

Shri Tyagi: Do the violations attributed to us pertain to air space of China proper or air space over the Ladakh area, which has been forcibly occupied by the Chinese?

Shri Krishna Menon: In the letter that I have mentioned, all the meridians are given and they pertain to this territory.

Expansion of Rourkela

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*93. { **Shri Kolla Venkaiah:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Basumatari:
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant was discussed with the West German authorities;

(b) if so, the cost of expansion;

(c) ways and means of meeting the costs;

(d) the attitude of the Bonn authorities; and

(e) when the expansion will be taken up?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) to (e). It has been decided to expand the capacity of the Rourkela Steel Plant from 1 million tons to 1.8 million tons of ingot steel during the Third Plan period. The expansion of the Plant is estimated to cost about Rs. 90 crores of which about Rs. 50 crores will be in foreign exchange. The West German Government have agreed in principle to granting a credit for meeting the foreign exchange cost of expansion, after certain action has been taken with a view to bring the existing plant to full working. This action is expected to be completed in about two months. Meanwhile, tenders for plant and equipment for the expansion

have already been received and are being scrutinised and the preliminary work at site is in progress.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that this credit which has been promised by the West German Government for the expansion project is conditional on the existing capacity of this plant first being worked to the full, in view of the fact that there has been a shortfall therein?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is not the exact condition. They want certain steps should be taken towards the attainment of the full target in the existing Rourkela plant and we are taking those steps.

Shri Kolla Venkaiah: May I know how much time will be taken for the finalisation of this expansion project?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have already stated that the tenders are under scrutiny and the preliminary work at site is in progress. With regard to the actual German credit, as soon as we take action on the Solveen Committee's report, I hope it will be possible to get clearance for the credit.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that out of the three steel plants under the Hindustan Steel Limited, the working of the Rourkela Plant is most unsatisfactory and if so, what are the reasons for expanding that steel plant with the help and advice of the same people?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am afraid, Sir, I cannot go into the causes of the shortcomings in the existing plant under this question. But, there have been certain difficulties and we are overcoming those difficulties. As far as the plant is concerned, I can say that it is one of the first-class plants that we have.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether according to the progress made so far it is expected that this expansion programme would be completed by the

end of the Third Five Year Plan as envisaged?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am afraid, there may be a slight spill-over into the fourth plan.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know how many more German experts will be needed for this expansion work, and whether it is also a condition that they will send their experts for this particular work in this steel plant?

Shri C. Subramaniam: For the actual expansion work I am unable to give the exact number of German experts who will be required.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: It has been answered. The hon. Member asked how many more experts will be required and the answer was that it is not possible to give the exact number.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is it a condition laid down for this particular work? I want to know whether the country will again be flooded with experts from Germany.

Mr. Speaker: If that is a condition he should have known it.

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not with reference to the expansion work, it is with reference to the working of the existing plant that a few more experts are required. That is a different question altogether.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if it is a fact that the Solveen Committee has pointed out certain serious defects in the plant and, if so, whether it is a fact that the West German Government has linked up the question of expansion of the plant with the elimination of those defects, apart from achieving the rated capacity of the plant?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir, certain mechanical defects were pointed out in the plant which was originally supplied, and they have been rectified now.

Shri Hem Barua: What about the administrative defects?

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know whether the removal of the defects is linked up with the expansion work.

Shri C. Subramaniam: When they have already been rectified, there is no question of linking it up with this.

Oil in Eastern Bihar and West Bengal

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*94. {	Shri Subodh Hansda:
	Dr. P. N. Khan:
	Shri Basumatari:
	Shri S. C. Samanta:
	Shri Indrajit Gupta:
	Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
	Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seismic survey and aeromagnetic survey has shown oil-bearing area in Eastern Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that trial drillings were conducted by a West German team; and

(c) if so, when the actual prospecting will start?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No trial drillings have been conducted so far but a deep exploration well is proposed to be drilled in this area in the near future.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether it is a fact that certain technical data collected by the STANVAC Co., during their drilling trials in West Bengal has been sent to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for investigation and further research; if so, what is the result of the research conducted by them?

Shri Hajarnavis: The Canadian Company carried on only aeromagne-