

Zinc Smelter at Alwaye

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*531. Shri P. Kunhan:
Shri Imbichibava:

Will the Minister of **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any licence has been given to a Calcutta firm to set up a zinc smelter at Alwaye in Kerala with Canadian help;

(b) if so, the name of the firm which has been given the licence;

(c) the production capacity and employment potential; and

(d) the nature and extent of Canadian assistance offered in this connection?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (d). A licence has been granted to M/s. Cominco Binani Zinc Ltd., to set up a zinc smelter at Alwaye (Kerala) with a capacity of 12,000 metric tons of zinc per annum to be expanded subsequently to 20,000 metric tons per annum and proportionate quantities of bye-products viz. sulphuric acid and cadmium.

The project is likely to give employment to about 300 persons.

The Export Credits Insurance Corporation of Canada will make available to the Indian company a loan of Rs. 70 lakhs for import of plant and machinery. The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada will provide know-how, technical assistance, engineering services, designing and the training of personnel of the Indian company at a cost of about Rs. 39.5 lakhs. They will also participate in the capital of the Indian company to the extent of Rs. 84 lakhs.

Shri P. Kunhan: May I know when the factory is expected to go into production and what is the foreign exchange involved?

Shri Kanungo: The total cost of plant and equipment will be Rs. 104 lakhs out of which the foreign ex-

change component will be Rs. 39.5 lakhs. The plant is likely to go into production in a couple of years.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : यह फैक्टरी मिनरल ओर्स से कितनी दूर होगी और क्या दूसरी जगह से मिनरल ओर्स लाना होगा ?

श्री कानूनगो : हमारे यहाँ जितना हमें चाहिए, उतना मिनरल ओर्स नहीं होता है। उसे हमें इम्पोर्ट करना होता है।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: When the plant is in full production, may I know what would be the percentage of our demand which will be covered by this factory?

Shri Kanungo: Very small.

Titanium Factory at Trivandrum

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*532. { Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Titanium factory in Trivandrum owned by the Kerala Government is being handed over to the Tatas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Centre has approved this step; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Government of Kerala do not own the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., Trivandrum; they have only majority shareholding in the concern. The State Government have not decided to hand over the concern to Tatas.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether the Government of Kerala or the management of this particular firm has approached the Central Government for help in expanding this firm?

Shri Kanungo: The licence for expansion has been granted since quite

a long time. Unfortunately, the company is not in a position to acquire the necessary know-how and technical knowledge.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether recently the Minister of Industry in that State has approached the Central Government to help them to secure this know-how and foreign collaboration and all that?

Shri Kanungo: Yes. They have been constantly asking us for that. But the company has bungled in earlier stages and it is very difficult to do that.

Manufacture of Watches

*533. **Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any licence was issued to any Indian firm recently for manufacture of watches in collaboration with a Japanese firm;

(b) if so, the name of the firm;

(c) the main terms of collaboration with the firm; and

(d) where this factory will be located?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) No scheme for the manufacture of watches in collaboration with a Japanese firm has recently been approved by the Govt.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri Vishram Prasad: May I know what is the amount of money which has been spent for importing watches from foreign countries?

Shri Kanungo: At present, it is a very small fraction because we cannot just afford it. Normally, the import used to be the order of Rs. 29 lakhs. Now we are importing only watches worth Rs. 1,80,000.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Raghunath Singh rose—

Mr. Speaker: He did not stand up.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I wanted to stand up. I thought Mr. Hansda might put a question.

Manufacture of Watches in H.M.T.

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*535. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2364 on the 26th April, 1963 and state whether Government have made any production plan or progressive target for the manufacture of watches by the H.M.T. Factory keeping in view the great demand which has been created by its good quality in the markets?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): Yes, Sir. The production programme envisaged in the technical collaboration agreement with M/s. Citizen Watch Co., Tokyo, is as follows:—

Year	No. of watches	Indigenous content
1963-64	55,500	54%
1964-65	1,95,000	60%
1965-66	2,40,000	72%
1966-67	2,40,000	84%
1967-68	2,40,000	84%
1968-69 onwards.	3,60,000	84%

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the price factor has been kept in mind, and whether the prices of the watches will be reduced?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): I do not think that the prices should be reduced, because even the price at which it is being sold now is quite cheap.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know the percentage of share of the foreign firm in the profit earned by this collaboration?