

The Congress Party had ruled that State for 35 years, and as the Telugu Desam Party is in power in that State at present, so negative replies are being given. A Centre has been opened at Bangalore. I would like to know whether a similar Centre is going to be opened in Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan? I am putting this question, because you do not say 'no' to the questions of lady Members. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister that immediate action should be taken for the setting up of this Centre. May I know the time by which the Centre is likely to be set up?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I do not agree with the Hon. Member's contention that we are always giving negative replies to the questions on Andhra Pradesh. It is not true. Firstly, we do not make any discrimination in regard to Andhra Pradesh. Secondly, so far as the need for setting up a Centre in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there is clearly a need for it in view of the amount of work at present and there cannot be any doubt about it. Thirdly, he wanted to know how the present requirements were being fulfilled. I would like to say that testing facility is being provided elsewhere. Fourthly, I cannot give a definite date by which the Centre will be completed....

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : That is what we want to know. By when will it be completed?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I cannot give any exact date for it, because it has not been included in the draft Seventh Five Year Plan. Still we are holding discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard. I have told you earlier that I shall myself take it up with the State Government and only after that it would be decided as to when it would be completed.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please do not cancel the one at Bangalore.

Exploitation of sands of Kerala beaches

*410. **DR. K. G. ADIYODI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production and utilisation/consumption of glass in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the sands of Kerala beaches contain enriched glass particles;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to exploit this material; and

(d) if not, the steps likely to be taken to explore the possibilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) The annual production by nearly 60 units engaged in the manufacture of various items in the organised sector is around 10 lakh tonnes valued at about Rs. 340 crores. The production capacity of small units is 2 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 52 crores relating to 1116 units (as on 31st March, 1981).

(b) Glass particles do not occur free in nature and it is only the glass quality sand which occurs freely in nature and its deposits are scattered in various parts of the country. Sands of Kerala beaches do not therefore, contain enriched glass particles. However, they contain good quantity of quartz as in many other beaches.

(c) and (d). Beach sands of Kerala are mined for economic heavy minerals. Besides, some small scale units, M/s Excel Glasses in Kerala are using local sands for manufacturing glass bottles.

DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Sir, I understand that there is a proposal by the Government of Kerala for manufacture of refractory glass with foreign collaboration. It is pending with the Union Government for sanction. May I know whether there is any bottlenecks for issuing sanction?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as Kerala is concerned, no application is pending with the Ministry of Industry.

DR. K. G. ADIYODI : May I know the total import of glass, including refractory glass, from foreign countries?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : We are importing less quantity of float glass. I don't have the figures. I will pass it on to the Member.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : I am very much interested in this question because Gujarat produces more glass than any other State. A Rs. 200 crores project for producing float glass was in the offering and I presume, you know that once the float glass production takes place in this country, almost all other types of glass fade away because it is the latest technology. It is cheaper to produce and it is tougher and it is the most ultimate in glass technology. Now for this big collaboration of Rs. 200 crores glass factory, industrial licence was beaten around between Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Now it is coming up in the Allahabad district of UP. What I want to know is that when this big float glass factory comes up anywhere in India, what will happen to these 1116 small scale units which will be on the verge of closing down. Will the Government have the perspective to see that these small scale units are somehow or the other protected ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as Gujarat is concerned, recently we have issued a letter of intent for the manufacture of this glass by fusion process with a capacity of 6.16 sq. metres. As far as small scale is concerned we do not have any information on closure of such units. If there is anything we will certainly look into it.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether a survey has been conducted in almost all the beaches where sands are available. We are endow with abundant supply of sand and we are also having so many coastal areas and river beds where silica sands are available for starting a glass factory. I want

to know whether a survey has been conducted in Madras in Marina beach and other beaches in order to find out whether these sands available in Marina beach are capable of putting up a glass factory ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : Sir, for putting up a glass factory the main raw-materials, viz., quartz are available in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In these States quality sands are available for manufacture of glass.

[Translation]

Lignite Deposits in Rajasthan

*411. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Rajasthan where lignite has been found indicating the quantity and quality of lignite found; and

(b) the efforts made so far for using lignite for the purpose of electricity generation and the success achieved in the process ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Lignite deposits are reported in Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur Districts of Rajasthan. The broad estimates of geological reserves which could be identified and their approximate quality in different areas as