

Shri G. B. Pant: International flag? I do not exactly know what international flag is like, nor have I studied the Swatantra Party flag. If a flag has been designed, I do not know if it is going to be still born or if it will need any further scrutiny.

Coal Washery

*1650. **Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Ltd., has placed an order for supply of a coal washery worth about two crores of rupees;

(b) whether this order was given after calling tenders; and

(c) if not, how the contract was negotiated and finalised?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that India is not self-sufficient so far as steel is concerned? If so, when we are not self-sufficient why are we exporting steel to foreign countries?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Actually we are not exporting finished steel. We have made arrangements to export some semi-finished steel because though our open hearth furnaces are ready our rolling programme has not yet started. Because of this time lag between them naturally we have to dispose of the semi-finished product somewhere specially when we ourselves do not have the rolling capacity. I would like to add because there may be some apprehension that the re-rollers may roll it that it cannot be re-rolled even by the re-rollers. The capacity in this country for rolling the product of the blast furnaces in the public sector is very meagre.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the quantity of steel that India intends to export to U.K.?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Actually I have said that we are not going to export steel but semi-finished steel which we are exporting to U.K. We have made some arrangement to export nearabout 12,000 metric tons of basic grade pig iron to U.K., but not exactly steel.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that West Germany is herself a major producer of steel and she proposes to import steel slabs from our country, may I know whether this is linked up with any agreement on exchanging of commodities and with those exchanges?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Yes, Sir. The hon. Member is correct to that extent that actually it will be slightly a barter deal.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how much foreign exchange we are expected to earn from the export of this semi-finished steel?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): So far as this semi-finished steel export to a particular firm is concerned, there is a history behind it. Hindustan Steel are now going to set up a transportation pipe mill and there is an agreement with the German firm to supply some pipes to us before we can manufacture our own. Under this agreement, in the early stages we have agreed to supply them some semi-finished steel. Later on we shall be able to get these things produced here in our own pipe mill.

Shri S. R. Arumugham: The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that India has no full capacity for rolling mills. So many applications were called for from Madras State for starting rolling mills, but no application was considered, and no licence was also given. What was the reason for not giving licences to start rolling mills in the South? Not

only that. In the recent conference of the Hardware Merchants' Association, they have mentioned that steel is in short supply and that they are not able to get sufficient quantity. What are the reasons for all these things?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The supplementary hardly arises out of this question.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I would like to add that I was apprehensive of the misunderstanding, and therefore I said there was a difference between re-rollers and rollers. Actually, the production which we are going to export is not meant for being re-rolled. We have got over-capacity of re-rolling mills here. The Saksena Committee went extensively into this matter, and reported that for the time being there was no necessity. Even when we are working on one shift, the capacity is 7 million tons.

Coal Washery

*1651. **Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Ltd., has placed an order for supply of a coal washery worth about two crores of rupees;

(b) whether this order was given after calling tenders; and

(c) if not, how the contract was negotiated and finalised?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Achar: I understand this is a new type of machine, cyclone washing machine type, and that it is for the first time being introduced in India. May I know whether any expert advice was taken before ordering it; if so, who were our advisers?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Actually, full advice was taken from our technical experts, but at present I am not able to say who the advisers for the purchase of this particular machine were.

Shri Achar: May I know if world tenders were called for?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Yes, Sir, world tenders were called, and there were so many tenders also.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know where this particular coal washery is proposed to be set up, and which particular steel plant it is going to serve?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: This is about the Bhojudih Washery, if I am right. The requirement of the washed coal for the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur is about 2.4 million tons, and their capacity for coal washing is 1.5 million tons. They need some additional washed coal, and therefore we have undertaken it.

Shri Supakar: If it is for Tata Steel, what have Hindustan Steel to do with ordering a coal washery? Will they supply the coal?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Yes, Sir.

Sikkim Raffle

*1652. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provisions of the Indian Penal Code do not apply to Sikkim;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indian nationals who have complained against the raffle run in Sikkim are advised to seek redress in Sikkim Courts; and

(c) if so, under what provisions of law the Sikkim raffle has been authorised by the Government here?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) The provisions of