

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.