

Survey Report which has been submitted by this delegation, the exports to these countries, particularly Burma and Malaya, have increased since then?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, Sir, they have increased.

Coal/Mining Equipment Plant

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 { Shri Panigrahi:
 Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
 *1488. Shri Shobha Ram:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shrimati Ila Falchaudhuri:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 170 on the 14th February, 1958 and state:

(a) whether a firm decision has since been taken to set up a plant for the manufacture of machinery and other equipment for coal industry with the assistance of the Soviet experts;

(b) if so, the location of the plant; and

(c) the estimated cost of this project?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The plant will be located at Durgapur in West Bengal.

(c) The preliminary estimate of the Soviet experts given in their 1957 report was about Rs. 15 crores in the early stages. The detailed project report which is due to be received in the middle of 1959 will give closer and detailed estimates.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether any assessment has been made with regard to our requirements of the coal mining equipment so far as the public and private sectors are concerned?

Shri Manubhai Shah: During the Second Plan the estimate of the requirements of the private sector is Rs. 15 crores and that of the public sector Rs. 32 crores.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know what will be the capacity of this plant?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will be about 30,000 tons annually when in full production.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what type of machinery this plant will manufacture?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Coal cutters, loaders, electric locomotives, winding machines, pumps etc.

Shri Tyagi: In view of the fact that the manufacture of machinery for the coal industry is very much akin to the manufacture of earth-moving machinery like bull-dozer excavators etc. is any provision being made to manufacture these things also?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This matter was rather closely examined. And I may say that the experts came to the conclusion that for the present it is better to confine it exclusively to mining equipment. Later on, if we find that there is surplus capacity, that can certainly be used for heavy earth-moving machinery.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know the foreign exchange involved in importing the scheduled equipment for the coal industries and the machinery and equipment that this plant is likely to purchase and the extent to which that is going to affect or improve our foreign exchange position?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The question is somewhat very long. The first aspect is how much we are importing. At the present moment, there is not much of mechanisation in the coal mines. Our imports have varied from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore a year. Now that we have to increase the coal production in the Second and Third Plans, a certain amount of mechanisation is unavoidable and that is why 30,000 tons per annum will be produced. And, it will save every year at least Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 20 crores of foreign exchange.

Shri Achar: May I know the reasons why Durgapur was selected?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The coal-bearing area, the whole of Asansol

Durgapur range is there and it is better to put it right at the mine site so that utilisation and transport is reduced.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: My question is also why it was decided to locate it at Durgapur. Did the Government consider whether it was better to locate it near some of the steel plants which will be completed earlier?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The expert team went into all these considerations and found that Durgapur as it has developed now will be the proper place for the reason that it is near the coal-mining area, the steel area and the iron ore area.

Shri Dasappa: The hon. Minister referred to equipment for the mining industry. May I know whether things like shaft etc. required for the gold mining industry will also be manufactured?

Shri Manubhai Shah: So far, no. But, we are contemplating that other big and heavy mining equipment may be very well included. Not only this but the Czech Foundry Forge would also cover as much of mining machinery as possible for all types of mines.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister said that the location was finalised because of the fact that it is near the coal mining area. Durgapur in Bengal produces only 24 per cent of the total production while Bihar is producing 56 per cent and it has also got . . .

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should say who he means by "we are".

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: And Bihar has also got . . .

Mr. Speaker: What does he mean by 'we are', 'we are'?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I said Bihar and not 'we are', Sir. In Bihar 56 per cent of coal is produced and the iron ore and steel will be there; and why was not Bihar selected?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Durgapur-Asansol area is the whole coal-bearing tract. It is for the experts to decide upon the best site for economic reasons. It is not merely that the mines have to use the machinery at once; but, the steel has to be processed, and various types of requirements have to be found and the proper industrial atmosphere has also to be taken into consideration.

दर्शन यंत्रों के शीशों का संयंत्र

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*१४२६. { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
श्री स० चं० सामन्त :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री १४ फरवरी, १९५८ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १७० के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दर्शन यंत्रों के शीशों के संयंत्र के बारे में रुमी विचारकों से विस्तृत पार्योजना रिपोर्ट इस बीच प्राप्त हो गयी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मूल्य रूप-रेखा क्या है; और

(ग) उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) :

(क) अभी तक प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इसमें जो इतनी देरी हो रही है, इसका कारण क्या है और दर से दर कब तक इसके प्राप्ति होने की आशा की जा सकती