

Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal

*423. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal have achieved the target of production set for them by March, 1962; and

(b) if so, the quantity and value of production so reached?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) As against the target of Rs. 350 lakhs fixed at the beginning of the year it is estimated that the value of materials produced in the factory up to the end of March 1962 was roughly over Rs. 200 lakhs.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the reasons for not achieving the target?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There are two reasons. One is the non-availability of raw materials and components, both imported and indigenous, and the other is strikes.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the extent to which indigenous raw materials are required for the purpose? What is the percentage of indigenous and foreign materials?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not have the break-up for the imported and the indigenous varieties of materials. As against an order worth Rs. 406 lakhs placed abroad and indigenous for materials to be supplied by March 1962, the actual receipt was only Rs. 143 lakhs.

Shri Tyagi: Are the Government proposing to start some ancillary industries connected with the Heavy Electronics? If so, how many are they and where are they going to be opened?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is not about Heavy Electronics; this is about Heavy Electricals.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: May I know the loss in production that has resulted from the strike in August last?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think there was a strike in August. There were two strikes, one in May and the other in February-March. I do not think I can make an assessment of the loss sustained because of the strikes. But if a separate question is asked, I may be able to give the information.

Shri P. R. Ramakrishnan: May I know whether any range of equipment has been reserved specially in the switchgear section for production in the Bhopal factory and whether the private sector is not allowed to produce the same?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would like to have notice for this question.

Shri Daji: With whom was the order for raw materials placed and why was the order not fulfilled in full?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Orders were placed with the UK manufacturers. There was considerable delay in getting the materials. In spite of continuous reminders it was not possible to get them in time.

Dr. Govind Das: The hon. Minister just now said that one of the reasons for not reaching the target is the strike. Does the hon. Minister know that there are elements in the factory which always encourage this sort of strikes? What steps are being taken so that it may not be possible for such elements to encourage strikes?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think I will agree with the hon. Member that there are elements which always encourage strikes. But I do agree that there have been strikes in this important manufacturing plant. I am hoping that it will be possible for us to evolve a labour policy which would avoid strikes.

Shri Dasappa: What were the items of production which were there in the original schedule of production and what are the items that are now being produced?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry I do not have those details here.

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee. There is one thing that I would like to say. I appreciate certainly those hon. Members who take part so actively in asking supplementary questions but they cannot expect me to call every hon. Member every time on every question. If I do not call him twice or thrice, he begins to talk while he is sitting and goes on asking those questions. I do not like that. I will ask him to desist from that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether it is a fact that the loss which was incurred due to the strike was compensated fully by the employees by observing a production fortnight and, if so, whether there is any truth in that.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir, a production fortnight was observed, but I do not think that the loss was fully made up. I do really appreciate the spirit behind it even though the full loss was not made up and I hope that they would maintain the same tempo even outside this fortnight and that this tempo would not be confined to this fortnight alone.

Dr. K. L. Rao: May I know whether the Bhopal Heavy Electrical factory was intended to manufacture really heavy electrical machines which are beyond the capacity of private manufacturers and whether it was not programmed to manufacture control motors by 1962, April and generators by 1963 April?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am afraid, I would like to have a separate question for this. I do not have all the details.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether now sufficient steps

have been taken so that sufficient materials are received in time and the target is achieved in the near future?

Shri C. Subramaniam: With regard to imported material, we do take measures to get them as quickly as possible. But, import, as the hon. Member should know, sometimes, is beyond our attempt. In those cases, we have to await actual import.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know if the strike was under the guidance of some political party outside it and this production week was also observed under the guidance of some political party?

Mr. Speaker: That he has already answered.

Shri Daji: A part of my question has been replied and a part has not been replied. I am putting a specific question now.

Mr. Speaker: Put that part only.

Shri Daji: Of course, only that part. My question was, why was the import of raw materials delayed, whether the fault lay with our Government or with the British firm and if the reason is known to the Minister, what steps are now being taken to see that such default does not recur.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We placed orders. They have got their own manufacturing programmes also. Perhaps, they have other commitment also. Subject to that, we have got some of the materials. We hope to improve the position during this year.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the Ministry has worked out the loss incurred because of idle labour and idle machinery due to non-availability of raw materials?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have stated the target fixed and what we have achieved. I do not think there was any idle labour there.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.