

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let hon. Members ask for a discussion if they are so much interested in this question.

Shri Sonavane: In view of the ever-increasing number of zones in the railways and the top-heavy administration, would the Railway Minister consider the question of appointing a high-powered committee to examine the entire question of re-organisation of the railways, as suggested by the Estimates Committee in 1956-57 in its Nineteenth Report?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The disparities or contradictions between the various statements have to be clarified. Some say Shri Swaran Singh did so, some say Shri Dasappa did so and some say Shri Patil is doing so. I feel that the position should be clarified as to what Mr. X did, what Mr. Y did and what Mr. Z is doing.

Shri S. K. Patil: X, Y and Z were doing the same job and there is continuity of policy, so far as this question is concerned.

Steel Plant with Salem Iron Ore

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- Shri Sezhiyan:
 - Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 - Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 - Shri Kajrolkar:
 - Shri Dharmalingam:
 - *119. Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:
 - Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
 - Shri T. Subramanyam:
 - Shri Imbichibava:
 - Shri Kolla Venkaiah:
 - Shri Nambiar:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state the progress made so far in establishing a steel plant based on the Salem Iron Ore and Neyveli Lignite?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): The Detailed Project Report for the Neyveli-Salem Iron and Steel Project which

has been received recently is at present under consideration of the Government.

Shri Sezhiyan: Considering the fact that the steel target for the Fourth Plan is 18 million tons and the potential, including the Bokaro plant, of the existing plants is only 15 and odd million tons, resulting in shortage, and considering the fact that Dastur and Company have given their report which conclusively establishes the economics of that plant, may I know what prevents the Government from taking a final decision about the steel plant at Salem?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: It is true that the technical committee report has been received. But there is a lot of things to be examined before we take up finally the project.

Shri Sezhiyan: The hon. Minister of Steel and Mines is reported to have suggested at Hyderabad on the 9th August that the Chief Ministers of Madras, Mysore and Andhra should confer and agree about the location of the steel plant in the South. May I know whether the location of the steel plant is to be guided by the opinion of the experts committee or it should be left to the bargaining and persuasive powers of the Chief Ministers of the respective States?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: I was only speaking about the competitive spirit which each State was showing. I only said, "It is not desirable; it should be left to the technical people". Therefore, I appealed to the Chief Ministers to help us and not rake up this regionalism.

Shri E. S. Pandey: I want to know whether Bailadilla where a good lot of high-grade iron ore is available has been given any consideration by the Government for putting up the steel plant.

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: That aspect will certainly be considered for all

the three projects which are under examination, Goa, Hospet, Bailadilla, Visakhapatnam and Salem, all these will be considered.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the entire report of Dastur and Company will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: Yes, Sir; the report is there and I see no difficulty, but we will have to finish our examination and, naturally, take a decision before it is given to the House.

Shri T. Subramanyam: What is the percentage of iron content in Salem and Hospet ores?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: From the reports we have, Salem contains roundabout 35 per cent iron while Hospet contains roundabout 70 per cent.

Shri A. P. Jain: A big difference.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: In view of the high grade coke and coal that has been found in Chanda and Balharshah region, did the Government examine the prospects of establishing a steel plant in that particular region?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: This question is about Hospet, and Chanda and other places also are naturally not under consideration at present.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether the hon. Minister, while inaugurating the golden jubilee of the Hospet Municipality recently, stated that Hospet area will be given due consideration as it satisfies all the essential requirements to have a steel plant?

Shri Nambiar: We are dealing with Salem and not with Hospet.

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: I said that due consideration will be given to all the sites and the best one will be selected. That is what I said everywhere and am repeating it here.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: Though it is pertaining only to Salem, I would like to know whether it would be the policy of Government, because with the limited funds we can have only one plant immediately and the production of Salem plant will only be 1.5 million tons

Shri Nambiar: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: . . . to take into consideration the place where the plant will be highly remunerative before deciding about it.

Mr. Speaker: It is a good suggestion.

Shri Nambiar: Sir, the question was about a steel plant at Salem and now the question is diverted to make it appear as if it is counterpoised with another steel plant in Hospet or so.

Mr. Speaker: Does he want to ask a supplementary?

Shri Nambiar: Yes, I want to.

Mr. Speaker: Then, he might ask one.

Shri Nambiar: Not in view of this point of order.

Shri P. K. Deo: You should dispose of the point of order first.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the availability of lignite at Neyveli very near Salem is also a contributory factor for the successful operation of the steel plant at Salem?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: All aspects will be examined. I do not want to say anything more than that now.

Shri Umamath: May I know whether it is a fact that the technical committee has recommended the production of special type of steel in Salem

which would not be produced in Hospet or other areas; if so, where is the consideration of other Chief Ministers giving their opinion about its location in their places?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: No; my hon. friend is not completely correct. After all, first we have to produce steel and then convert it into special steel. That could be done at other places also and not only at one place.

श्री हुकन चन्द कञ्जवाय : मध्य प्रदेश के बस्तर जिले में काफी लोहा निकला है, ऐसी रिपोर्ट आई थी। उस सम्बन्ध में भी सरकार ने क्या विचार किया है ?

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो प्रलम्बता सवाल है ।

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: Already we have got a steel plant in Bhilai and Bailadilla also, I think, is somewhere in Madhya Pradesh. That will also be considered.

Shri P. E. Chakravarti: May I know whether the Government has worked out the financial involvement of setting up the plant and, if so, what will be its extent?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: We give the work of preparation of reports to different companies. The Salem report has come. As regards other reports, only preliminary reports are there. Therefore detailed reports will have to be secured. Then only I can answer the question.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What would be the output of this steel plant and is it going to be established at Salem or not?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered so many times that the whole question will be considered. Shri A. P. Jain,

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: I want to know the output and the size of the plant.

Mr. Speaker: Let that be considered first. Shri A. P. Jain.

Shri A. P. Jain: May I have the assurance from the hon. Minister that the decision about the location of the steel plant will be taken when full and complete reports about all the different projects have been received and that it will be absolutely on merits and not on political considerations?

Mr. Speaker: No assurance is to be asked for during the Question Hour.

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: All that I can say is, all the merits will be considered.

Shri S. Kandappan: How long will it take for the Government to study the Committee's Report.

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: I am not able to give any assurance like that.

Shri S. Kandappan: They have already taken 10 years for this.

Shri Alvarez: In view of the fierce competition between Madras, Mysore and Andhra, for the steel plant, may we have the assurance that Goa will also be given a fair consideration?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: Goa is under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question. Question Hour has been made more lively because of these two Questions.

Brao International Fair

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Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri P. C. Boreeah:
*120. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary: