

Shri Raghuramaiah: The Board of Enquiry has not been able to establish the reasons for this. However, they have suggested certain methods which are being considered.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: From the statement that is laid on the Table it is seen that normally the labourers working there are not allowed to go into the racks when unloading is done and, secondly, there was adequate supervision. Are we to understand that the three labourers who went into the rack when the steel plates were being loaded went inside when there was adequate supervision?

Shri Raghuramaiah: One man was a Mukadam, a supervisor of the labour force. Unfortunately, he is dead, and it is now very difficult to know the details. The Board of Enquiry also could not therefore come to any definite conclusion as to how this happened.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement it is said that no person or persons can be held responsible for the accident, and that all proper precaution was taken. If that is so, may I know why this particular accident has taken place?

Shri Raghuramaiah: The Board themselves could not answer that question.

Shri Hem Barua: From the statement we find that there are reasons to believe that the operation was done under good supervision and caution was exercised at every stage. May I know what are the data that constitute the basis of those "reasons to believe"?

Shri Raghuramaiah: The method of stacking steel plates was found to be quite regular, so far as the Board could see. The object was to remove one of the plates, cut it into proper size and put it back. So far as the Board could see, there was no lack of efficient supervision—that is their finding.

Shri Joachim Alva: These workers died at their posts of duty. Has Government got a liberal scheme for paying their dependants, especially

liberal provision for education of their children?

Shri Raghuramaiah: They are paid what they can get under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and I have already mentioned the figure in answer to the main question.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: It has been given in the statement that the rope that is used to tie up and lift the steel plates is of adequate strength. May I know whether the condition of the rope was examined by any responsible person before the lifting operations started there?

Shri Raghuramaiah: Off-hand I could not say exactly whether it was done or not; but the finding of the Board is that every precaution was taken, and I presume that it includes this also.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that less men were employed on this job whereas more men are required for loading and unloading, and that is one of the reasons for this accident?

Shri Raghuramaiah: That is not my information.

Visit of Russian Team

+

*176. { Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadl:

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

(a) whether the Russian experts headed by Mr. E. S. Emlin who had visited Ranchi and other places in the country to investigate and advise about location of Central Workshop, Underground mines, Coal Washing Plants, etc., have finished their job and returned to Moscow;

(b) whether they have submitted their report; and

(c) if so, their main recommendations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Shaha): (a) The Soviet experts have since returned

to the U.S.S.R. after collecting the initial data required by them and the Memoranda of Instructions for the preparation of detailed project reports.

(b) Not yet; they are likely to take about 8 months from the date of receipt of the initial data.

(c) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Besides Ranchi, may I know what other places were visited by this team?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: They also visited some of the other places about which they were entrusted with the work of preparing a project report.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Particularly, Korba.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Government has indicated to the team its preference in favour of any place?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: No, Sir. There are four schemes. All are for the development of Korba mines.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have they indicated any preference to any particular place?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: It is about the Korba mines.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary stated that this team which has already returned will take eight months to submit its project report. If that is so, may I know when these mines will go into actual production?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Obviously, they cannot go into production unless detailed project reports are there. The Soviet experts say that they will require eight months to prepare detailed project reports.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I put one more question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry, it is too late now.

Manufacture of Special Steel

+
•177. { **Shri V. C. Shukla:**
 Shri V. P. Nayari

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

(a) the latest position in India relating to the manufacture of special varieties of steel such as tool steel, dye-steel, everbright steel etc.; and

(b) the steps, if any, taken by the Government of India to increase production of special steels?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) The indigenous production of commercial varieties of special steels, mainly high carbon steels, during the year 1957 was about 2,000 tons and in the year 1958 upto September about 3,000 tons.

(b) A special and alloy steel plant of about 45,000 tons ingot capacity is to be put up in the public sector. On the basis of preliminary reports submitted by a number of firms, quotations have been invited from those who appeared capable and willing to assist, for a detailed project report and for engineering services.

It is understood that the Ordnance factories who have some capacity for the manufacture of special steels also propose to increase their capacity. A part of this capacity would, ordinarily, be available to meet civilian demands.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know if a committee has been appointed to investigate the best available site for this proposed plant?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): No, Sir; the present position is that enquiries have been made for quotations to prepare the project report.

Shri Joachim Alva: The Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works in Mysore have made a special application for manufacture of a special type of steel which