

Shri Ranga: Is it a fact that the Government of India have received repeated requests from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of a small steel plant near Kothagudium as well as other places in Andhra where there is plenty of Iron ore available?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; the question of having pig iron plants based in these areas is there under consideration, and licences have been issued to the private sector to set up a plant there.

Production at Rourkela Steel Plant

*359. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of production of various units of production of the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) what steps have now been taken to bring the plant to the level of the current emergency level productivity?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Production in the Rourkela Steel Plant has improved considerably. During October, 1962, production of pig iron reached 95 per cent of the rated capacity and that of steel ingots 75 per cent of the capacity.

(b) All efforts are being made to bring the plant to its rated capacity of production as early as possible. Some workshop equipment, rolling stock and spare parts required for improving operation and maintenance have been ordered. The services of some additional German technicians are being obtained for operation and maintenance of the plant.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the defects already noticed and the difficulties already experienced by the Rourkela steel factory have already been made good in order that the production may be maximised to the rated capacity?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): It has already been stated, even last month, as far as pig iron is concerned we have reached 95 per cent and 75 per cent in respect of steel. By the end of December it is hoped we will reach 90 per cent of the rated capacity.

Shri Maheswar Naik: In this connection, may I know whether the expansion scheme has already made any headway or it is yet to be started?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; the expansion of the project is also going through.

Shri Maheswar Naik: My question was whether it has already been started.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order—Shri Indrajit Gupta.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether there has recently been any break-down in the Rourkela plant's mill; if so, what was it due to and what is the present position?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There was a break-down in one of the motors. There is a second motor and it is running. We are trying to get the other thing repaired.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister stated in this House that Rourkela was, unfortunately, a "sick child". I want to know whether that defect has now been rectified and production is now in full swing?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; I can declare that it is no longer a sick child. It is a very healthy child and it is growing.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is the Minister in a position to state the comparative position with regard to production at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As I have already indicated before, Bhilai has reached its full capacity of production. As far as Rourkela is concerned, it has reached 95 per cent for pig iron

and 75 per cent for steel. There is keen competition between Rourkela and Durgapur and I hope both will win the race.

Shrimati Sarojini Mahishi: What is the additional output that shall be brought forth with the help of the German experts?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not a question of getting any additional output; it is a question of reaching the rated capacity with their assistance. It is being done.

Defence Needs of Woollen Goods

*360. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
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Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to gear up the woollen mills in the country to meet the defence needs in view of the national emergency?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 84].

Shri D. C. Sharma: What arrangements have been made for the import of wool tops and what will be the quantum of imports?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have already ordered our requirements for more than half year for running the whole industry round the clock. I would not like to disclose the figure.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It is stated in the statement:

"A co-ordinated plan embracing all sectors of the industry is being drawn up with a view to avoid any overlapping in the production."

What is the co-ordinated plan and what are the sectors covered by this plan?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The **Main** sectors are the composite mills making all the defence requirements, powerlooms in Amritsar and nearby places, hosiery plants in Ludhiana and other places and the spinning plants. There will be co-ordination between all the four sectors to gear them up to the defence requirements.

Shri Ranga: We hear that Australia and some other countries were good enough to offer whatever woollen materials that our Government would like to ask them. May I know whether Government have taken steps to see that imports are invited from those countries?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All friendly countries have been approached and their response is extremely well.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether it is a fact that the woollen industry in the States are not getting the requisite material to go in for full production? If so, may I know whether Government are taking active steps to see that there is import of woollen raw materials from outside?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That was the situation before the emergency because then wool was not considered to enjoy high priority. Now, as I have mentioned in the statement, the entire industry has been geared up to the defence requirements and it is receiving the top-most priority.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: What is the number of woollen mills in the country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About 22.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: In view of the fact that supplies from Tibet and Khandhar are not available, have Government made adequate arrangements to augment adequate supplies of raw wool from other sources?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Our present indents are far far larger than the small quantities that we get from those areas.