

recoveries due to natural calamities, language disturbances, etc., and delay in the adjustment of compensation claims in the Western Region.

(c) Steps to recover the balance dues are being taken under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948, due consideration being given to cases where recovery proceedings are likely to cause hardship.

**Shri Rajeshwar Patel:** May I know what percentage of the loans and interest pertains to refugees from West Pakistan?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I think cases relating to the western region are Rs. 1.98 crores in 4670 cases.

**Shri Rajeshwar Patel:** What is the highest amount against a particular individual? Could he give the names of the top bracket persons from whom loans are still due?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Top bracket?

**Shri Rajeshwar Patel:** Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000, Rs. 1 lakh.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I do not have the details. If he gives specific notice, I will supply the information.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### Recommendations of Solveen Committee

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\*101. { **Shri Morarka:**  
**Shri Ravindra Varma:**  
**Shri K. C. Pant:**

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

(a) how far the recommendations of the Solveen Committee have been implemented by the Government;

(b) what has been done about those recommendations;

(c) the total amount spent in implementing those recommendations so far; and

(d) the amount still to be spent?

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**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) to (d). The main recommendations of the Solveen Committee related to the purchase of spare parts, rolling stock and equipment and the employment of additional foreign technical personnel to improve maintenance and operation. The spare parts and other equipment were estimated to cost about DM 41 million (Rs. 48.75 million). Orders for spares and equipment etc. of the value of about DM 20.7 million have already been placed and orders for the balance are likely to be placed shortly. Arrangements have also been made for the recruitment of additional personnel. The other recommendations of the Committee relating to specific units of the plant have also been implemented by Hindustan Steel Limited.

**Shri Morarka:** May I know whether any of the spare parts which have to be imported have actually been received by us so far?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** Yes. Some of them have already been received.

**Shri Morarka:** As a result of the implementation of the recommendations may I know whether production in the Rourkela Steel plant has improved?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes; it has considerably improved.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** How many additional German technicians have been actually employed in Rourkela since the Solveen Committee gave the report?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Forty more have contracted for. Out of them, seven have already joined. Others are on their way.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** May I know whether one of the recommendations of the Solveen Committee was that certain branches in Rourkela are over-staffed?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes. In certain branches there are more men than required. They would be absorbed during the expansion.

#### Demurrage Charges Incurred by Hindustan Steel

\*102. **Shri G. Mohanty:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry committee constituted in February, 1961 to investigate the circumstances in which heavy demurrage charges amounting to more than 47 lacs of rupees were incurred by Hindustan Steel Ltd., during the period from 1-4-1958 to 31-3-1961 have submitted their Report;

(b) what is the demurrage incurred by the Hindustan Steel Ltd., in the current year to-date?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demurrage incurred by Hindustan Steel Limited in the current year is as follows:—

	Rs.	
Rourkela Steel Plant—April & May 1962		1,59,872
Bhilai Steel Plant—April—Sept. 1962		5,54,204
Durgapur Steel plant—April—Sept. 1962		4,54,366

**Shri G. Mohanty:** May I know what are the findings of the committee, whether the committee has fixed up any responsibility and what steps the Government propose to take in that regard?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri S. Subramaniam)** Generally, this is due to the fact that the free time allowed is not sufficient to unload the wagons. There has been correspondence with the Railways. They are not agreeable to increase the free time. Every effort

is being made to unload as quickly as possible.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I submit that the answer given by the Minister is wholly unconvincing. Has the Committee given in detail the circumstances in which this heavy demurrage of Rs. 47 lakhs—it is not a small amount—was incurred? We should know whether the officials or whoever was concerned have been brought to book in the matter. The Government have no sense of urgency in the matter. I do not know why. We should know more about it. It is not a question of merely blaming the Railways.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** There are certain things in which we are making continued efforts to make improvements. The difficulty is, there is too much of bunching of wagons. They do not come regularly as scheduled. One day, they come in greater number. Therefore, there is delay in un-loading the wagons. We are trying to get adjustments from the Railways. I hope there would be improvement in the future.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I would appeal to you, Sir, that since the railways are responsible, you should direct the Railway Minister to enquire into this matter and see why some railway people are not brought to book. This is wholly,—I would not say 'criminal', but—near-criminal negligence.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Railway Minister is not here, but he must have heard about it.

**Shri Ranga:** This matter has been hanging fire for the past three years.

**Mr. Speaker:** Negligence or praise will be conveyed to him.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs can convey it. I hope he will convey it to the Railway Minister.