

Durgapur Steel Plant

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 Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
 Shri P. G. Deb:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri Radha Raman:
 Shri Nagi Reddy:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 *154. Shri Prabhat Kar:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
 Shri Assar:
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri Narayanankutty Menon:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Steel Project Plant at Durgapur had been "off-blast" and that the furnace could not be tapped for some days since 4th January, 1960 because the ladles which receive molten metal became inoperative;

(b) the full facts of the case and the causes of the incident; and

(c) the total extent of loss suffered on this account?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). There was a temporary interruption in the production of pig iron at Durgapur for about 24 hours as most of the ladles into which the liquid iron from the blast furnace is tapped got filled with skulls owing to derailment of the ladle car on hot metal track, and to gain time for cleaning and relining the ladles, the blast furnace was switched off for a day. The question of calculating the extent of loss owing to the temporary interruption does not arise as such minor difficulties are only natural in the initial stages of production.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether the fact of the ladles being filled was due to any defect in the construction of the ladle cars or the defect of the track itself? Has that been found out?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think it was on account of a mistake on the operational side that this derailment took place.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the pinions in the canning room were found broken?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have no information, Sir.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether the Government is trying to get at the full facts of the case by appointing an enquiry committee to go into the whole question?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no need for appointing an enquiry committee for everything that happens in a steel plant on the operational side. There can be set-backs; there can be difficulties. We cannot appoint enquiry committees. We want the plant to operate and not always have the operational staff or the working staff to be subjected to enquiries.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know how much gas is being burnt down every day at the Durgapur plant due to defective planning?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no defective planning. At the present stage, before the gas can be utilised it has to be flared. That is done in all the plants, all the world over.

Drilling Operations in Godavari Valley

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*160. { Shri Nagi Reddy:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1826 on the 31st August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether drilling operations in the Godavari Valley have commenced;

(b) if so, what are their results; and

(c) if not yet commenced, when are these proposed to be started?