

**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-

pansion programme of Rourkela is concerned?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not think there is any dispute between the West German Government and the Government of India with regard to expansion.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** May I know whether this visit has been able to solve the question as to the future expansion programme of Rourkela and, if so, in what way?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, Sir; that matter also was discussed.

**Shri Daji:** Is it true that the West German Government has now intimated to the Government of India that the expansion programme can be taken in hand only after the Rourkela plant reaches its rated capacity and therefore it is likely to be delayed?

**Mr. Speaker:** There is another question on that.

**Shri Daji:** It is related to this. Shri Wanchoo went there.....

**Mr. Speaker:** There is definitely another question on that.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** What is the estimated cost of repairs as reported by the Secretary of the Steel Ministry to repair the damages caused to the steel plant because of the mal-functioning?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** On the whole it is expected that it would cost us about Rs. 6 crores, but all this does not go in for repairs or for setting right the damages. Three-fourths of this amount would go for building up of spare parts and wages of technical personnel who will be coming over to work in Rourkela and only about Rs. 1 crore and odd will be required for the purpose of repairs etc.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** May I know whether it is a fact that a consortium of West German firms on the lines of Durgapur is planned in respect of the Rourkela project also?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The expansion programme is under discussion now and, therefore, no positive step has been taken.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether it is a fact as is reported, that the hon. Minister told the West German firms that instead of finding fault with one another we should go about setting the plant right? I quote verbatim as reported in the papers. If so, what are the reasons for this mutual recrimination?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I wanted to avoid mutual recrimination and just wanted to find out as to what is wrong so as to set things right. The approach has been made in that attitude and I am glad to find that agreement also has been reached as to what all has to be done in Rourkela.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** May I know if any efforts have been made to find out whether Messrs. Demag and Krupp, the Consultants of the Firm, had any responsibility for this mal-functioning and bad management during the construction period of the steel plant and, if so, whether any penalty has been demanded of them?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I would request the hon. Member to wait till I am able to place the Solveen Report for the consideration of this House. Then perhaps it may be possible to come to a correct conclusion.

#### Reduction in Excise Duty on Fuel Oil

\*1361. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industries Minister of Assam during his recent visit to New Delhi urged upon the Central Government to reduce substantially the excise duty on fuel oil, to enable the Assam Government to utilise the fuel oil produced at Nunmati for its power programme; and

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon?