

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन का सवाल यह है कि टाटा के मुकाबले महंगा होगा या सस्ता होगा ?

Shri P. C. Sethi: There is no comparison.

Steel Plant in South

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- *418. { **Shri Morarka:**
 { **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**
 { **Shri Dharmalingam:**

Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 232 on the 16th November, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the Consultant appointed by the Technical Committee has submitted the Project Report for setting up a steel plant in the South; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) The Government has appointed a firm of Consulting Engineers to prepare the Detailed Project Report for the Neyveli-Salem Iron and Steel Project. The Report has not so far been submitted.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether on the basis of preliminary tests a decision has been taken in principle to set up a steel plant in the South?

Shri P. C. Sethi: Yes, Sir. The preliminary reports from Norway and East Germany were quite favourable and that is why the committee has decided to appoint consultants to prepare the detailed project report.

Shri Morarka: No doubt the consultants have been appointed, but may I know whether in principle it has been decided to set up a steel plant in the South?

Shri P. C. Sethi: If the economics would be feasible it would be set up.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know what is the term of reference to this committee and whether the consultants have visited various places to locate the plant?

Shri P. C. Sethi: The agreement has been finalised with the consultants and they would prepare the project report. Naturally they would visit and survey the places required.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: What will be the production in this plant and what will be the cost of this scheme?

Shri P. C. Sethi: In the initial stages, the production is envisaged to be three lakh to five lakh metric tons. As regards the cost, it would be decided only after receiving the project report.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the lignite found in Neyveli is useful for this steel plant and whether that aspect has also been considered?

Shri P. C. Sethi: Tests of this lignite have been carried out in Norway, Sweden and East Germany and they are found to be quite suitable.

Shri Vishram Prasad: May I know whether this technical committee has submitted a project report for South only or whether it has considered the problem of the North also?

Shri P. C. Sethi: They have considered only about the South.

Export Promotion Scheme for Handicrafts

*419. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the Export Promotion Scheme for handicrafts; and

(b) if so, the main features of this revision?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b)