

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is the hon. Member likely to take some more time?

**Shri L. Jogeshwar Singh:** Yes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then, he may continue tomorrow. There are still two other speakers, namely Shri Heda and Seth Achal Singh; they will have their chance tomorrow.

Now we shall take up the next item.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### FORTY-FOURTH REPORT

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hoogly):** I beg to present the Forty-Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES OF KERALA

17 Hrs.

**Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am raising this discussion to focus the attention of this House and also of the hon. Minister who, I know, has great sympathy for the poor people of Kerala, on three points, namely, (1) the neglect of the Government of India in developing the mineral resources of Kerala, (2) the failure of the Government of India to make a detailed survey of minerals of Kerala, and (3) the disregard by the Government of India of questions relating to mines and minerals of Travancore-Cochin.

The problem of exploiting minerals, in so far as my State is concerned is a very much more urgent problem than in any other State, because, you find from an analysis made in the Labour Gazette that out of 6 lakhs of people employed in the mines and minerals industry, hardly 2,500 people from my State get work in that industry, although our population is roughly 1/30th of the population of

the whole of India. Then it has often been said by very responsible people in the most irresponsible way that Kerala has no minerals for exploitation at all. Nothing could be farther from the truth, nor could anything be more mischievous than such a statement.

The hon. Minister knows that we have a wealth of minerals and a variety of minerals. I do not want to list all the minerals here, but I would seek your permission to indicate certain important minerals, which have been reported to be available in abundance there as early as in 1906 and 1910. We have got alum clays in Varkala, bauxite in the laterite-bearing areas of the Western Ghats, we have got brick clays, we have got gold in considerable quantities in Wynad, we have iron ore in Nilambur and Wandur, lignite in Varkala, Cannanore and several other places, mica in Malabar and Travancore, we have got mineral pigments in Malabar and South Kanara, we have refractories. Then we have pyrite, much-wanted substance, found along with gold in the pyrite veins of Malabar, especially Wynad. Then there are the all-important minerals, titanium, ilmanite, monozite, zircon and other rare minerals.

With this varieties of minerals which have been reported to be available in abundance in our geological surveys in 1906, 1907 and 1910, it is very regrettable that a State faced with such a chronic problem of unemployment could not develop its mineral resources at all. I would not have raised this discussion had it not been for the fact that in the Planning Commission's Report, it is very clearly stated—I am reading from page 384—

“In view of the vital part that minerals play in the country's industrial development, it is contemplated that the State will increasingly undertake their exploitation”.

I welcome this statement. But in answer to a question long after the