

Steel, Mines and Metals recommending more use of coal?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Ponnambalam): (a) It is not possible to give the cost of diesel traction as compared to steam traction as the cost depends on a number of factors such as investments required, cost and availability of the respective fuels, conditions and characteristics of each section especially gradient, the density of traffic, tram loads, etc

As a broad example, however, the cost of hauling 1,000 gross tonne-kilometres of traffic on the sections served from Ratlam Shed of the Western Railway, is estimated at Rs 2 88 by diesel and Rs 3 40 by steam traction, including the depreciation on capital costs of locomotives and sheds and all operating expenses

(b) The main criteria for switching over to diesel traction are its operational advantages over steam traction like better starting effort, hauling capacity for heavy trains, sustained power, greater acceleration and deceleration, longer availability in service faster and quicker movement, and elimination of en route stoppages for watering and fuelling

(c) Yes, Sir We are now self-sufficient in respect of Diesel oil, though during 1966, 12 per cent of the total consumption was met by imports

(d) Yes, Sir

Copper Mining in Andhra Pradesh

*1000. Shri K. Anirudhan.

Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:

Shri Umanath:

Shri K. M. Abraham:

Shri P. F. Esthose:

Shri Viswanatha Menon:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state

(a) whether prospects for copper mining are bright in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made by Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to develop copper mining in Andhra Pradesh?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) to (c) During the last few years, investigations for copper have been conducted by the Geological Survey of India in several districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Agnigundala region of Guntur district and at Yellambailu-Mailaram in Khammam District. Of these, 4 prospects at Nallakonda, Dhukonda, Bandalamottu (Bollapalle) and Peddagavalakonda in the Agnigundala region have been found promising. Accordingly, more detailed investigations involving exploratory drilling have been undertaken and on the basis of the data thus obtained, the National Mineral Development Corporation, the public sector company for development of mineral deposits, is preparing a feasibility study for systematic development and exploitation of Agnigundala deposits. A proposal for commercial exploitation of these deposits, in collaboration with a foreign company with experience of copper mining and production is also under consideration

Loss in Hindustan Steel Limited

*1001. Shri Sidheshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 241 on the 2nd June, 1967 and state

(a) whether any study of over-staffing in the Hindustan Steel Ltd has been made,

(b) if so, the findings thereof and whether any steps have been taken to improve matters; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to make the different units of Hindustan Steel Ltd independent?