

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, the 5th April, 1961/Chaitra
15, 1883 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. Speaker: Secretary may call out the name of Member who has come to make and subscribe the oath or affirmation under the Constitution.

Secretary: Shri Balraj Madhok.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I am glad to introduce to you and to the House through you, Shri Balraj Madhok, who has been returned to this House from the New Delhi Constituency.

[Shri Balraj Madhok then made and subscribed the oath in Hindi and took his seat in the House].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Coal Supply to Assam

*1316. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the short supply of coal to Assam; and

(b) what are the reasons and what steps are being taken for the normal supply?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Consumers in Assam generally draw their supplies from collieries in the State itself and there is adequate coal production in that State to meet their requirements. There has been generally no complaint of short supplies to consumers.

77(Ai) LS—1.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether a deputation of the Assam Coal Mines Association met the hon. Minister during December last year and represented that on account of the fall in the f.o.r. price of coal, the mines are in difficulty? If so, what steps have Government taken in this matter?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The present question related to short supply. Probably the hon. Member has in mind excess supply so that there is not enough off-take of coal from the various collieries. That is a separate question.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The deputation pointed out that on account of the reduction in price, some of the coal mines have had to reduce their production and one or two mines have been closed. There is also short supply. May I know whether Government have considered their case?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member has got some experience and familiarity with the mining conditions in Assam, and I need hardly enlighten him about the complex problem that is there. But mainly it is the transport problem, because many of the areas are not connected by rail-head and there are problems of movement of coal in Assam, because some coal is mined from areas where there is no railway line at all. So there are occasional difficulties of movement by truck etc., but those points are receiving constant attention.

Shri P. C. Borooah: In view of the poor condition of the collieries in Assam, would Government consider the desirability of giving a subsidy as they have done in other cases?