

श्री घुनाथ सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार के स्माल रकल इन्डस्ट्रीज विभाग से कोई सम्पर्क स्थापित किया गया है कि खनिज पदार्थों का काम भी स्माल रकल पर किया जाय।

श्री गजेब प्रसाद सिन्हा : खनिज पदार्थ के लिए भी ये फैसिलिटीज दी जा रही हैं और अब भी कोई दरखास्त आती है तो उस पर विचार किया जाता है। अभी तक कोई ऐसी दरखास्त छोटे माईन प्रोजेक्ट के पास से नहीं आई है।

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is the hon. Minister aware that the mining industry had written to their bureau from time to time how they are stuck up for want of technical know-how and facilities and are unable to import even small parts and the entire mine's work is stuck up because we have not got any organisation? Have you given any thought to it?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): There are procedures laid down by the Indian Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey of India which clearly envisage technical advice to any mine-owner or anyone who wants to start any mining industry and so it is open for any bureau or any organisation to seek such advice as they think proper.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether the Government requested the small mining interests to form themselves into co-operatives for getting financial aid from the Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is open for the mining industrialists or those who want to start mining in a small scale scheme to send such proposals to the Government and it is the declared policy of the Government of India to encourage co-operative ventures for mining and also in other fields.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister give us an indication of the programme which they had for the year 1959-60 to give technical and credit facilities? What is the budget

provision and what has been spent so far? There is not a single pie.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no budget provision; there is no scheme and there is no plan to help the small mining industries. As and when such proposals come before the Government, the Government will be too glad to offer any advice.

Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant

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 Shri Morarka:
 Shri Nagi Reddy:
 Shri Ramam:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 *355. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri N. R. Maniswamy:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Supakar:
 Shri Hem Barua:

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

(a) whether Government is considering the expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what is the expected production of the plant after expansion;

(c) what will be its total cost; and

(d) whether the said expansion will be carried out with Russian collaboration?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). While studies on the size and nature of the Third Five Year Plan are still going on, it is clear that steel will continue to be an important sector of development. Whatever the target for iron and steel may be, it is imperative that the steel works in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur are expanded. Planning of the expansion of these works has been taken in hand. It is too early to say what the cost of expansion and the production after expansion of each plant will be. This will be known only when the details of the extensions necessary have been worked out. It has been agreed in principle that expansion of the

Bhilai Steel Plant to 2.5 million ton capacity is one of the items for which the credit offered by the Soviet Government for Industrial projects to be implemented during the Third Five Year Plan will be utilised.

Shri Morarka: The hon. Minister has said that the work of expansion had been taken on hand. To what extent all the three steel plants in the public sector are going to be expanded and what would be the expected production after expansion?

Sardar Swaran Singh: When I said 'works', it is not the actual physical work on the spot for expansion but preliminary work of study as to what should be the pattern of expansion and what is going to be the pattern of the end products.

Shri Morarka: What is the contemplated target for the Third Plan and how much of it is going to be achieved by expansion and how much by the new steel plants?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is a matter which is still under consideration and it will not be proper for me to indicate any firm figure but current thinking has been that there may be an expansion upto 10 million ingot ton capacity. But a final decision will depend upon the overall resources that are available and the foreign exchange that can be obtained to finance this.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the expansion of the Bhilai plant was discussed with the Russian representatives accompanying President Voroshilov when they met the members of the Planning Commission and, if so, besides Soviet credit, whether any other help, technical or otherwise, was assured by these representatives?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It was discussed in a general manner from time to time but the technical experts that accompanied President Voroshilov's party were not enjoined upon by their Government to take any final decision in this subject. But it

is quite obvious that in an expansion programme the credit can be utilised, and there will be collaboration even at the technical level.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the newspapers it came out that the Soviet Government have assured fresh financial and technical aid for this plant. May I know how far it is true and what positive financial and technical help is being given by them for the Bhilai plant?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know which particular help the hon. Member is referring to. The point has been made clear in the communiqué that was issued at the time when the projects that were to go into that line of credit were announced. As to what is going to be the precise nature of collaboration will be the subject matter of detailed negotiations later.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether it is still the policy of the Government of India to import necessary machinery for the expansion programme for having gained experience in the erection of the three big steel plants in the country, will the required machinery be made in the country itself at the erection works? Will it be done by the Indians themselves or all this is going to be done with foreign aid?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There cannot be a very clear reply to the various questions that the hon. Member has raised. Our desire is natural that we should be able to manufacture such machinery inside the country. The desire to undertake all the erection work by our Indian experts is a very desirable objective. But keeping these objectives in view, we have to take a realistic view. I do not anticipate that in the course of the next Five Year Plan, there will be capacity in the country to manufacture all the equipment that would be necessary. Some technical help will also be required in the erection and planning.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the designing or the expansion of this Bhilai and other steel plants will be done by Indians or by foreign experts?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the designing part is concerned, we intend to make a very serious effort to have an Indian nucleus. It will be assisted by experts from abroad but essentially the main burden will be borne by the Indian nucleus.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: How many more plants and what capacity has the Ministry proposed to the Planning Commission to be set up in the Third Plan? Do they propose to have some smaller plants also?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the first part is concerned, I have already endeavoured to answer that the current thinking has been of a particular order. These proposals are not made in that formal manner to the Planning Commission. It is a matter of mutual discussion which goes on from time to time. With regard to the establishment of smaller plants, there is already a smaller plant at Bhadravati. There are some small pig iron plants in the private sector already established in two of the States, namely, Orissa and Madras. Besides that there are electric furnaces for manufacture of steel from scrap. If there are any other proposals they would also be considered.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether the Government has received any proposal for the expansion of the existing plants in the private sector and if so whether it is the Government's policy to permit them or not?

Sardar Swaran Singh: With regard to the first part, I would say that no formal proposal has been made. Therefore, the second part of the question becomes hypothetical

Silver Refinery at Calcutta

*356. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred

Question No. 984 on the 17th December, 1959, and state the further progress since made in the installation and running of the silver refinery at Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Silver is being refined at the Silver Refinery at a reduced rate, as the installation of the proposed new crucibles has not yet been completed. The new crucibles, which have already been shipped from West Germany are expected to be received by about the end of this month.

Shri Pangarkar: May I know whether any time-limit has been fixed for the completion of this installation?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We are trying to erect it as soon as possible. We hope to do it as soon as the crucibles arrive. Already the original time has been exceeded. There has been some delay.

Shri Hem Barua: The Deputy Minister has said that silver is being refined there. On a previous occasion there was an explosion due to a molten matter in the furnace of the refinery, and when a question was put here about the loss sustained, it was said that the loss was not computed by them. May I know whether the loss has been ascertained by now and, if so, what is the amount?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Hem Barua: The question is about the progress made in regard to the refinery at Calcutta. It arises like this: May I explain?

Mr. Speaker: This question relates to further expansion and installation of machinery. No doubt it relates to the refinery at Calcutta. But how can a question about some explosion and the consequent death of some persons and the damage caused etc.,