

between East Pakistan and West Pakistan and at the same time might facilitate political intrusion into our country. May I know whether Government have taken this aspect of the problem of possible political intrusion into our country into consideration and whether this particular aspect will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Prime Ministers?

Shri S. K. Patil: This is the most important aspect. How does the hon. Member expect that Government might have lost sight of it.

Shri Hem Barua: It has not been replied to, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He should have no apprehension. Government is aware of this.

श्री भानु प्रकाश सिंह : इस विषय में अन्तिम निर्णय लेने में क्या पाकिस्तान की शर्तें कुछ बीच में रुकावट बन कर आती हैं ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : उसमें कोई ऐसी चीज नहीं है। बातचीत वगैरह अभी चल रही है और मौका आने पर रिप्लाय दे दिया जायेगा।

श्री भानु प्रकाश सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं मिला।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : फिर किसी वक्त सही।

Shrimati Bena Chakravarty: I want to ask him one question. In the railway link between East Pakistan and West Bengal cannot we put better carriages? Those that are already there are disgraceful.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually our links between Bongaon and Benupol and between Ranaghat and Darsana are constantly being improved and if there is going to be any suggestion offered by the hon. Member we shall examine them.

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Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant

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 Shri Bishanchander Seth:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia
 Shri B. P. Yadava:
 Shri Dhaon:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Yashpai Singh:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri B. N. Kureel:
 Shri D. J. Nalk:
 Shri Gulshan:
 Shri Vishram Prasad:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India in collaboration with the Government of U.S.S.R. are undertaking an expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3168/64].

श्री विश्वानन्दर सेठ : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि यह जो भिलाई स्टील प्लांट का एक्सपैंशन किया जा रहा है तो उस से कितनी उत्पादन की मात्रा बढ़ेगी और उस में कितना एनवैस्टमेंट होगा ?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: It is proposed to expand it to 2.5 million tonnes under the Third Plan. The expansion cost of it will be Rs. 1,770 million.

श्री विश्वानन्दर सेठ : यह गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से बनेगा या यह प्राइवेट सेक्टर में बनाया जायेगा ?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: It has nothing to do with the private sector. It is a public sector concern.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इसी प्रादरणीय सदन में माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह बतलाया

या कि इस से घाये माल को जब हम छुड़वा न सके तो 32 लाख रुपया डैमरेज की शकल में देना पड़ा तो यह डैमरेज जो इस तरीके से बिया गया है यह डैमरेज रुक जाय तभी ऐक्सपेंशन हो सकता है तो सरकार ने इस के लिए क्या उपाय किया है कि घायन्दा डैमरेज न देना पड़े ?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: I do not know if there is any demurrage. It does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Speaker: It does not.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: By what time the expansion programme will be completed and what will be the foreign exchange expenditure of the project?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: By the end of the third Plan we propose to complete the expansion and the foreign exchange is estimated to be Rs. 630 million.

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: In this expansion are we using the Indian machinery and parts, that is, are we utilising anything which will be manufactured at Hatia, Ranchi?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: To the extent possible we are trying to use them; it is only in the further expansion programme that we will be able to use anything produced in Ranchi. For the present, not much is being done for this expansion at Ranchi.

श्री गुलशन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि भिलाई स्टील प्लांट का ऐक्सपेंशन करने से देश की इस्पात की जरूरत पूरी हो जायगी ?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: The requirements of the country will continue growing; even after the increased production in all these steel plants our demand will still be there.

Shri Nambiar: Why should there be a foreign exchange expenditure to the extent of Rs. 630 million, when the barter agreement between Soviet Union and India is in rupee exchange?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: The machinery and other things which we are importing from Russia are perhaps taken into consideration.

Shri D. J. Naik: What will be the final additional production capacity by the expansion of the Bhilai Project?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: From one million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes in the third Plan.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In the statement, it has been observed that "as regards the steel-making facilities, the project report is yet to be prepared." May I know when it will be got ready and whether the hon. Minister will be able to place a copy of it on the Table of the House soon after it is prepared?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: At present, I am not able to say. I think in the further expansion scheme, we will be able to do it, that is, in the fourth Plan.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the steel-making facilities are being considered by Russian experts or by Indian experts or by a committee consisting of both, and by what time this report will be ready?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: The report is being prepared by our own technicians at Bhilai; we have a Design Cell there. With the assistance of the Russian experts our people have been doing that.

श्री हुकम चन्द कज्जबाब : मंत्री जी ने बताया कि इस ऐक्सपेंशन से इस कारखाने का उत्पादन काफी बढ़ेगा। इस तरह उत्पादन जो बढ़ेगा तो इस कारण क्या उस का बना हुआ सामान जनता को सस्ते दामों पर किफायत से मिलेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह दूसरा सवाल है ।

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: I have answered this question.

Export of Tea to Austria

*272. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Austrian Government have abolished import duty on tea; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to boost export of tea to that country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir, on tea in bulk.

(b) The Tea Board is undertaking a promotion campaign in Austria primarily projected towards (i) a programme of consumer sampling through Department Stores and (ii) an arrangement with the Austrian Coffee and Tea Importers' Association for publicising Indian tea.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether this abolition of the export duty has come about in pursuance of the policy of the GATT Conference; if so, which other countries have followed suit in abolishing or reducing this inter-tariff?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): Out of the 23 countries of the GATT which had import duty placed on Indian, Ceylon and all tea, 18 countries have abolished it—there is zero tariff now.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What was the import duty in that country prior to June 1964 and may I know what was our export of Indian tea to that country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: His question is not very clear. If he wants to know the figures about Austria we can give it. It varies from country to country. We can have a list

placed before you giving the figures in respect of all the 23 countries.

Shrimati Akkamma Devi: In view of the fact that the elevation and climate of Nilgris is best suited for the production of high-grown quality tea and as most of the growers here are small growers, may I know whether the Government will render adequate financial assistance to these growers to encourage them to bring about the maximum production of quality tea and add to our export trade?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have got every sympathy for the small growers and we will render all assistance to them.

Shri Shivaji Rao Deshmukh: We want finance.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: We follow.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: Apart from the measures that are being taken at present for boosting up our export to Austria, may I know what is at present, if any, our export of tea to Austria and if the Government expects it is likely to be boosted up after the measures that are being taken now?

Shri Manubhai Shah: While about 50 per cent of the tea going to Austria is from India, and the rest being from Ceylon and Kenya, efforts are now made due to the abolition of the duty to increase it. We have a special Tea Adviser appointed some time back. He has opened four depots. We are also having different types of restaurants now attached to the Tea Board for propagation of Indian tea.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that some of the countries import our tea and then they again export it to some other countries; if so, what steps have been taken by the