

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The blast furnace at Rourkela has a capacity of 1,000 tons of pig iron per day and the furnace at Bhilai has a capacity of 1,100 tons per day. The furnaces are in the initial stages of operation and production is, therefore, fluctuating, below the full production capacity.

(b), (c) and (d). Government are, at present considering offers received from various parties for the export of pig iron against a tender issued by the Iron & Steel Controller. No final decision has yet been taken in the matter. It would not be in the public interest to divulge the rates quoted by the different parties.

Excavations at Nidadavolu

*1462. Kamari Vedakamari: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a statue of bull (Nandi) was found during excavations at Nidadavolu, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the Century to which it belongs; and

(c) whether the Central Archaeological Department will undertake any further excavations at the site.

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Hamayan Kabir): (a) The Union Department of Archaeology has not conducted any excavation at Nidadavolu.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

तेल सर्वेक्षण

*१४६३. श्री रा० ल० विबारी: क्या खास, जाल धीर ईबल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि तेल की खोज के कार्य को तेज करने के लिए एक समिति नियुक्त की गई है ; धीर

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस समिति का कार्यालय कहाँ पर होगा ?

जाल धीर तेल मंत्री (श्री ल० ल० बलराव) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Indo-Russian Agreement

*1470. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Russia for assistance for training of Indian engineers in steel production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of assistance thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The Government of U.S.S.R. who are collaborating in the construction of the Bhilai Steel Plant agreed in May, 1956 to train 686 Indian Engineers and other technicians in the U.S.S.R. In terms of this agreement 492 Indian personnel have so far been sent. Of these 399 have since returned to India. Arrangements are under way to send the remaining Indian personnel to the U.S.S.R.

The cost of training in the U.S.S.R. of 138 Engineers sent under the above programme has been borne by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration at the rate of 1,200 roubles per trainee per month. The cost of others will be borne by the Hindustan Steel Limited. The Government of U.S.S.R., however, have agreed that beginning from January 1958, the cost of training may also be included in the credit under the Principal Agreement. In other words, the cost of training will be repayable in 12 equal annual instalments, interest being 3½ per cent.