is going to be undertaken or is under way now, is going to concern itself with any complaints, which have been coming to the Government regularly, regarding the mismanagement of these mills, some corruption, the shortage of raw materials at reasonable prices, the inadequacy of textile machinery, the inadequacy of stores and spares. Is the enquiry going to cover all these things, or is it only to deal with the structural changes in the management?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : It is mainly confined to the structural changes to determine the role and function of the National Textile Corporation (Holding Co.) vis-a-vis the subsidiary corporations; streamlining the functioning of the divisions of the corporate office, study of the organisational structure of the corporate office and manpower. This is the main idea of the study, which the hon. Member has mentioned. He has rightly stated that it is only the sick and closed mills that we have taken over. There has been a handicap right from the start. But, he would be glad to know, that in January 1985, 35 mills have shown cash profits. There has been an improvement in recent years.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It has always been the contention of the Government that they have to take over sick and closed mills, most of these mills were functioning with very out-dated and ramshackle machinery and it requires huge investment for modernisation and so on. May I know from him why Government has been reluctant or unwilling to take over the mills, which are far from being in an out-moded condition, which are functioning with very good and up-to-date machinery, which had very good export markets, but which, nevertheless, were closed by the private mill owners? I am referring in particular to the case of the Anglo-French Textile Mill in Pondicherry, where the hon. Prime Minister, as reported in the press, during his election meeting recently in