

हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य हमें बतायें हम जरूर
उनकी सेवा करेंगे, नुकसान नहीं होने देंगे ।

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री
जी ने जो कुछ कहा है और आश्वासन दिया
है उसको देखते हुये मैं अपना संशोधन
वापस लेता हूँ ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wishes to
withdraw his amendment.

*Amendment No. 2 was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question
is:

"That Clause 26 stand part of the
Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question
is:

"That Clauses 27 to 40 stand part
of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Clauses 27 to 40 were added to the
Bill.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question
is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting
Formula and the Long Title stand
part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and
the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

Shri Abid Ali: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as reported by the
Joint Committee, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question
is:

"That the Bill, as reported by the
Joint Committee, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.07 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF NEYVELI
LIGNITE CORPORATION LIMITED

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): I beg
to move:

"That this House takes note of the
Annual Report of the Neyveli
Lignite Corporation Limited along
with the Audited Accounts for the
year 1958-59, laid on the Table of
the House on the 29th February,
1960."

I shall develop two main points: pro-
gress of work; land acquisition and
rehabilitation of the people affected in
these areas.

Before I go into the various aspects
of the scheme, I would like to say
that this is the third report. The first
report for 1956-57 was discussed in
the House on 11th August, 1958. At
that time many Members wanted to
know the progress achieved and ex-
pressed dissatisfaction at the way in
which the reports were presented to
the House after lapse of considerable
time. The report for 1956-57 was
presented only during the Budget
Session of 1958. This is what the hon.
Minister was pleased to say then:

"But I would draw the attention
of the hon. Members to the annual
report of the Ministry for the year
1957-58 where an attempt was
made to give a picture right up to
the point of presentation of the
report. This report, as the hon.
Members would kindly recall, was
presented before the House at the
time when the discussions on bud-
get estimates were made, and that
carried us to a point where the
position as it existed by about the
time when we were meeting for the
budget session was given. It is
appreciated by Government very
much that the hon. Members are
taking so much interest...."

He proceeded to say that attempts
would be made to see that the latest
position was presented to the House.

[Shri Tangamani]

I find that the third report was presented as early as February, 1960, and I am aware the accounting year ended with July. On the basis of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, it would have been welcome if the fourth report for 1959-60 had also been presented by now, though I do agree that in this third report Government has also given us an assessment of the work that has been done till the end of 1959. If the fourth report had also been presented, we would know how far we have progressed by the end of the financial year 1959-60. So, I suggest that at least next year, the report for 1960-61 may be made available to Members before the end of 1961. That will give us a correct picture of what is going on.

Having said this, I would submit that though this deals only with the annual report of a corporation, it is actually much more than the annual report of a corporation; it deals with an integrated project which seeks to bring this lignite mine into operation and also the various connected things like the fertiliser plant, the thermal plant, the carbonising and briquetting plant and also the white clay plant. It is such an integrated project, and periodically, we find statements from the hon. Minister and also from the corporation on this matter.

I would venture to place on record that Neyveli is not just one amongst the projects to be looked after in the normal way, but it is a project round which the industrial hopes and aspirations of the entire southern region of India are centered. It is thus a very vital project in a part of our country where there is a very lively sense of resentment at the neglect of its economic interest in our overall planning so far. Recently, when the Madras Government demanded that the allocation for the Madras State in the Third Plan should be Rs. 399 crores, it was reduced to Rs. 292 crores by the Planning Commission. Resentment was also expressed by the vari-

ous newspapers in the country. The sense of neglect is not by any means entirely unjustified, and to ignore it only because it sometimes finds crude and exaggerated political expression will be to invite danger. For purposes of national integration as well as for the economic development of the south, the successful and rapid accomplishment of the Neyveli project is extremely important.

On the last occasion also, I was privileged to speak on the First Report of the corporation, but I am afraid I have to repeat what I had said on that occasion today also. I said on that occasion that we were not satisfied with the rate of progress, whether it be with regard to mining or with regard to the other allied projects.

Let us take the question of mining itself. As the House is aware, this is a very important project. Probably there are small lignite mines here and there in other parts of the country, but we are exploiting the lignite mines only in the south on such a big scale. The other day, one of the experts from the East German Democratic Republic came and told us that they are now exploiting as much as 220 million tons a year, of this lignite. Here, in the Neyveli project, according to the Madras Government's estimate, the potential is 2000 million tons. As per the project report, we want to exploit 200 million tons of lignite over a small area known as Neyveli, and this will be spread over a period of fifty years. I remember that according to the original project report, we expected that 3½ million tons will be extracted yearly. I remember that on the last occasion, the hon. Minister said that it would be raised to 7 million tons or so, although there has been only a demand for 6 million tons. Recently, in one of the papers, I read that the hon. Minister would be content if the exploitation was only 4 million tons. So, I would like to know what exactly is proposed

to be done, because on this depends many other allied industries also. Although I am going to develop certain other points in this connection, here itself I can mention that although originally, the thermal plant was scheduled to produce only 250 M.W., now, after Mr. Khrushchev came to our country, it has appeared in the press and it has been announced also that this figure is going to be increased to 400 M.W. Naturally, the consumption which was originally estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons will now become $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tons, in which case how can it be said that we can be satisfied with $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. That is why I do want to know from the hon. Minister what the firm estimate is of the lignite which we are going to exploit year after year.

My hon. friend Shri Narasimhan was telling us on the previous occasion that since this is going to be only an open cast mining, we should also know the depth to which we have gone. There is no use saying that so much of earth has been removed. Fortunately for us, in the report and also in the Government's review thereof, we find that 105 feet have been dug. According to the hon. Minister's statement—I think I am referring to the statement which is reported to have been made by him at the meeting of the informal consultative committee on the 8th December, 1960—150 feet had already been reached in the process of removal of the overburden and the lignite seam will be fully exposed for extraction by about June or July, 1961.

Here again, I would like to point out one thing. The figures may be this way or that way; it has been stated that 9 million and odd cubic yards of overburden have been removed. Recently, when the Minister of Industries of Madras State visited Neyveli and then he came back, he said that about 10 to 11 million cubic yards have been removed. Originally, what we wanted was that 27 million cubic yards of overburden had got to be removed. I want to know specifically,

without going into details by what time we are going to reach this target, because unless this is reached, we shall not be able to exploit the mines. At the same time, I must also point out that unless the carbonising and briquetting plant, the thermal plant, and the fertiliser plant go into operation, the mining cannot go into operation at all. It is such an involved and complicated thing. So, I want to know the firm date by which we shall be in a position to exploit the mines.

In reply to one of my questions as to whether the East German experts had demanded 1000 tons of lignite to be sent to East Germany for testing, it was stated that such a demand had been made, but it would take at least six months to send that quantity, that is, we would be in a position to send the requisite quantity only by the middle of 1961. I would like to know what the position will be in July, 1961. Here, we have been told that by July, 1961, we shall be in a position to extract the lignite. The difficulties which are there are well known to the House. The special favour or disfavour or special disadvantage which we are having is because of the water that is gushing up. Anyway, I want to know how much of this overburden will have been removed by July, 1961. Are we going to come anywhere near the target of 27 million cubic yards of overburden? Or is it going to be only 15 million cubic yards, in which case we shall again have to come forward before this House and say that we have not been able to keep up to the schedule? What is the actual schedule, and by what time are we going to get the lignite which is to be exploited at least by the end of 1961? I want to know how much we shall be able to exploit. An answer to this question will certainly be very helpful to us. On this issue, I can assure this House, or rather I can inform this House—for, who am I to assure this House—that all the parties are united. The State Ministers, in spite of the natural calamity which really needed their presence in Madras made it possible for them—

[Shri Tangamani]

selves to undertake a trip not only to the various steel plants but also to Jameshedpur to satisfy themselves as to how far the experiment to be conducted there had started. I believe that the experiment is yet to start. Anyhow, they wanted to satisfy themselves how far they will be in a position to have the pig iron plant with the help of this lignite, so that ultimately it can be developed into a steel plant. This question becomes absolutely important, because Rs. 17 crores are going to be invested on the mines.

Coming to the thermal power station scheme, the entire thermal power station scheme will be commissioned by the middle of 1962. This is the statement reported to have been made in the Consultative Committee on the 8th December, as has been reported in the newspapers. On page 8 of the latest Report, it is stated:

“...contracts for the supply of working drawings, and for the supply and erection of plant, machinery and equipment were entered in’o in March and May 1959 respectively. According to the terms of the contract, the first 50 MW unit of the Thermal Power Station is expected to be commissioned in April 1961 and the remaining units at intervals thereafter, the entire Power Station being in operation in about July 1962”.

Government have sanctioned the scheme at a cost of Rs. 22.56 crores. Sets of working drawings and a good part of the steel required had been received under the contract entered into with the relevant Soviet organisation. This is in the Report. The capacity of the power plant at Neyveli is to be raised from 250 MW to 400 MW as agreed to when Mr. Khrushchev was in India in February 1960. Consequently, instead of 1½ million tons, 2½ million tons will be required for generation of 400 MW of electric power. There is acute shortage of

fuel and electric power in the State. We are told that 5 turbines of 50 MW each are now being manufactured in some factory in Leningrad, according to one of the experts who came here, Mr. V. Bolshokov. Indian engineers visited that place. I want to know whether we are going to have 5 turbines or 8 turbines.

Here I would mention from the statement itself how with great difficulty, from the pilot plant which we got from the TCM, some 200 tons of lignite were extracted. Ultimately, it was sent to Madras for some experiment. But the experiment could not be conducted. This is a sort of thing which really brings despair to the minds of the engineers, young men who were at the job for such a long time. They find that in spite of these 200 tons being extracted and sent to Madras, nothing has come out of it whatsoever. There should not be this kind of goose-chasing.

As regards the fertiliser scheme, Government have sanctioned a scheme for the production of 1,52,000 tons of urea per annum at a cost of Rs. 26.10 crores. A contract has been entered into by the Corporation in 1959 with Messrs. Pintach-Bamag-Linde, a group of German firms, and Messrs. Ansaldo, an Italian firm, for the supply of plant and machinery and technical services for erection and starting on the requisite scale. The 1958-59 Report says that the work will be completed by September 1962, production in October 1962 and full production in March 1963. In the Consultative Committee, we are told that the plant is expected to be ready by the end of 1963 and production of urea is expected in 1964. By which statement are we to go?

In this connection, in passing I would like to mention that although now it has become a project involving international collaboration, with the East Germans, West Germans, Italians and Russians being all there—they are doing a very good piece of work—I

would like to know whether we have not reached a stage when we can design our own fertiliser plant. Is it not true that for the fertiliser plant which is going to be put up in Andhra, the consultants are coming from Sindri itself? Are we not in a position to do this now ourselves? I do not know; so I would like to be enlightened on that. I went there and this is what struck me; so I am just placing it before the House for what it is worth. I would also like to know on what terms these foreign consultants are helping us. We are very happy that they are helping us. But I would like to know whether we have not now got competent consultants as a result of the work already done in the country.

As regards the briquetting and carbonising plant, I have no time to repeat what the hon. Minister stated. On the last occasion, he said that this would cost about Rs. 11 crores. Out of this amount, the foreign exchange component would be Rs. 6½ crores. Now we find that we are trying to get this plant indigenously, here itself, with the help of our own experts. That is very good. But is there any firm date for the supply? How much are we going to spend on it? By what time are we going to get the plant? I would like to have specific answers to these questions. I am posing these questions so that the country may know how far we have advanced before the end of this year, because we do not have the Report for this period. The latest Report is only till the end of 1959. Let the country also know by which time we are going to achieve the various targets in the various sectors of this integrated project. It was said in 1957-58 that the project report would be finalised and tenders would be called. In 1958-59, the position is—global tenders received through the India Supply Mission in Washington and under scrutiny. In 1960 (December): tender have been received and recommendations made; plant expected to be ready by the first quarter of 1964.

This is the reply that we have got. I would like to know what is the position now. Are we going to produce the 380,000 tons of carbonised briquettes as originally planned. This is a smokeless fuel suitable for domestic and other purposes. What is the cost of this plant?

Lastly, I come to the clay washing scheme. As regards this, the hon. Minister himself mentioned that it is a very good clay. It is stated in the Report:

"A detailed project report for setting up of a clay-washing plant adopting conventional methods without foreign exchange will be finalised by the end of 1959".

Has it been finalised? The project report and detailed specifications were considered by the standing panel of technical experts and its recommendations were approved by the Board in April, 1959. The Government of India approved of this and tenders were invited, the due date being 2nd November, 1959. It should be possible to commence the plant before the end of 1961 when clay will become available. This is a scheme for utilisation of excellent clay. All this is given in the Report itself. I would like to know what is the present position.

So far as fertilisers are concerned, to a question put here, Question No. 940 in the name of Shri Morarka, this is the reply:

"The first consignment of the plant and machinery is expected to be received at Madras Harbour by January 1961".

This is the latest reply.

Having said this much about the plant generally and about Neyveli itself, there are certain observations I would like to make about how things are working and the complaints we have received. There is a reference to railway siding here. At least Neyveli is an important plant. Here I

[Shri Tangamani]

would quote the hon. Minister himself. This is what he said on 2nd April, 1958 replying to the Demands:

"This is a project to increase the fuel resources of that part of the country.... Neyveli should be viewed as an integrated project. We have carefully gone into the economics of this; it is likely to increase the power resources of the south and the fertiliser that it produces in the form of urea will be a welcome addition to the fertiliser resources of the country. The briquetting and carbonising scheme also provides a ray of hope to the feeling that very strongly persists in the south, namely, the possibility of starting a steel plant. It is my duty to inform the House that these briquettes may in course of time turn out to be a substitute for metallurgical coal for production of steel in the south".

There is a shortage of metallurgical coal. Two years ago, the hon. Minister, who has got a very specialised knowledge about coal, said that this is going to be a substitute for metallurgical coal. If that is the position, and with the steel plant idea also looming large, the question of this briquettes becomes absolutely important.

Taking the Neyveli project itself, does not the case for having a rail link between Neyveli and Bangalore, the two centres of public sector industries linked by the same gauge, become very strong? Is not the case of the country demanding of us that this should get top priority? Are we not going to include it in our plan? Let us not say that this should come under the Railway Ministry. A question was raised here that there is a fertiliser plant, then there is a mining project, and then the thermal project; so how is it that we are having this Corporation under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel? To this the reply came—and I am satisfied with it—that the main work is done by the Ministry of Mines

and because of their joint responsibility, they will see that nothing goes by default. Let them now pose this proposition that we must have top-priority for this rail link.

I would leave it to some of my other hon. friends to say about the township that has been built and the contracts.

In the report itself we find that some poor people have been uprooted. There has been some discrimination. I would like the hon. Minister to go into the lots of reports that have been received. I would ask him to supply us with all the materials. Why should we become litigation minded? Because some of the peasants have succeeded in the High Court the Corporation is thinking of taking the cases to the Supreme Court. Let us not bring litigation into this. Let us go and settle with the peasants. Pay them a few rupees more, a few X rupees more instead of spending 25 X rupees by taking it to the Supreme Court. It is a very very dangerous principle.

About the amenities to workers. Here it is said that the Board was pleased to supply, in the name of amenities, one sewing machine to the wives of the employees. These are the amenities that we have. They are nothing. Even drinking water they are not getting. That was the complaint that we have been receiving.

Another point is about exhibitions. Shri Narasimhan was saying that they wanted the exhibition to go to Salem but the people were not interested. The Corporation did not show the least interest in the exhibition. We find that it was taken to the All-India Khadi and Swadeshi Exhibition. It was taken for another exhibition. If this is meant for any organisation it should be for all organisations. If any political party or public organisation demands that this must go as part of the exhibition, you must accede to that because it has got two purposes, one educative and the other for advertisement. You have spent Rs. 190,000

for advertisements. How much it it for exhibitions? Why should one set or group of people or one party or organisation alone benefit as a result of these exhibitions? That is also another definite point which I would like to raise.

On the question of recruitment I will say only a few words and I will be done. We have received reports. This is an all-India project. My view is that the best talent in this country must be pooled and employed there. In the report they say that although they advertised in all the newspapers they did not find eminent young men from the north applying. I do not know what the actual position is. Even amongst those people who applied from the south there appears to be some discrimination. This has been brought to our notice. I do not want to import our local politics here. But I would like to mention . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member need not mention names.

Shri Tangamani: I am not going to mention names. I have formulated it in such a way that it may be acceptable to you and to the House. Neyveli is a national enterprise; it should be nursed and nurtured. As such, recruitment for this project must be from among the best technicians available in this country. Only yesterday Shri Manubhai Shah spoke about our young men and said that persons who were not prepared to lend Rs. 10 crores were now prepared to lend Rs. 50 crores because things are in the hands of our best men. There should not be any discrimination shown. I have got reports to show and I can say on the basis of personal knowledge also—and that is being given credence by men in the highest rungs of ladder in Madras State—that there is discrimination. On this point also, I would like the hon. Minister to assure the House.

This is a very important project. On the success of this many things depend, not only the industrialisation of the south but other things also. In Ger-

many where there is shortage of metallurgical coal, they were able to replace the metallurgical coal by lignite. They have developed their industries. There are 2,000 million tons of lignite available in that area.

I would again pay my tribute to one of the saints of the South who lived there during the British period, some of the songs written by whom are being sung by the people in the South, Shri Ramalinga Swamigal. He spent most of his time in this area. People of that area will certainly associate Shri Ramalinga Swamigal with Neyveli.

I would request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to this. I would ask him to take the House into confidence and to make a report available to us as early as possible. The several points that I have raised may also be looked into. I would be happy to have a clear-cut picture of the progress that is made, the way the employees are taken in, the way the technicians are being utilised and the way the peasants are being treated in that area.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That this House takes note of the Annual Report of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited along with the Audited Accounts for the year 1958-59, laid on the Table of the House on the 29th February, 1960.”

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): Sir, I welcome this debate not merely because it allows a certain amount of cross-examination but because it enables us to watch and see the development with pleasure. Any attempt to convert this kind of examination into a *post mortem* will be premature even as a *post mortem*. It would not be nice to indulge in such a kind of thing. When we sow the seed we expect the plant of whatever it is to grow and come to fruition. Therefore, I would even go to the extent of saying that this discussion should not deteriorate

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into that sort of thing. It should be a kind of periodical encouragement like the half-yearly examinations and the quarterly examinations of students, where you award classes such as first class or the second class. Only when the mark goes below 30 or 40 we underline it with red ink in the progress report and ask the parents to keep a watch over the ward. I compare this kind of discussion with that.

Shri C. E. Pattabhi Raman (Kumbakonam): He is a bachelor talking.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As a parent or as a teacher or as both?

Shri Narasimhan: In Sanskrit they say, *Mata, Pita* are both gurus.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, I would love to be a pupil.

Shri Narasimhan: My mind goes back to a period when this project was suggested first 8 years or so ago for acceptance by the Government of India.

Once in the course of a Railway Debate, indirectly, I mentioned lignite as being usable by the Railways. Then, in the official gallery were sitting the then big bosses of the Railway Board. I am referring to somewhere in 1952. They were amused at the whole thing and thought it was all nonsense. That was what they were believing then. I was actually told by one of those bosses of the Railway Board, 'Look here, my dear fellow, you will get all these things when your grandsons and my grandsons are reading somewhere.' That was the very expression that was used.

An Hon. Member: And you are not married!

Shri Narasimhan: That he was not aware of.

All this pessimism has been falsified; we are finding things growing. I would like my colleagues in Parliament to realise the fact that we attach much

importance to the thing because it is going to revolutionise the industrial position of the Madras State. It will get strength and thereby give strength to the whole nation. Not only that. The adjoining States of Mysore, Kerala and Andhra are going to be helped by this in various ways. There are indications that there are more beds of lignite. If further geological explorations take place more beds will be found in which case even the Railways will be benefited. If these experiments succeed, even the Railways in that part of the country can use this as fuel. That being so, it is going to help the entire country and the dependence of the extreme south on the coal from the north of India for its day-to-day industrial life is going to disappear. So, great importance is attached to this project.

Now, turning to the very first page of this report, I may point out that this page gives the list of directors. This is a bit out of date for the reason that our eminent colleague, Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman is no longer there. A certain amount of criticism of the board would be relevant and my approach would more or less be the same as that of some hon. Members who spoke yesterday and the day before. The directors are: Shri N. S. Mani, I.C.S., Shri A. V. Venkateswaran, Dr. Nagaraja Rao, Shri G. R. Damodaran, Shri S. R. Kaiwar I.C.S., Shri T. M. S. Mani I.C.S. and so on. They are no doubt very eminent and capable people with a very distinguished record in their respective spheres and I have absolutely no complaint against them; I have all admiration for them.

Still I have to point out certain things. Dr. Nagaraja Rao and others are on a number of corporations. He is on the Heavy Engineering Project at Ranchi and so on.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The adjectives and qualifications which the hon. Member used qualify them to be so.

Shri Narasimhan: They are very capable men . . . (An Hon. Member:

He is satirical) No. I am not satirical. I am sincere. All I say is that they are not supermen. I do not expect them to be treated as supermen and given the burden which supermen alone can carry. The general doubt expressed by hon. Members of this House as to whether these corporations are to be managed by directorates as this should be looked into. All of them almost have other preoccupations. As Government servants their method is to be cautious and take time. While the business method is to take risk and be adventurous and profit by the adventure. Here both have to be properly blended and the best results obtained. It is a difficult task and to put people with several preoccupations in these boards is a great weakness which the Government of India has been indulging all along. This board proves no exception to that general tendency.

This project, which is vast by itself, has many big branches, if I may say so. There is the thermal station, another is the fertiliser project. The third is the briquetting and carbonisation. Each one of these schemes involve several crores of rupees. Different types of business management and knowledge are required and by their very nature they require separate corporations for their individual management. They are all brought together in one corporation. It is true that the project is called an integral project and rightly so. But the question to be considered is whether each one of them should be given to a specialist separately. At the early stage whatever they may do, I have no objection. But as the schemes progress, individual responsibility for each scheme is a great advantage if they are separated. If one thing goes wrong and the others are affected by it because of one set-up, it may not be good. Therefore, a certain amount of differentiation is much better. At the proper stage, I would like the Ministry to look into the matter . . . (Interruptions). I am reminded by my eminent friend sitting beside me, Dr. Aney, that these people are not all permanently

residing there. Dr. Nagaraja Rao is not there. Every person will be treated by the other as if it is a passing . . .

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman:
phantom.

Shri Narasimhan: Not phantom, but passing . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Show?

Shri Narasimhan: . . . passing being. I mean to say that the permanency of interest is not there and every time they are expecting a bigger assignment. They are great and they can get a thing much higher than what they have at present and just as water finds its level . . . (Interruptions) They go up.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Water would come to the lower level.

Shri Narasimhan: That is the law of nature. If it natural that water should find its level; it may be lower. In the other case it is also natural that they should reach a higher level.

In page 4, there is reference to the foreign exchange and it says that there will be an 'inevitable time lag'. I do not know why it should be treated as inevitable. If the other departments of the Government of India, in particular the Ministry of Finance, cooperate realising the importance of this scheme this difficulty should not be there.

In para 3 on page 4, there is mention about delay in clearance of a particular unit. It is not clear whether it is port clearance. I would like to know which was the department which was responsible for this delay and why there was such a lukewarm attitude. I am mentioning this to impress upon the other departments not to be lukewarm in their attitude towards such projects. We generally hear the private sector complaining about the red tape and the suffering caused because of it. Let not the same kind of treatment be meted out among the Government departments themselves.

[Shri Narasimhan]

Shri Tangamani referred to the delay in the acquisition of land and litigation and so on. I agree with him that at the proper stage a bargain must be struck and the delay must be avoided. If a little more money is given in the purchase of this land to the persons there, it will not bring about any ruin. It will save a lot of delay. The other day I heard rumours about the cost of land in an oil refinery area being prohibitive. I asked a supplementary question and nothing further was heard about it nor did I pursue the matter. That only shows that people there in charge of that project have greater drive and are prepared to give even prohibitive prices for important projects. After all the land of these persons is going to be taken up and they are going to be displaced. The loss that they would suffer or the inconvenience that they would have to undergo could not be calculated or equated to the cost of the land. They are dispossessed of their lands; they are to shift from that place and they have to go to a new place and search for a new avocation. Considering all these things, a generous attitude will not be wrong. That is not to say that I want the public money to be squandered. What I say is that a sympathetic approach is needed.

Shri Tangamani also referred to the shortage of personnel. It is said that clerks and accountants were not available. I am not able to convince myself that it is the case. It is not difficult to get people with qualifications in accountancy and so on. I can understand the difficulty felt about the non-availability of highly and technically qualified people.

In the list given in the report it is said that section officers, clerks and accountants are all very difficult to get. I am really surprised. There are a number of commerce colleges and any number of other institutions in the south. To imagine that the Lignite Corporation was not able to get these people in sufficient number and of the required qualifications only means that the recruiting arrangements have not been adequate.

Sir, I fully appreciate their desire to get technical men at the lower level and give them practical training under their own auspices. That is what they have learned after experience. In the first instance they did try to get the very best men. They did not succeed in that and later they realised the necessity of training their own men under their own auspices. That is a very good decision, and that should be done with a larger perspective and in a wider range.

From the Parliament Library I was able to trace a very good book dealing with the Neyveli Lignite Project published by the Annamalai University. It is a book published through the Publications Officer, Annamalai University. There is one passage attributed to Shri Lahiri, Director, Fuel Research, who is the guide and philosopher for the Government of India in the matter of scientific aspects of fuel. He is a sound adviser. I quote a passage attributed to him from this book:

"It is true that, although the variety of tests carried out was large, much remains to be done on a larger and more representative samples of the lignite. The subject of lignite research is an interesting and varied one, both on the fundamental and on the applied side. When it is known definitely that the lignites of South Arcot can be mined cheaply and in an adequate scale, it will probably be advisable to set up a fully equipped Lignite Research Station in the South."

That is what is said by the Director of the Fuel Research Institute of the Government of India. He himself suggests that there should be a separate research institute on lignite. He said this in 1954. We are now in 1960. It will be quite appropriate if the Government of India in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel apply their mind to this subject so that full exploitation of lignite and their by-products and also the method of exploitation can all be done originally here. Then we need

not simply depend on foreign entrepreneurs. Some of them may be jealous and they may not disclose the know-how, and ultimately the know-how may be sold at a high cost when it will be a difficult bargain.

Sir, I would like to touch upon one more point before I finish. There was some difficulty about the bucket wheel excavators. They have had actual teething trouble, in the sense that their teeth broke down when they started to work.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Literal teething trouble.

Shri Narasimhan: I put a number of questions on that. Now I am informed that the smaller one has started working and they are trying to put the bigger one also into operation. They are giant machines, each small one costing Rs. 25 lakhs and each big one costing Rs. 75 lakhs. They have about half a dozen of them. They are not simple things, they are very costly things. I was informed by some competent people that the trouble was really due to the fact that they first thought that even the ground could be broken by these excavators. The experts who examined this question in Europe took the advice of East Germans and others. The ground there was not as hard as the ground in our country, especially in the Neyveli part of the country. Somehow or other, those who went from here to Europe to purchase these machines probably were not well aware about this important question and the importance of this question in the working of the machines. So some machines came and when they started working their teeth broke down. The East Germans and others gave the explanation that they were not told about the real nature of the soil. I am now told that they are using gun powder and other explosives to break the ground as a preliminary step to using this machinery. I would like to know the real facts. I would like to know whether they originally thought that even at

the first stage of working this machinery would be useful and only after trying it, it is being given up and the conventional method of using explosives is adopted, or whether, as is generally made to believe, for all the stages these machines are usable. I would like to have an answer to this question—I think I have made myself clear. I would like to know whether in the initial stages it was thought that for all the stages this machine would be useful and only after the machines arrived here we are trying to make the best use of them by using the conventional method as a preliminary step.

Sir, generally, I have the warmest appreciation for the great work done by the Directors, the Managing Director in particular. It is not an easy thing. When you are spending crores of rupees, naturally all kinds of difficulties, objections and dissatisfactions arise. He has to satisfy the field workers there. He has to satisfy the powerful and very critical Ministry here at Delhi. The Ministry in turn has to face our questions. Therefore, in the midst of all these things for such a thing to have emerged is a great achievement, and I have nothing but the warmest appreciation for it.

Shri Sampath (Namakkal): Sir, we are now discussing the annual report of a project on the successful and strict execution of which depends the entire future of major industrial progress of Tamilnad. That is why whenever this project is discussed we find much enthusiasm, even some excitement among the Members from Tamilnad to whichever party they might belong.

An Hon. Member: Members from the south.

Shri Sampath: Yes, Sir, I have a word to say about the composition of the Board of Directors. Apart from what was mentioned by Shri Narasimhan, I think most of our people feel that the Ministry in the Madras State should be in a position to have active

[Shri Sampath]

association with the execution of the project. Just like in the Punjab where the State Government exercises control over the execution of the Bhakra-Nangal Project, the Madras State Government should also be in a position, not through its civilians alone but also through the Ministers, to have some active association with this project. Some way should be devised to see that one or two Ministers are included in the Board of Directors.

Why we Members from the south lay so much emphasis on the speed of the execution of this project is because our State suffers from acute power shortage. It is mentioned even in this Report. On page 5 of the Report it is said:

“(The Drive Head Control Stations were erected quickly on receipt of the first Bucket Wheel Excavator, the first Spreader and the part of the Belt Conveyor System to go with them, started excavating and removing the overburden from the end of August, 1959. The power required for operating the machines is being supplied from the Madras State Grid. Large fluctuations in the supply voltage are making it difficult to operate the machines continuously.....)”

The power shortage could be understood by any who has watched the recent orders from the authorities controlling the industrial works and industrial hours. One can very well understand that. We are not able to go on with any new industrial enterprise due to the shortage of power. That is why we are laying much emphasis on this project being executed in a speedier manner.

16 hrs.

There is a fear in the minds of the people whether lignite will be ready for use when the first thermal station unit goes into operation, as is

very well stated in the report itself:

“As with reference to the progress of the other constituent schemes, lignite would have to be won in small quantities for the first unit of the Power Station only in April 1961....”

There should not be any delay in this. After erecting the plant, the plant should not wait in idleness to get the required fuel. Proper arrangements should be made well in advance because, as we have been told, many unexpected delays have had to be met in the proper execution of this project in the past. This work should be properly done and very carefully executed, and I hope the Minister will exert himself in this direction.

Regarding the facilities given to the workers, Shri Tangamani has dealt with them in detail. I shall only quote one point from page 7 of the report wherein it is mentioned as follows:

“...your Directors are glad to report that the crews of the machines exercised great care in the use of the Scraper Loaders and the Dumpers, and the maintenance and repair personnel exercised appreciable initiative in making repairs to worn out parts that are ordinarily thrown away and replaced, if spare parts are readily available.”

It is a very well-deserved compliment that has been paid by the directors. But, in this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a fact that most of those crews are now treated as casual labourers. They are under the daily wage system, whereas in many other public undertakings similar crews are on monthly pay system, and they are given those facilities and advantages and amenities that go with a monthly pay system. This point should also be borne in mind by the Minister.

Next, Shri Tangamani also mentioned about the failure of the experiment that was to have been conducted in the Basin Bridge power station. We have a panel of experts and we would like to know why the panel of experts did not envisage this difficulty and what is the position after the failure of that experiment. The report simply says as follows:

"It has been arranged with Technoexport, Moscow, that they may conduct the tests, if necessary, when the first boiler of the first unit of the Thermal Power Station has been installed, and alterations, if any, to that boiler and to the other boilers carried out, if needed."

I want to know whether this would mean inordinate delay or whether this aspect of the problem has not been envisaged by our panel of experts and how the failure in getting the experiment going, is giving to affect the execution of this project. I want some more light to be thrown on this aspect of the problem.

Then, from the way in which we get the reports, we are afraid that the scheme for clay washing and briquetting and carbonising is being shelved. The inordinate delay and the leisurely manner in which this business of calling tenders, examining them, recommending the measures and finalising them is proceeding, is worrying us very much. This is a thing which cannot be done in that leisurely manner, because, as I said earlier, the industrial progress of the State depends upon the complete and quicker execution of this project. I want to know in what stage exactly the briquetting and carbonising scheme is and the clay washing scheme is. Is the Minister in a position to assure us that it will be taken up very soon and that proper arrangements are being made? I would like to know particularly the position with reference to the briquetting and carbonising scheme. We understand that some tenders have been called for and even the examination

stage has been over. I want to know from the Minister whether it has been finalised and firm recommendations have been made by them and, if so, the full details of the position, if given, will relieve the anxiety of the hon. Members of this House.

Regarding the township, I recently visited the project and I was also shown some of the new buildings which are leaking awfully. I do not know what steps the Corporation has taken to investigate the defects; especially those quarters or flats which are built for the low-income group are awfully leaking, and no repairs are being done and nobody is able to complain also because they are afraid that they will be victimised.

I want to know who are responsible for these defects in the construction of the township and the buildings. It should be found out and the responsibility should be fixed on the person concerned and a proper investigation should be conducted. Even the high school building—though it looks very fine from a distance—is found to have awful cracks in the walls, when one goes inside the building. A new building, with these cracks, tells a very sorry tale. This matter should be properly investigated.

Regarding the facilities given to the people living in the township, formerly, they had only one co-operative stores and no other shop was allowed to be opened in that area, and all the people living in the township had only one shop and had to get things from that shop only. They had to rush to it and so they experienced all sorts of difficulties. Then, even to get some more branches opened, the workers there had to fight and struggle and put in their demands, put out public notices and conduct public meetings, etc., and only after all this was done, the Corporation is showing some signs of moving.

In this connection, I feel it will not be out of place if I narrate one incident. When I want to address a

[Shri Sampath]

public meeting there, almost all the organisers and the persons who were sitting in the front row were all wearing beards. In our parts of the country, it is something very queer to find a batch of people growing beards. When I asked them about it, they said that there was not even a single barber shop in the township. For that particular thing, the secretary who organised a meeting put forth the demand, "We want a barber shop". It is very ridiculous, but still, the Corporation seems to be very insensitive to all these demands.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Did they put this demand only before the hon. Member or to some other authority?

Shri Warior (Trichur): The Chair wants the hon. Member to quote the authority.

Shri Sampath: The authorities are not so easily available for them to put their demands! Even these public meetings are not allowed to be conducted inside that area. I can very well understand that, if there is a very grave situation existing like strikes and other things. But even in the normal period, public meetings to be conducted by the workers' union are not allowed to be conducted inside that area, because the authorities there do not want to hear the criticisms even through loudspeakers. They are not in a position to prevent altogether public meetings being conducted. They are conducted in the town limit. But in spite of the fact that there are a large number of *maidans*, they are not allowed to conduct their public meetings. If this elementary right of expressing their opinion is not allowed to be exercised there, it is a very sorrowful state.

One thing I want to emphasise with regard to the execution of the project is we must avoid delay. Although it may sound a general maxim, somehow or other in this project, in every annual report, some lame excuses are

given for the delay caused. In one report, it will be said that a wing will be completed in 1960; in the next report, it is just changed to 1961 and to 1962 in the report after that. Like this, delays are occurring. Somehow or other, these delays should be avoided.

When we go to the secretariat, we find the following words of the Prime Minister prominently exhibited before the lower division and upper division clerks:

"I am not interested in excuses for delay. I am interested only in a thing done."

I believe that this motto is also in the Minister's room and he does not find any difficulty in deciphering it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long will the hon. Minister take for his reply?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I will not delay, Sir, because the hon. Member has said we should not delay. I will take about half an hour.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Sir, Neyveli, as has been pointed out by Shri Narasimhan, is a place of great pilgrimage since early historical times and recently Shri Ramal ngaswami was there. It is also a great place of pilgrimage from the modern point of view.

Shri Tangamani: It was Shri Tangamani who referred to it and not Shri Narasimhan.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I sincerely hope that the tourist department will take note of it. I hope Sardar Swaran Singh will see to it that just like Bhakra Nangal, Neyveli also will be a place worth visiting by modern-minded people, scientists and other people interested in the growth of our ancient land.

Incidentally, Neyveli was also a place of great artesian wells. It used

Neyveli Lignite
Corporation Limited

to be a place for sight-seeing, with its huge artesian springs going up to 30 or 40 feet above the ground. I am saying this because one of the reasons for the delay is pumping the water out of that area. It is susceptible to artesian structure.

machinery arrived at the Madras harbour to Neyveli.

Shri Tangamani: They have been safely delivered.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Then Shri Sampath made another point which I would like to clarify. I hope he remembers the rock-bursting material stored there. There are also many very valuable materials round about that place. Some of the tyres are worth Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 each and they are used by the earth-moving machinery. Some of those tyres are as high as the panel here. They are specially made for the purpose of the earth-moving and other machinery. They have to be ready on the spot, and they are costly things. So, the prevention of people assembling round about the area can be justified on that ground.

I think I have kept myself more on delay than I had intended to. I had the good fortune to be associated with this scheme for a period of a little over a year, that is to say, from 17th July, 1958 to 16th September, 1959. But, as I said on another occasion, I do not claim any credit, except as being the Chairman, for the good work that has been done. That has been done by the men on the spot. The thermal plant and the briquetting plant have become *fait accompli*. Regarding the clay washing plant and fertilizer plant I am glad that world tenders have been invited and accepted. I am sure the Minister will let us know the position.

There is a lot of rumour about Neyveli. I am sure that he is going to share with the House the information that no attempt is being made to put clay washing on the shelf.

I may straightaway say that this is one of the projects envisaged and taken up by the Government of India under the Colombo Plan, and between 1st January, 1955 to 15th

As pointed out by more than one speaker, it is a welcome thing that we have frequent discussions in this House on these projects. If any project is going to benefit by being exposed to light, I respectfully submit that Neyveli is one such project. I am sure its record will prove itself. So far as lignite is concerned I have already said on several occasions that lignite gave prosperity to West Germany, which had been reduced to dust after the last war. Of course, there was a lot of American help, but the prosperity of Hamburg and other places was due to lignite. Lignite has got tremendous potentialities and I have no doubt that our prosperity is linked up with the prosperity of South India.

Whenever any reference is made to lignite, it has to be remembered that lignite is spontaneously combustible. You cannot mine out lignite and keep it either in a railway wagon or expose it to atmosphere. It must be briquetted or fed into a thermal plant. I am saying this because Shri Sampath was referring to the delays. There are many other reasons. They cannot just go on mining. They have to keep everything else ready. It must be an integrated scheme, and the scheme has to be looked at wholly from a complete point of view. The delays have been due to various reasons. Some huge machinery have come to Madras port. They have to be carried along the road in 40 wheelers and 20 wheelers and heavy trucks. On the way many of the culverts are not strong enough to stand the weight of the machinery carried in trucks. So the culverts have to be re-built. Therefore, what I am pointing out is that they have to face many difficulties, one of the major ones being the transport of the huge

[Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman]

September, 1955 the administrative responsibility was also taken by the Government of India. So, it is an integrated project which comprises the four aspects of mining and utilisation of lignite, thermal station, fertilizer and briquetting. The Madras Government have spent nearly Rs. 79 lakhs. Actually, the initial probe was done by the Madras State. They have done yeoman work in the beginning and it is recognized by us that it is one of the few projects where the State Government took the initiative and did the initial work.

Then Shri Sampath was referring to the Ministers. I do not think there can be any technical objection to the Minister being there. I suppose they send their representatives. Two civil servants of the Madras Government are on the board.

So far as mining is concerned, I find that the actual achievement up till today is 451 million cubic yards whereas even the revised target was only 4.4 million cubic yards. So, instead of there being a delay, there has been.....

Shri Tangamani: The total which has to be cleared is 27 million. We have not reached even 11 million. That is the point. How are you going to do it?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Shri Tangamani himself has stated that 105 ft. has been reached so far as the total digging is concerned.

Shri Tangamani: The Minister would be in a position to reply to my points.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I dare say that. You are perfectly entitled to comment on my lack of ability; I am sure it will be in better hands. I am only saying that we have reached the annual target in mining. That is in the report. I am not saying anything outside the report. If I

stray outside the report, you can come down on me like a ton of coal. So far as the actual target is concerned, I submit it is not....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Here it is the burden of lignite and not coal.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Actually 2.5 tons of lignite will be equal to 1 ton of coal. That is the value vis-a-vis coal.

Coming to repair work, I wish people come and see the excellent material that we have so far as personnel is concerned. Young men who were not at first acquainted with the machinery are doing an excellent job. I am sure the hon. Minister has already recognised it. People who have not seen huge machines are dealing with repair of machinery on the spot. Many of them were put into the work within one or two hours after the breakdown. We have got excellent staff there on the spot for that purpose.

Then, I shall deal with the thermal plant. Reference has also been made to the Russian Agreement. That would consume 1.5 million tons of lignite. It would cost Rs. 22.56 crores, with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 14.6 crores of which Rs. 14 crores will be met out of the 500 million Rouble U.S.S.R. credit. With regard to the increase of 400 megawatts, to which reference has been made, I do not know wherefrom the actual information has come. So far as the present report is concerned, this is the position with regard to the thermal plant.

Under the fertiliser scheme, we are going to produce 1.52 lakh tons of urea with a nitrogen content of 70,000 tons per annum. On the basis of global tender, the Government have sanctioned the establishment of a fertiliser plant at Neyveli at a cost of Rs. 26.10 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 17 crores. Then, finally, I will come to briquetting. Here, the position is that there

has been a pilot plant. Arrival of equipment was over, if I remember aright, by 1958 and the pilot equipment has been completed by the end of 1958. Any postponement of this would seriously upset the economy of the integrated project. I have no doubt the Government will expedite this work.

As regard labour, as far as we could see, all labour for the lower cadres is invited through the Employment Exchange. That is quite true. For the rest, it costs them as much as Rs. 50,000 to advertise for trained personnel. They have tried their best to get the best men available all over India. So far as amenities to workers and displaced persons are concerned, I do not know why my hon. friend was referring to courts. Once a worker takes a matter to the court and gets a stay, nothing else can be done. It may be not one-sided. It is not as if the project people are opposed to it. They have to resist litigation. They have to defend themselves. That is what happens in many instances with regard to litigation.

I think here is a project which, taken as a whole, is going to change the face of South India. Not only the integrated project is to come there with 10,000 or 15,000 people working there, but some more connected and related projects will also come very soon, much sooner than later, with the result that you are going to have a great development. Also, perhaps, the low grade pig iron project and any other project that we may propose and also the steel project later on may come.

It is true that it is very necessary that we must have the proper railway link with Neyveli. I know it is a different Ministry that deals with it. It is no use pleading that the Third Plan position does not allow that. I am glad the hon. Prime Minister, today or yesterday, referred to the Railway needs of South India. It is not our fault that the Southern Railway is run mostly on metre gauge.

When the British Government were ruling, they wanted to get rid of their old railway lines—the whole of Europe has now only standard gauge—and they just dumped the broad and metre gauge on India. It so happens, therefore, that the whole of South India is metre gauge, but we should not suffer for that. Frequently references are made to wagon capacity, getting wagons and equipment, dieselisation etc. I think railway links round about Salem and Neyveli are necessary. I know my hon. friend Shri Narasimhan has been pleading for it vigorously and often. I hope he will succeed.

I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh, who has been so helpful to the integrated project and done everything in his power to see to it that the south has a proper place under the Sun. At one time a sum of Rs. 75 to Rs. 80 crores was contemplated as expenditure on this project. Now it is about Rs. 92 crores. Very soon it may go up to Rs. 120 crores. So, it is a huge, gigantic project in which everybody is interested. It is an all-India project for which the Bihari, the U. P. man, in fact, persons from every State, are paying taxes. I am very glad this report is being examined by us, and I have nothing but congratulation for the Ministry.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur) May I ask a question? What is the first year when extraction of lignite will start?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister would explain it later.

Shri Warrior: I have only three or four minor points, but they are very important points.

The Minister must thank Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman for his very efficient explanation for the delay in execution of this project.

My first point is one to which Shri Narasimhan also referred. The

[Shri Warior]

general complaint of the employing centres of India, especially the big cities, is that the south is supplying all the staff and that the north is not getting its due share. But here in the south itself the complaint is made that they are not getting men after all this advertisement. This is quite amazing. Here it is mentioned:

"Considerable difficulty, was, however, experienced in getting adequate numbers of personnel for posts of section officers, senior accounts clerks, upper division clerks and to some extent assistant executive engineers also."

In all these projects, including even Bhakra-Nangal, there are many South Indians, from the engineers down to the lowest worker. We South Indians are managing fertiliser plants like Sindri from top to bottom. When that is so, why has this been put in here?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Because they have moved northwards!

Shri Warior: It is not that it is not advertised in local or all-India papers. It means that there is something radically wrong there. It may not be even emoluments. It is up to the Ministry to consider this.

Here is a pasage from which some slight inference can be drawn:

"The scrutiny of applications for a number of categories of posts by the relevant selection committees has disclosed that the calibre of applicants is not also particularly good."

This is adding insult to injury. We have not got many big projects there. This Neyveli project is the only isolated, single project which has been allotted to the whole of South India. In that respect, Kerala, Mysore, Andhra and Tamil Nad are all clubbed together. And in respect of this project, this is what they say. I do

not know what that scrutiny is, or the criteria applied in selecting personnel, because personnel from the same south India are found best for all other projects, even in the north.

At page 20 of the report, we find that:

"The total number of employees in the Corporation on the 31st March 1959 was 2,807, including 130 in the higher grades, and 1,077 in the intermediate grades."

All these, when added together, will give you a balance of only 800 or so in the last grade. The rest of the workers are all contract workers or piece-workers and casual workers. There are about 8,000 casual workers and 3,000 other workers under the contractors. We had discussed this problem only a few days earlier in this House. I would like to know how many out of these 8,000 casual workers or 3,000 other workers are getting the ordinary benefits at least as long as they are there. They may be casual workers but while they are casual, will they get the same amenities, the same accommodation and the same conditions of living and payment of wages etc. as the other workers, although they are not made permanent? I would like to know this because this project is going to continue for some time to come in the construction stage itself.

I understand that in the pilot project, there were 800 workers. I would like to know whether these 800 workers who were getting training in the pilot project have been absorbed at present. I would also like to know how many Scheduled Caste workers are employed in this project, at least in the class IV category, if not in the higher ranks; even for the higher ranks also, I would like to have the break-up, but at least among the IV category, I would like to know how many Scheduled Caste persons are there.

At page 21 of the report, I find that there is a reference to the construction of brick kilns, and it is stated there as follows:—

“There was a definite improvement in regard to supplies of bricks during the later part of the year and this was largely due to the special steps taken to persuade contractors to set up brick kilns not only on the lands leased for the purpose from the Madras Government but also on other suitable sites elsewhere.”

I am coming from a region which is noted for brick work. We have had experience of it for the last eighty to hundred years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why this work has been given to the contractors, and why it could not be done departmentally, because it is such a simple process, and there is not much of mechanisation etc. in this. For want of bricks, the entire programme of building construction is going at a snail's pace. This is not something which has to be imported. You just take some raw earth, put some water in it, and then put it in the kiln, and you get the brick. We had done this even from the time of Mohenjadaro. I would like to know why it could not be done now. If we say that there is delay, the delay is not to be attributed to lack of materials or lack of experts and other things; if these small matters could be attended to, then the delay could be removed to a great extent. If the bricks are not ready, the result will be that when the machine comes, there will not be the site for it. That is the position now. We also find at page 21 of the report that:

“After firm orders have been placed for the supply and erection of plant, machinery and equipment for the Fertiliser Unit and the Briquetting and Carbonising Schemes, and the dates of delivery and erection of the Plant etc. are known.....”

—the dates are not known now—

“...the time-schedule for the entire Project will have to be revised and the works programme adjusted suitably.”

We expect and we wish that this Neyveli project will go into operation by the end of the Second Five Year Plan; that is by the end of December, 1961 this project ought to have come into operation. But we know that there are certain lapses. We know difficulties are coming in the way. The apprehension is not that it will not come in the Third Plan. I was only referring to these smaller matters—not the bigger things. The apprehension is that by these small matters this will be delayed and delayed and the snail's pace will be kept. There will be excuses and explanations. Our apprehension is that there will be more delay than is envisaged. Even now, we are not on firm grounds as far as the orders and supplies are concerned. That is why we want to speed up. We are not decrying what they have achieved. We want things to be expedited. Then only the South will be benefited in time.

Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug): Sir, till now the representatives from Madras have taken part in the debate.

Shri Tangamani: Shri Warrior is from Kerala.

Shri Mohammed Imam: I want to say that it is the concern not merely of the people of Madras; the entire South is interested.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Puri): North also.

Shri Mohammed Imam: North has plenty of scope. It is said that South India is a tract in which very little coal is available and on this ground many big projects like the Bhilai steel plant are located far away from the South. It is our misfortune that not a single steel plant has been located

[Shri Mohammed Imanm]

in the South. It is our good fortune that lignite, the substitute for coal, has been discovered near Madras. All our hopes of industrialisation in the South are based on the proper development of these lignite mines. Due to the absence of coal in the South, the industrial development there depends mainly on two things: mines and hydro electric projects, which supply, what is called 'white coal'.

The development and working of these lignite mines are beset with many difficulties. A good deal of overburden and soil has to be removed. I am not yet sure whether the removal of overburden had been completed. From the report I find that the entire survey work has not been completed. Secondly, mining of lignite and its subsequent processing are attended with many dangerous consequences. Lignite itself is a dangerous stuff as it cannot be taken out and exposed. If it is exposed, I think it burns itself, it will become ashes. As soon as it is taken out, it is necessary that it is carbonised and briquetted. Unless it is done, it will have no commercial value. If briquetting is not to be done simultaneously with excavation, the mine will have to be a failure. From the report I find that the Government had not succeeded in getting the briquetting plant. I find that we were able to get a small pilot plant for briquetting purposes but even that has not been put into use sufficiently. Unless this plant is obtained, I am afraid the lignite that will be excavated will not be of much use. I find that they have made only half hearted attempts in these things. They have still to place an order for much of the machinery that has to be imported. Everything is still in a preliminary stage though nearly Rs. 17 crores had been spent. Another nearly Rs. 18 crores have to be spent. But everything seems to be in a preliminary stage. Even now the persons in charge, the persons who are responsible for development feel that they are not confident of this. This is a

process which has to be tackled by technicians. I find from the composition of Board of Directors that there are retired I.A.S. men and others.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member must try to conclude now.

Shri Mohammed Imam: Sir, give me two minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member had two minutes from the beginning.

Shri Mohammed Imam: They may be very good as administrative officers, but how far these retired IAS officers can tackle technical problems or problems which are of a complicated nature is a thing about which I have my own doubts. I do not know what kind of technicians they have, or experts they have, but I wish that in all such cases they get a good mining engineer who is an expert and who is put in charge of the whole thing. Often, Sir, these civilians overdo things and make a mess of the matters. They will also not have the confidence of what they do. They lack the technical knowledge.

I submit, Sir, to the hon. Minister, that this is a really great fortune, a great find, which will go a long way in developing the industries in the south. But, Sir, it must be put in competent technical hands and the necessary resources, machinery and other things must be made available immediately so that it may be in a working position.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this opportunity of a debate on the report presented by the Lignite Corporation, because this gives an opportunity to assess the performance that has already been made. And, quite naturally, apart from what is contained in the report, a great deal has been said—it is quite understandable—about the progress at the present moment. "What is the total achievement that has been reached so far and what are

the expectations?", these are questions which have been very prominently raised, and these are pertinent questions. Sir, on the whole, the debate, if I may say so, has been very friendly and the approach has been constructive, and that appears to be the only approach when we are dealing with a complex and integrated project of the type that we are endeavouring to set up and install at Neyveli.

Before I actually come to the points which have been raised by hon. Members, I am sure that the House would be interested to have some idea of the type of work that is being handled and, particularly, the performance that has been achieved up till now and the schedule for the future. These are, obviously, matters of great interest, and I would therefore very briefly endeavour to apprise the House about the position. Before I do that, Sir, I may be permitted to recapitulate in a certain measure the salient features of this project. Hon. Members who come from the State of Madras or from the adjoining States are familiar with the various aspects of the problem, but I think it is good to recall them so that we might be able to judge the actual performance in the light of those complex factors.

There are two or three factors which have to be prominently kept in view. One is that which was mentioned by Shri Mohammed Imam, namely, the nature of lignite. Lignite, if I may submit, is not like coal which you can mine and keep at the pit-heads. Even with regard to coal, there are limitations. We cannot stock above a certain quantity and beyond a certain period of time. But so far as lignite is concerned, it cannot be kept after being mined, and therefore, it has to be used quickly. Whether it is used in a thermal plant or in any carbonising or briquetting plant or in a fertiliser plant or for some other purpose, the essential thing is that it has to be used as soon as it is mined.

The second characteristic of lignite is that it cannot be transported over

long distances. Therefore, its consumption has to be at the same point. These are the two essential things which have to be kept in mind with regard to lignite.

Added to this difficulty, although these lignite deposits are rich, the engineering problems and the mining problems are greatly complicated by the upward thrust of artesian wells there. The upward thrust of water is so large that it is kept in check by the huge over-burden which is above the lignite seam. As soon as the overburden is removed, then there has to be a very continuous pumping to depress the upward pressure of water. Otherwise, the whole thing will be pushed up. The entire mine would be flooded, and we will not be able to mine anything. So, it is not only that the commodity is of such a nature that we cannot mine it in larger quantities, we cannot stock it or transport it, but even for mining it is very necessary that the upward thrust of water has to be kept in control by continuous pumping. Now, it will be appreciated that all this really means timings and coordination of all these factors.

In addition to these remarks, I would submit that there are some points which ultimately set the limit for production. Having given in some detail the nature of lignite and the difficulties of mining, I would mention that the progress has to be so regulated that there must be a consumption unit ready, and the mining has to be in step with that consumption unit. Viewed in this perspective and in this background, some of the criticisms regarding the removal of the overburden or the utilisation of lignite will disappear.

To illustrate this matter further, even if it were possible to step up the removal of overburdens, then that means that we expose the lignite seam and the little overburden left to the larger upward thrust of water which means more pumping and more expenditure and that should not be undertaken unless the arrangement

[Sardar Swaran Singh].

for utilisation of lignite is ready. I am not giving any defence for this delay or that delay. I am happy to recall that hon. Members themselves were somewhat apologetic when they were making their points in respect of their dissatisfaction and they were keen to qualify their remarks by saying that they were only smaller matters of criticism. It was quite rightly so, because that broad perspective was before their eyes when they were offering those points of criticism. We have to judge the actual performance and the actual physical achievement in any particular sector in relation to another sector. Therefore, the whole thing becomes integrated.

Having said this much, I would now venture to give a clearer picture as to how this is now unfolding itself very surely and in a very systematic manner. The first unit that will utilise the lignite is going to be the thermal power station. The thermal power station, as has been already explained, is being installed there in conjunction with the Soviets. We have got a credit arrangement and the civil work is fairly well advanced, it should be ready in time for the turbines and other equipment that would be ready. According to the estimate, the first generating set of this thermal power station which is being erected will be commissioned by September, 1961 and the remaining units by September, 1962 or so. This sets a limit to the mining programme. There will be a total of five units.

After a certain depth in the removal of over-burden is reached, the pressure on pumping becomes too high. On that point also, I would give first the factual information. Up to the end of October, 1960, a total volume of 14.85 million cubic yards had been removed, against the target of 15.69 million cubic yards. It will be appreciated that the shortfall is only to the extent of 0.85 million cubic yards, in a total of 15.69 million cubic yards. The House will readily appreciate

that this is a creditable performance, regard having had to the fact that bucket-wheel excavators were commissioned a little later and the original task of removal of over-burden was mostly by conventional machinery. We have been fully assured that by the time the first unit and the subsequent units of the thermal power station would get ready for consuming the lignite, lignite would be available. All that is tied up in a very complete manner and this, therefore, also sets a pace to the mining and removal of over-burden.

Shri Tangamani: Will lignite be available in September, 1961?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Very definitely. According to our latest estimate with regard to mining of lignite, by September, 1961 the first unit of the thermal power station will require about 0.3 million tons only. By December, 1962, we hope the entire power station would be ready and its total requirements would be 1.5 million tons. In February and March, 1963, there will be an additional quantity required of about half a million ton for the fertilizer plant. That will take us to about 2 million tons.

Shri Tangamani: After the two turbines which are coming are commissioned?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is that expansion programme. The details of the size are being worked out, but there will be an expansion programme also. So, it will be appreciated that utilisation sets a limit to mining. In this context we have to view the whole thing in an integrated form.

Now, the House naturally would like to have an idea about the fertilizer plant. On the basis of global tenders, Government have sanctioned the establishment of a fertiliser plant at Neyveli at a cost of a little over Rs. 26 crores. Contracts for the supply of plant and machinery with a West German firm and an Italian firm

were concluded on 27th October, 1959. It may be pointed out that acquisition of land required for the scheme has already been completed. Work for the completion of the various parts of the fertilizer unit is in progress and commercial production of urea is expected to be achieved by the middle of 1963. These are the firm dates with regard to the fertilizer plant.

With regard to the other two parts of this integrated scheme, namely, the briquetting and carbonising plant and the clay washing plant, some doubts have been expressed by the hon. Members. All I would say is that these doubts are without any basis. The correct position is this. So far as the clay washing scheme is concerned, on the basis of tenders received, the Corporation have already placed orders for the supply and erection of a plant and equipment for the clay washing plant. Other preparatory works connected with the plant's requirements of staff for construction, operation and maintenance of the plant are in progress.

Shri Tangamani: What is the estimated expenditure on clay washing?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the actual time-schedule for this is concerned, it is expected to be ready by September 1961. This is the correct position with regard to this. The scheme is expected to cost Rs. 15 lakhs.

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): We will get clay before we get lignite.

Sardar Swaran Singh: We should. Otherwise, there will be a serious failure.

With regard to the briquetting and carbonisation plant I would be frank and say that the original estimates of cost appear to be very much on the low side.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): They are always on the low side.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, unfortunately. But I do not grudge it at all. It is easy really to over-estimate and then get a good chit from the hon. Member that the actual expenditure is less than the original estimate. But that, perhaps, is not good for the country. The original estimates appear to have been very much on the low side and the figures that have been arrived at as a result of the global tenders indicate that the cost is likely to be much higher than the original estimate. The difference is quite considerable.

Shri Tangamani: The original estimate was Rs. 11 crores.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Now it is more than doubled. We are examining the figures. This matter has been before the Board and before the Government because the foreign exchange involved in this and the economics of this have to be carefully scrutinised. Foreign exchange has to be obtained for this and, therefore, this matter is now in a crucial stage. It is being examined very carefully to see as to whether the amount that has been quoted by the suppliers is realistic, whether there is any scope for reducing that amount or whether there is any scope for reducing certain items which ultimately will reduce the cost. All those points are being gone into very carefully and a final decision will be taken before long. This gives the factual position with regard to the various components of this integrated project. From this, it will be seen that everything possible is being done to push this project with the utmost speed. The desire of hon. Members for more speedy action, I can appreciate and I value that. But, I hope, regard being had to all these different complex aspects of this project, they will readily come to the conclusion that the progress that has been made so far is creditable.

17 hrs.

Some general points were raised. It is not my intention to go into each

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

one of them separately. But, there are some points which I might mention. Something was said about the Board of Directors. The hon. Member Shri Sampath said that a Minister from the Madras State should be on the Board of Directors. I do not know whether he has changed his opinion with regard to Members of Legislature serving on the Boards of Directors of State undertakings. Because, here, in Parliament, we have undertaken a legislation that membership of a Board of Directors for a Member of Parliament will be a disqualification. That is why I have lost the services of my valuable colleague Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman, who so ably headed the Board of Directors as Chairman for a long period and gave a great deal of strength to this project. But, he had to resign because Parliament in their wisdom took a decision that membership of a Board of Directors was a disqualification. I do not know what are the rules with regard to incurring disqualification by Members of the Madras Legislature. The Parliament of our country having set a certain pattern, I think the expectation is that the State Governments should follow the same.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The same law applies to all.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know how he could make that suggestion. Normally he is very vigilant.

Shri Tangamani: He was for associating the State Governments much more into the picture. That was the main point.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If two of their nominees are on the Board of Directors, there could not be greater association. But, he was something more explicit than that. He said it should be by association of a Minister in the Board of directors. He is quite satisfied with the association of the Central Government if we put non-Ministers or non-Members of Parliament. But, for the association of the

Madras Government, according to his yardstick, unless there is a Minister there is no adequate association, is an argument, the logic of which is not easy for me to comprehend. There is, if I may say so, the closest co-operation and understanding between the Government of Madras and the Central Government. I would like to say that the Madras Government has been extremely helpful. I must say that, situated as Neyveli is, but for the constant attention, help and guidance which is always forthcoming most ungrudgingly from the Madras Government, this project would not have made the success that it has already made.

Something was said about civil servants being on the Board of Directors. This is a matter which comes up again and again.

An Hon. Member: Jack of all trades and master of none.

Shri Mohammed Imam: A civil servant is expected to know every branch of industry.

Sardar Swaran Singh: For a particular management, there is a limit up to which technical knowledge as such is of value. It is a general management problem. Just as hon. Members, although they are not technical people, make very valuable suggestions about how an industry is to be managed, I think we can also extend the same principle to others that they can also run and manage an industrial undertaking.

The hon. House would be interested to know this. In the Board of Directors, we have now lost Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman.....

An Hon. Member: Lost?

Sardar Swaran Singh: From the Board of Directors, The loss of the Board is the gain of Parliament because he can devote greater time here. Besides, instead of Dr. Nagaraja Rao, we have got Dr. Kane, who is Senior

*Neyveli Lignite
Corporation Limited*

Industrial Adviser, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. We have got two representatives of the Madras Government. We have got Shri C. R. Damodaran, who is Principal of the P. S. G. College of Engineering at Coimbatore. We have got Shri G. Ramanujam, Vice-president of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, a labour leader. So, there is a good sprinkling of public men, labour leaders and administrators, and on the whole I think the board has functioned extremely well.

Something was said about this rail link. I am sure their presentation of the case should receive very sympathetic consideration. Depending upon the availability of over-all resources, the desire to provide the transport facility is there. The limitation is the availability of resources rather than any unwillingness to see the necessity or desirability of undertaking a project of that nature. From the very nature of the case, I cannot throw more precise light on this matter.

Something was said about amenities for workers and difficulties in the township. Shri Sampath is a brave man. He says there are no facilities for holding public meetings, but he was able to convene a meeting and address the workers.

Shri Sampath: Not that. I conducted that meeting just on the outskirts of the town where half the people from Neyveli had to come by walk.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Being a great leader, probably he attracts such a large crowd that the meeting has to be held outside the town.

I am sorry to note that he has pointed out some defects in the buildings etc. I will pass on his observations to the project authorities, and whatever the shortcomings are, they will certainly be attended to. But I must say that on the whole I was well impressed by the general lay-out of the township and the general standard of buildings. I am lucky and have the privilege to be associated

with a number of projects, and I can say that on the whole the standards of construction of houses and the general lay out of the township is pretty good. Also, the cost of construction there compares very favourably with construction at other places. If there are leaking roofs or minor cracks anywhere, I am sure they will be attended to.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: He also complained of lack of barber shops.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He says that that has been rectified.

About acquisition of land, more than one hon. Member made some reference, but they also cautioned us that it is public money and it has to be spent only in the correct manner. That is as it should be. There is a law with regard to payment of compensation. The Madras legislature had passed an enactment. Then there is a regular procedure for assessing the quantum of compensation. Neither Parliament nor the State legislatures have yet bestowed any powers on any Government just to give money simply because somebody says he has to be given more. This has to be assessed according to certain rules and legislation. People have got the right to go to courts, and similarly Government has also the right to go to court to put forward its viewpoint, not because it is callous but because it owes a responsibility. It is public money which has to be utilised for good purposes, and therefore that should not be grudged at all.

With regard to recruitment, I can understand why the sensitiveness of some hon. Members has been touched when it was said that suitable persons with the requisite amount of training and calibre were not found. I am ready to say that so far as the general availability of workers is concerned, there are fairly large number of people there, both literate and otherwise. I would also like to say that people in that locality and the surrounding areas are hardworking. Generally, their level of performance is very good.

Shri Tangamani: Some credence must be given to what we have stated. We said certain things on the basis of reports we have received. There has been discrimination.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He would not have got up if he had the patience to hear what I was going to say. I tried very carefully to understand what his objection was. I was unable to follow it. This is a project where it cannot be said that a very large number of people from other parts of the country have gone in. Apparently, that was not in their minds. If that is not what they meant, then, obviously, the project authorities have got the duty to see that they take the right type of men for the right type of job. If for any particular job at any particular time, the right type of men were not available, and if they mention that, then that should not be grudged at all, because, after all, when we pay public money, we must have the right type of men. Even with the best of intentions, no one is born as an accountant. To be an accountant, one has to be trained. If persons with the requisite training were not available, and they picked up people and gave them that training, that should not be a matter for criticism at all.

Then, it was said that there is a large number of workers, and hon. Members did not know how many of them were permanent and how many of them were daily-rated. That is the usual story with regard to a project where both construction and operation go hand in hand. It is a very favourite subject, particularly for hon. Members opposite who put forward that objection. For any big project, we have first to make a beginning, and construction has to start. When people come even for constructing a township, their suggestion is that there should be accommodation for them, even before the work starts or even when the work starts, there should be accommodation for each worker. I think in construction matters we must be recon-

ciled to this hard fact that some of them at least in the construction stage will have to deny themselves of the comfort and the pleasure of being accommodated under a roof or in houses which are the normal concomitants of a working project; and the difficulties of the construction stage have to be fully appreciated.

I have seen myself this project, and I go there quite often. The amenities that are provided there are good. I was rather pained to hear some hon. Members saying that there is difficulty even with regard to drinking water and the like. That is farthest from truth, because I have myself seen there that both at the place where they are working as well as at other places, all these facilities are available, and available in abundance.

I think I have covered all the points made by hon. Members. In conclusion, I would say that this is a project to which the Government of India attach very great importance, because this is an area which is situated far away from the main coal-producing centres. The people there are good, and if these power resources are developed, it will give a great fillip to industrial growth in that part of the country, and we wish this project all success.

Shri Tangamani: I am glad that several Members of this House took part in this discussion. I would have been gladder still if the Members from different parts of the country also had made their contribution. Anyway, the question of Neyveli and the integrated aspect of the project have been fully focussed upon.

I am grateful to the hon. Minister for giving us a firm date about one or two things. He said that the thermal plant will go into operation by the end of 1962, that is, all the five units would go into operation by that time. He has also indicated that the power potential is going to be increased.

As regards the fertiliser plant, he has said enough. But the disturbing thing which I would like the House to realise and which I want to tell you is about the carbonising and briquetting scheme. From 1956 onwards, we have been told about this carbonising and briquetting plant, and there has been a pilot scheme also. When the Madras Government took up this issue, the question of the various uses to which these briquettes could be put had also been very much popularised.

17.14 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

I remember that in 1958, during the budget discussion, the hon. Minister referred to this carbonising and briquetting plant. Again, on 11th August, when the discussion on the report took place, he referred to the total amount involved, which was likely to be Rs. 11 crores, the foreign exchange content being Rs. 6½ crores. In the annual report now, we find that we need not have to spend this foreign exchange, because we shall be able to get all the materials indigenously. Today, however, the hon. Minister tells us that Government have invited global tenders, and after receiving these global tenders, he has said that the total amount may be Rs. 22 crores or more. So I want to know whether this is going to be shelved. If that is so, it is going to be met with great disappointment by the people of the south who are expecting very much from this integrated plant. This is a disturbing aspect of the reply that he has given.

Sardar Swaran Singh: May I clarify that it is not going to be shelved? Let him take that from me.

Shri Tangamani: I am much obliged to him. Anyway, we would like to have a firm date for this, as he has been pleased to give a firm date, about the other three units.

As regards the railway link also, although he could not commit himself, we are grateful to him for his statement that he will exert his influence for getting priority for it.

Again, there is a disturbing thing about the question of recruitment of casual labour. Not only one Member but several Members have raised that point. It is a very remarkable thing that we find in the statement that clerks, stenographers and section officers are not being recruited because they do not find qualified men. If this is the position in a State like Madras or in the southern region or throughout this country, there must be something radically wrong with the Selection Committee which says that it is not able to get good accountants, good clerks and good section officers. It is a very very remarkable thing. It is put in black and white in the report itself. As I said, there must be something radically wrong with the Selection Committee.

The hon. Minister did point out that there are certain employment exchange recruitments. About that, I am not saying anything. But when the Selection Committee actually comes and says that it could not recruit proper men, it is a matter requiring looking into. On the question of technical men, there has been the report, rightly or wrongly....

Mr. Speaker: So far as the Public Services Commissions are concerned, they are governed by rules and regulations. Employment exchanges are under the department. If hon. Members want to go and see the various places in various parts, let them go and see how many applications have been received and on what basis recruitment has been made. It is better to understand the activities of every department. Then questions may be avoided in the House.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Questions are generally welcome because they throw up good points. Government always endeavour to supply all possible information to hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker: What he wants to know is why in a State like Madras it is difficult to get competent stenographers and clerks. It is rather strange. How many applications have been received and why were they rejected?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is from the Report of 1958-59. Whatever was the position at that time, I can assure him that the Neyveli Lignite project will not suffer for want of clerks, stenographers and the like.

Shri Tangamani: Again, take the question of technical personnel. Several Members have referred to it. I would like the hon. Minister to pay special attention to this. Complaints have been received....

Mr. Speaker: I believe some Members of this House are also associated with the directorate of the Corporation.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Our colleague, Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman, was Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any other Member?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Now Parliament in their wisdom have ruled that directorship of this is a disqualification for Members of Parliament.

Shri Tangamani: Then there is the question of casual labour and also contract labour. This is also a matter which cannot be easily dispensed with, because there are 8000 casual labourers and 2000 contract workers. I would like to have the break-up, whether they are only doing building construction or also other work. My information is that they are doing all other types of work. Ultimately they will have to be absorbed when it goes into production. In such important projects, people are not just class IV or unskilled labour after they have worked so long; as a result of their working there, they become much

more skilled. So it becomes necessary in the steel plants and in Neyveli to have a pool of these workers and give them all facilities so that they can be absorbed in other projects also.

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Another point which was raised for which we have not got the reply is about the number of workers who are now on the rolls who get the benefit of provident fund.

I would request the hon. Minister through you to look into some of these points like recruitment and the briquetting and carbonisation scheme and do the needful.

Mr. Speaker: I will now put it to the House. I do not know whether this is right. We have adopted it from the House of Commons practice. I am thinking of devising a method. I am putting it to the House after it has taken note of it.

Sardar Swaran Singh: You can, perhaps, say, "This House has taken note".

Mr. Speaker: That is what it means. Takes note means has taken note. They both mean the same thing.

Shri Rane (Buldana): The announcement by the Speaker is quite sufficient.

Mr. Speaker: Now, I will put it to the House.

The question is:

"That this House takes note of the Annual Report of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited along with the Audited Accounts for the year 1958-59, laid on the Table of the House on the 29th February, 1960."

The motion was adopted.