

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that small manufacturers of pig iron are finding it difficult to sell their pig iron in the market because of the imported pig iron and the pig iron supplied by Hindustan Steel? Do government propose to buy all the pig iron from them and distribute it according to their own choice? They are unable to compete in the market because of the price.

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: We did import a lakh of tons of pig iron from Russia because there was acute shortage. The price of local pig iron is about Rs. 300 a ton and that of imported pig iron is Rs. 390 a ton. But some smaller units about whom my hon. friend is referring are selling it at over Rs. 400 a ton. That is why they are not able to compete with the others. When the difference between units like these is Rs. 100 a ton, it will be difficult for them to sell it. Since there is enough stock, we have decontrolled it and there is no control either on price or on distribution.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know how many private parties have been given licences and what is the condition? Is the time-limit one of the conditions?

Shri P. C. Sethi: There are about 15 to 16 parties who have been given licences and the total capacity of the licences is about 2.5 million tons.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if these private parties also had any collaboration agreements with any foreign countries and if so, why is it that this foreign country has delivered the goods and the other foreign countries have not come to the help of those private factories?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: The Private sector units are making their own arrangements. For instance, Dempo or Chawgule of Goa have their own collaborators. Government only looks into the terms and if the terms are satisfactory, government approves of them.

Aluminium Substitution Programme

*547. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the programme of substituting aluminium in place of brass and zinc for the manufacture of utensils and for other industrial purposes, being undertaken with the U.N. Technical Assistance and Cooperation;

(b) whether the results of study of its economics are available; and

(c) if so, the important features of the same?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) to (c) The services of an expert under the United Nations Technical Assistance Board Programme were obtained to assist the Indian Industry for implementing a practical programme for substitution of copper and zinc in the manufacture of utensils. As a result it has now been possible for the Indian Industry to design and develop manufacture of thick bottomed aluminium utensils of modern design, capable of withstanding the severe cooking conditions prevailing in our country. Commercial production of such utensils is expected within the next few weeks. It is expected that the cost of production of these utensils will not be more than that of the conventional aluminium utensils. On successful implementation of this substitution programme, it is expected that the new utensils will be able to replace the brass utensils thereby saving the country substantial foreign exchange in imports of copper and zinc.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any study has been made as to the requirements of brass and zinc at present; if so, may I know to what extent foreign exchange will be saved by this programme?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of

Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): Sir, it is very difficult to give this information without notice. If notice is given, I can get the information. But usually the utensil manufacturers are using mostly scrap.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether Indian technicians are associated with such experts?

Shri Bibudhendra Misra: As a matter of fact, these experts visited the existing Indian industrial undertakings, those who are producing aluminium utensils, and it is only with their co-operation that all this is being done.

Shri Priya Gupta: By the introduction of aluminium as substitutes in this industry for the purpose of making utensils, may I ask how many workers employed in cottage industries producing Brass and Zinc utensils in the villages of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa and also other places will be displaced? May I also know what time the Government thinks it will take for them to pick up the new industry so as to give them alternative employment.

Shri T. N. Singh: The effort is not to displace the people who are employed, the effort is to displace the metal with aluminium.

Shri Priya Gupta: Sir, that is not the point. My point is this. When the metal is changed, the utensils will be produced by Industrial undertakings changed and people will go in for the cheaper aluminium utensils with the result that those who are making these utensils with the Brass and Zinc metal will be out of employment. I want to know what the Government is going to do for these people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Does he want an answer or not?

Shri Priya Gupta: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then he will have to sit down.

Shri T. N. Singh: Sir, the ordinary utensils manufacturers use, pressing,

forging and casting techniques. Aluminium will be amenable to all these techniques.

Coal Dumps

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*549. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 Shri Subodh Hansda:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for setting up coal dumps has not made any progress;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the World Bank Team had suggested a substitute scheme of wholesale dealers at the consumption centres;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(e) whether any final decision in the matter has been arrived at?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Thimmalah): (a) and (b). The scheme for the setting up of coal dumps has not made progress mainly on account of the following difficulties:

(i) increase in the retail prices of coal due to overhead charges in the maintenance of dumps;

(ii) inadequacy of dumping space and of approach roads;

(iii) the inability of State Governments to incur expenditure on the development of dump sites and on the improvement of approach roads; and

(iv) the loss and deterioration in quality of the coal due to double handling and storage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The suggestion for substituting the scheme of coal dumps by a system of wholesale dealers has been examined in consultation with the State Governments and other