

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, 18th December, 1958

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up questions. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla—absent. Shri D. C. Sharma—absent; Shri Ram Krishan—absent, Shri Morarka—absent; Shri Bibhuti Mishra—absent; Shri U. C. Patnaik

Shri U. C. Patnaik: 1138

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to hon Members, if I call the first name and that hon. Member is not here, any other hon. Member, whose name appears on the question may get up. There is no meaning in spending away so much time calling one after another.

Sardar Hukam Singh: That may be difficult. The fourth Member may stand up. The second Member may be there. The House may not know that he is there.

Mr. Speaker: That does not matter. By accident, I have put one name.

An Hon. Member: Whoever is active may ask

Progress of Steel Plants

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*1139. { Shri U. C. Patnaik:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Morarka:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the

298 (A) LSD.—1.

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reply given to Starred Question No. 1016 on the 8th September, 1958 and state:

(a) the progress since made in the construction of the three steel plants, plant-wise; and

(b) the quantity of steel that is expected to be produced by them during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 93.]

Shri Tangamani: In the statement we find that there will be 670 Engineers and 6300 skilled technical personnel for each of these steel plants to be trained. May I know how many have been so far trained and how many will be prepared take up work as soon as the work starts?

The Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): So far as the first stage of the commissioning of the blast furnace complex is concerned, arrangements have already been made both with regard to the supervisory staff as well as the operators. A fairly large number out of them have already been trained both inside the country and abroad. Engineers and operators. In the initial stages we will have to depend on a certain number of foreign technicians also

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I wanted to know why there is delay in Rourkela as compared with Bhilai.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think that would be a very fair assessment from the statement that I have placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement we find that physical erection will be completed by the end of December, 1958 so far as Rourkela and Bhilai are concerned. May we know any approximate date by which physical erection for the Durgapur plant will be completed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir I could not give a firm date with regard to that. As the House is aware, the work of erection in Durgapur started much later.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: For the erection of the 150,000 kw Thermal plant at Durgapur, may I know from which country we are getting plant and machinery?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as Durgapur is concerned, there is an agreement with a consortium of British firms. A 15,000 kw power plant is part of the contract as a whole.

Shri Hem Barua: This is a fact that Rourkela, compared with Bhilai though it was started earlier, is suffering delay. Is it a fact that there is lack of co-ordination between the German directorate and the contractors at Rourkela?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It will not be fair to compare really the two projects and their progress because I think both of them are working at a very high speed and the tempo of both is equally good. There were some difficulties in Rourkela and this was partly due to the fact that the number of suppliers was large. That measure of co-ordination between the different suppliers in the initial stages was not there. As time passed on, there is greater co-ordination, and I think now the work in Rourkela is equally good.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether the progress in the fourth steel plant is according to schedule?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no schedule yet for the fourth steel plant.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether housing accommodation for the working population of these plants is also being constructed along with the plants themselves?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir. The townships are coming up fast.

Shri Vajpayee: Can the hon. Minister give us an idea as to when the services of the foreign experts will be dispensed with altogether?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is very difficult to say. I think we will have to depend for a number of years on foreign technicians. To cite by way of illustration the case of Tatas and Indian Iron, even now after several years, there are quite a few foreign technicians working there.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether, when all the steel plants have gone into production, India will be self-sufficient in steel? If not, by how much it will be lacking?

Some Hon. Members: Demands go up.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Some of the hon. Members have replied that our demand itself may increase. But, it is hoped that if we take into consideration the demand as it is likely to develop by the time that these steel plants will go into full production, this production will be enough to meet the requirements. Demand will increase and we will have to put up more steel plants.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May we know whether the Government has assured itself of marketing all the steel of the three steel plants that will come into production at the end of the Second Plan as well as the steel plants in the private sector when they go into full production?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not anticipate any great difficulty about marketing.

Shri Morarka: It is mentioned in the statement that the broad objective

of producing steel in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur, before the end of the Second Plan would be realised. May I know whether the target as laid down in the Second Plan for production of steel in these three plants would be realised?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The target will be realised. Actual production will depend, as I said some days ago on the floor of the House, upon a number of other things.

Decentralisation of Work

*1139. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what decentralisation of work has been given effect to in the Ministry during the year 1958-59,

(b) whether any scheme to that effect is under consideration, and

(c) at what stage such scheme rests?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) to (c) Various measures for decentralisation of work have been under consideration. Some of them, *eg*, permitting Services Headquarters to correspond with civil Ministries/Departments on technical and other matters which do not involve policy, and also to refer certain types of cases direct to the Ministry of Finance (Defence) have been finalised and instructions issued. Proposals regarding delegation of enhanced financial powers to Services Headquarters and Lower Formations are under consideration. In addition, the Estimates Committee have also made certain recommendations which are under examination.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know how many new posts have been created and how many existing posts have been up-graded to the rank of Brigadiers and upwards and whether that has anything to do with decentralisation?

Shri Raghuramaiah: I would like to have separate notice of it. The question relates to decentralisation. As to how many new posts have been created, he may put a separate question.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: If posts are created, whether that involves delegation of power or not; that has a direct bearing on decentralisation.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from the question of new posts, whether the establishment or bringing into existence of these new posts has been responsible for decentralisation?

Shri Raghuramaiah: No, Sir. I do not know what new posts he is referring to. Apart from that, this delegation has nothing to do with the creation of new posts.

Mr. Speaker: The other day it was said that a number of Brigadiers and others were appointed.

Shri Raghuramaiah: That is a separate question. If notice is given, I shall certainly furnish all the information on that point.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is such an important matter. A number of Lieut. Generals and Brigadiers posts have been created. If they have no relation whatsoever to decentralisation, what is the justification for them?

Mr. Speaker: Again and again, the hon. Member is repeating the same question. The same answer will be repeated.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what other justification is there for the creation of these new posts and the up-grading of posts?

Mr. Speaker: No, no. That does not arise out of this question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister just now said that decentralisation will also mean the giving of financial powers. May I know whether more financial powers will be given to the