

**Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.,
Ranchi**

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*182. { Shri Mohammad Elias:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi paid Rs. 36.26 lakhs in rent and penalty to the Calcutta port for not lifting its packages which remained uncleared for 12 to 14 months; and

(b) if so, whether the responsibility has been fixed for this negligence and appropriate action taken?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). It is true that the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. had to pay Rs. 36.26 lakhs on account of 'single' rent and 'penal rent' to the Calcutta Port authorities for delay in clearance of some consignments of plant and equipment received from the USSR during the period January, 1961 to September, 1963. Late receipt of shipping documents, receipt of defective documents, over-dimensional consignments and operational reasons like delay in survey and measurement by Port Commissioners and appraisal by the customs, restriction on railway bookings etc. were mainly responsible for this.

The question of streamlining the procedure about despatch of shipping documents etc. has already been taken up with the suppliers. For prompt and quick clearance of the consignments, two more clearing agents have been engaged. In addition, it is proposed to enquire into the circumstances which led to the payment of such heavy demurrage charges by the

Corporation in greater detail shortly, with a view to fix responsibility and to take appropriate remedial measures, wherever considered necessary.

Shri Mohammad Elias: I find from the statement that all the responsibility has been fixed on the Calcutta Port Commissioners; but it is reported that the Calcutta Port Commissioners have sent several reminders to the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, but they have not taken any action in this matter. It is assured in the statement that action will be taken. May I know whether action has been taken or whether any inquiry is being conducted now by the Corporation?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): Action has been taken for the purpose of improving the presentation of documents etc. I am sorry that this has happened; but we are trying our best to see that these things do not recur in future.

Shri Mohammad Elias: How long will it take to complete the inquiry?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Here the difficulty arose because of the documents which had to be sent by USSR which took some time to arrive here and some documents were found defective also. We have taken up the matter with USSR and they have also agreed to rectify these things. So, that would go. As far as clearance is concerned, we have appointed more clearing agents and I hope, hereafter these undue delays would not occur.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: How much demurrage has been paid for this delay and whether it has been decided..

Mr. Speaker: That is given in the statement.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: It has not been mentioned as to how much demurrage has been paid.

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is in the question itself.

Mr. Speaker: It is in the question and in the statement.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: The facts disclosed in this statement have all the makings of a major muddle in this matter. Would the Government be prepared either to appoint a committee of Members of Parliament or of experts to go into the whole question of the quantum of demurrage paid by them and what can be done to streamline the procedures which are existing and are responsible for the delay?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is a parliamentary committee which had gone into it i.e. The Estimates Committee. I do not know how the hon. Member thinks that another committee would improve matters.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: They only helped to detect it.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: What in terms of rupees is the actual value of the 12 to 14 packages that were there?

Shri P. C. Sethi: Rs. 18 crores.

Zinc Plant at Udaipur

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- *183. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishanchander Sethi.
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri D. D. Mantri:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are contemplating to enter as a partner in the establishment of the Zink smelting plant at Udaipur (Rajasthan); and

(b) if so, whether this plant will be in the public sector or in private sector?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri Thimmaiah): (a) and (b). The affairs of the Metal Corporation of India are under examination and Government have not come to any final conclusion in the matter.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: How much more time will be taken for finalising this matter and will both the Governments be partners or will it be left only to the State Government?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): It is under active consideration. I hope to take a speedy decision in this matter. As it is, only the State Government has participated.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What are the broad features of the proposal for the Central Government's participation and what are the main considerations necessitating such participation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The cost of the project has considerably increased now. Even though it is in the private sector, I find that it has increased by almost double. The original estimate was Rs. 670 lakhs and the present estimate is Rs. 1,163 lakhs, that is, almost double. It is in the private sector and therefore you cannot blame and say that this happens only in the public sector. They are unable to find the necessary finances for that. Therefore now we have to go into the feasibility of this project and see whether it is worth while for the Government of India to step in and take over this project.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया इसमें २० लाख रुपया लगा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें कितना रुपया केन्द्रीय सरकार देगी और कितना रुपया राज्य सरकार देगी। राज्य सरकारों से भी क्या कोई इस तरह की मांग की गई है।