

**Shri Thimmaiah:** In addition to our plants, the private sector washeries will be increased from 0.3 million tons to 2.2 million tons in one and in another from 1.5 million tons to three million tons.

**Shri Hem Barua:** He said there would be an increase from 3 million to 2 million. How is it an increase?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it from 3 to 2?

**Shri Thimmaiah:** From 0.3 million to 2.2 million.

**Mr. Speaker:** So, it is from 0.3 to 2.2. That is an increase. Next question.

#### Prices of Steel and Pig Iron

\*675. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 309 on the 1st May, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the retention prices of steel and pig iron for 1960-61 and 1961-62 have now been finally fixed;

(b) whether the prices conform to the recommendations of the Tariff Commission; and

(c) whether any fresh representations in this regard have been received from the private sector producers?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) and (b). The Reports of the Tariff Commission on the retention prices payable for pig iron and steel have been received and are at present under examination.

(c) No, Sir.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I would like to know whether any assessment has been made by the Tariff Commission about the cost of production per ton of steel in the private sector as well as in the public sector and, if so, what is its finding.

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** The report is under consideration. I

do not think I will be able to give those details now.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether it is a fact that the private sector producers have been given any sort of assurance that in case the Steel Wage Board which has been appointed now recommends an upward revision in the workers' wages this question of the retention price will be reopened again?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** This report is with regard to price for 1960-61 and 1961-62. Therefore, the questions which the hon. Member has put do not apply.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I am not referring to the Tariff Commission's report. I want to know whether the Government has given any assurance?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I require notice.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the report submitted by the Tariff Commission is provisional or it is the final report?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It is the final report; there is no question of interim report.

**Shri Morarka:** May I know whether the prices would be fixed retrospectively as they have been fixed till now or whether there is any proposal to fix the price prospectively also?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The report is with reference to 1960 to 1962, and we will have to fix for the future also.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** The Minister said that the report has been received and it is under consideration. May I know how long it will take for the Government to arrive at a decision?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Very soon.