

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** In a way, yes. The I.C.I. has been enjoying the monopoly in the supply of these explosives, but, as I said just now, this question is under our active consideration to see how we can make ourselves self-sufficient and also control the manufacture of this important commodity.

#### Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal

\*1359. **Dr. K. L. Rao:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the original estimated cost of the Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal;

(b) the present estimates;

(c) how much money has been spent on overheads and consultation services so far; and

(d) whether any measures of economy have been worked out to compensate the heavy charges incurred so far?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):**

(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The original estimated cost of the Heavy Electricals Plant at Bhopal, as envisaged in the Project Report submitted by Associated Electrical Industries Ltd., U.K. (Technical Consultants to the Project), in 1956 was Rs. 35.25 crores, exclusive of working capital. This was for achieving an annual output of about Rs. 12 crores on single shift or Rs. 22 crores on two shifts.

(b) The present estimate is of the order of about Rs. 40 crores for an annual output of Rs. 25 crores, on two shifts.

(c) Upto the end of March 1962, Rs. 43 lakhs had been paid to the Consultants. In addition expenditure on account of salaries and overheads, allowances etc. of the Consultants' establishment at Bhopal was approximately Rs. 32 lakhs; and

(d) The payments to the Consultants are in accordance with the Technical Consultancy Agreement.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** In view of the fact that the type and range of products now under manufacture are different from those originally intended, like heavy machinery, is there any modification in the terms of payment to be the consulting engineers?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No. As a matter of fact, the payment scheduled is fixed by the agreement, a copy of which is available in the library. It is in accordance with the agreement that we have to pay.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** Is it a fact that the high-voltage switch gear supplied by the consultant is obsolete? If so what steps have the government taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I take the information from the hon. Member. I shall try to find out what is the exact position.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Bhopal the hon. Minister stated that he was dissatisfied with the production results of the Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal? If so, may I know the reasons on which he based his dissatisfaction? Does he propose to hold an inquiry into this.

**Mr. Speaker:** This question relates to the estimates at the beginning and now.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Part (c) of the question is:

"where any measures of economy have been worked out. . ."

**Mr. Speaker:** That he said at the beginning.

**Shri Hem Barua:** The supplementary question that I put is vitally related to this because I am asking about an aspect of the working of the plant. If the plant does not work satisfactorily, the Minister is perfectly right to express his dissatisfaction.

**Mr. Speaker:** In part (c) also there ought to be some relation to the economy that has to be brought about.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I had recently visited Bhopal when I had occasion to go through the work of that plant. I had also expressed my opinion that I am not quite satisfied with the performance of the plant because there has been indiscipline, so to say, among the labour ranks and, in addition to that, key raw materials were not available. All these had contributed to the non-fulfilment of the target fixed. There would be scope for improvement. I had discussed this with the officials concerned and I hope early steps would be taken to improve matters.

**Shri Daji:** May I know whether the expansion programme is going on, as scheduled? If so, will the estimates be kept up or they are likely to go up?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** That is my expectation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Basappa.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** I will give him an opportunity, but not in between.

**Shri Basappa:** It is found that nearly Rs. 75 lakhs have been paid to the consultants. Is there any proposal to pay more to them?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** If the hon. Member looks into the agreement, he will find that we have to pay on the whole £400,000. So, a little more has got to be paid. I do not have the exact figures.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Besides being dissatisfied with the indiscipline of the labour force there may I know whether the hon. Minister was dissatisfied with the irresponsibility of the management and the administration also?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It is rather a very embarrassing question. I cannot

be dissatisfied with everything there. There is considerable scope for improvement in every sector and in every section there and I am hoping that it will be possible to make those improvements.

**Shri Nambiar:** I find from the statement given here that the amount has been increased from Rs. 35.25 crores to Rs. 40 crores. May I know whether accordingly the fees to be given to the technical consultants have also been increased or whether the fees will remain static?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not think the Consultants' fees have been increased on account of this.

### Rourkela Steel Plant

\*1360. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official delegation of Government consisting of the Secretary of Steel Department and the Chief Engineer, Rourkela, visited Bonn for discussion with the West German Economics Ministry; and

(b) if so, the purpose and result of visit?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To discuss with the West German Government the measures necessary for bringing the Rourkela Steel Plant into full production in the light of the advice given by the German experts who had visited Rourkela as part of the Delegation led by Mr. Solveen of the German Economic Ministry. By and large, there was agreement on the measures to be taken although details of these measures and the estimates of cost have to be worked out further.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** May I know whether this visit has got anything to do with the dispute between the Government of India and the West German Government so far as the ex-