

Board, the Small Industries Services Institute have been engaged in conducting a survey of the requirements of small producers. Although the results of this survey are not yet available, the general impression gathered is that producers with limited means are not interested in investing in machines, which however small in size, would still be costly and beyond their means. Final results of the survey will be awaited before taking further action.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether in view of the fact that most of the tea estates are below one hundred acres, it will not be for the benefit of India that we design such machinery ourselves for our use, so that we may not spend foreign exchange and go in for import of heavy machinery from outside?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of opinion, or at the most, a suggestion.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know what time will be taken by the Small Industries Service Institute to finalise the design of this machinery?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Small Industries Service Institute has taken responsibility for an investigation into this matter. But the response so far has not been very satisfactory, because the small producers themselves do not like to use the machinery. Till they co-operate among themselves, much progress is not possible.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether Government have any proposal before them to organise co-operatives to purchase these small machines and hire them out to the small tea growers there?

Shri Satish Chandra: Small producers sometimes have holdings between one acre and three, four or five acres, and the conditions there are not conducive to the use of modern machinery. However, the possibilities are being investigated. If they com-

bine and form co-operatives, it would be possible.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know how far the wishes of the small producers have been ascertained, and by which method?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Tea Board has made inquiries in this connection from various associations of tea producers, and the representatives of Small Industries Service Institute have gone into these areas to find out if growers can make use of such machinery, manufactured in this country, but, as I said, the response has not been satisfactory.

Requirements of Iron and Steel

*1440. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the total requirements of iron and steel by the light and heavy engineering units of the country during the rest of the Second Plan period; and

(b) how Government propose to meet these requirements of the light and heavy engineering units?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir. An assessment has been made in so far as the organised sector is concerned.

(b) Government propose to allocate available supplies to individual units having due regard to the relative importance of the items to be manufactured.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether any assessment has been made, if so, the quantity so assessed, and whether Government propose to import steel to augment the indigenous supply?

Shri Satish Chandra: The assessment is that during the current year and the two remaining years of the Plan period, about 23 lakhs of tons

of steel would be required by the industries which are borne on the register of the Development Wing. Efforts are being made to import as much steel as possible, upto such time as our own steel plants do not go into production. Recently, some steel has been contracted to be imported on rupee account from the U.S.S.R.

Shri Panigrahi: As against this total estimate, what is the indigenous supply available, and by how much shall we be falling short?

Shri Satish Chandra: The present indigenous production is 1.35 million tons, but this will be increased towards the end of 1959 and the beginning of 1960.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The question was what the actual requirement was and by how much we would be falling short.

Shri Satish Chandra: I have given those figures. 23 lakhs of tons are the requirements of the large-scale sector for steel, and the availability is less. The availability cannot be forecast, because it depends on the foreign exchange position at a particular time.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What about the indigenous supply?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the number of small units which are likely to face closure due to want of steel, and also the steps being taken in this regard?

Shri Satish Chandra: Care is being taken to see that none of the units closes down, though the quotas that are allotted to them may be less than the requirements.

Shri Hom Barua: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that the National Manufacturers' Association in Bombay has recently approached the manufacturers' association in the United States for a two-million-ton loan of steel on a long-term basis, and if so, at what stage the negotiations are at present?

Shri Satish Chandra: The question may be addressed to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: On a point of clarification. In reply to the question asked by Shri Panigrahi, the hon. Minister stated that the quantity available from indigenous sources was 1.3 million tons, and the usage was 23 lakhs of tons. There is a discrepancy in the figure. I would like to know why then there is shortage.

Shri Satish Chandra: The hon. Member is confusing 1.3 million tons is the production annually; 23 lakhs of tons, as I said, is the requirement for the rest of the Plan period. That was the question asked by the hon. Member.

Shri Supakar: Since the Bhilai and Rourkela plants will be ready some time before the end of the Second Plan period, may I know whether some portion of this requirement of 23 lakhs of tons of iron and steel will be met from the three plants in the public sector?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, some of it would be available. As I said, all these questions relating to production of steel in India should be addressed to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, who would be able to give a more authoritative answer.

Shri Dasappa: May I know if at least the requirements of actual users will be treated as a matter of priority, apart from established importers?

Shri Satish Chandra: Most of the steel is allocated to actual users. The allocating authority for industries is the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Development Wing of this Ministry receives a bulk quota from the Iron and Steel Controller for being given to scheduled industries. It is against actual user requirements that steel is distributed.

Shri Eamanathan Chettiar: May I know whether this quantity of 2.3 million tons referred to by the Deputy

Minister in his reply is the requirement this year or for the entire remaining period of the Plan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has replied to that already.

Shri Satish Chandra: 2.3 million tons are the requirement for the remaining years of the Plan.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the quantity of iron which is required for the cottage industries sector has also been taken into consideration?

Shri Satish Chandra: No. A separate quota is allotted for that purpose to the Development Commissioner of Small Scale Industries and also to various States. The small scale industries borne on the register of the Development Commissioner get their quota from him. Those which are not borne on the register, i.e., still smaller units, get their quota direct from the State Governments which are again given a bulk quota.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I seek a clarification? The availability from indigenous sources appear to be 39 lakh tons over the next three years. The requirement of the organised sector is 23 lakh tons. What is the overall requirement, because the Minister said that there would be a shortage?

Shri Satish Chandra: The overall requirement for engineering industries in the current year is about 9 lakh tons. But quotas are given by various agencies. For example, the Railways, Defence and Irrigation and Power have got their separate quota, and if the work is done for them, they distribute the steel quota to the factories.

Shri Nath Pal: May I know what is the quantity and value of structural steel that will be imported during the remaining years of the Five Year Plan?

Shri Satish Chandra: I require separate notice.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The larger the number of questions allowed, the larger will be the number of questions that will arise. What should I do? Next question.

Training and Production Centres for Flaying Hides

*1442. **Shri R. C. Majhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that model training and production centres for hide flaying, curing carcass have been established at Lucknow and in Delhi; and

(b) if so, how many students will be admitted every year?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

A Training-cum-Production centre is being run at Lucknow by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Centre is equipped to train 60 candidates in a year.

2. According to a scheme which is being implemented by the Delhi Administration, arrangements have been made with a Co-operative Society for training local flayers. At this place, arrangements exist for training approximately 40 flayers in a year. 38 local flayers have so far been trained under this scheme.

3. At Delhi, a Training Centre will start functioning shortly with assistance given by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The Centre is expected to train 180 candidates per year. A centre for flaying and carcass recovery has also been set up in Delhi with financial assistance from the former All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Shri R. C. Majhi: What is the total estimated cost of the scheme and how much is borne by the Centre?