

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The 15 miles belt on either side of the railway line from Neemuch to Ratlam is a traditional poppy cultivating area. So, no licences for new lands have been given to them.

Shri Vajpayee: What steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken, to eliminate discrimination in the issue of licences?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: There is no discrimination. The licences are issued only according to certain laid down principles.

Steel Production in Public Sector

+

*1152. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi:
Shri Supakar:

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

(a) the total quantity of steel which has been produced by the Steel Plants in the public sector upto the 31st January, 1960;

(b) what is the cost of production per ton of steel in public sector plants as compared to private sector plants; and

(c) how much of the steel has been exported till now?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 89,105 metric tons.

(b) The Steel Plants are in the early stages of production and it is not possible to estimate the cost of production at this stage.

(c) Steel produced in the public sector steel plants have not been exported so far.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how far the targets set by the Steel Ministry have been achieved and, if there has been any shortfall, the reasons for that?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The target was for both the public sector and the private sector. In the private sector it consisted of the expansion of the two main plants, Tata plant and the Indian Iron plant. The expansion of the two private sector plants has been completed. In the public sector the target was to set up three steel plants. Production in all the three steel plants has started and it is hoped that they will be in full production by the end of the current Plan period.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the targets both in the private sector and the public sector and how far the targets have been reached.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The production targets are six million tons in terms of ingots and it is hoped that the level of production will be there. But the actual production is not likely to be of that order, because in the initial stages there are difficulties and no plant in the world, when it starts produces upto the optimum capacity.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The hon. Minister has just now stated that the steel plants are in the early stages of production. In view of the fact that the steel plants of Bhilai and Rourkela have been producing pig iron for the last one year, has any assessment been made of the cost of production of pig iron in the public sector as compared with the cost of production of pig iron in the private sector steel plants?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Actually, what I have said with regard to steel is equally applicable to pig iron. I would like, with your permission, to give a little information which might enable hon. Members to appreciate the point. In each of the project reports the cost of production has been given on the basis of certain assumptions like the prices of raw materials, cost of power and water, credit for by-products etc. Depreciation charges have also been assumed. Since the project reports have been prepared,

there have been changes in the capital costs, prices of raw materials and such known factors and also in the technical features of the plants. The bearing of these differences on the cost of production is being analysed and the consultants will be asked to work out the costs once more on figures of capital costs, prices of raw materials and costs of power and water to be given to them.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether Government will give due consideration to the suggestions contained in the report submitted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research to the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs in regard to the position of steel in this country?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir. It has already been considered and we will try to make the best use of the materials that has been put forward in that report.

Shri Kalika Singh: May I know whether, according to present indications, the cost of production at Rourkela is likely to be higher than that of Bhilai and, if so, the reasons?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As I have stated, the whole matter is still to be analysed and so I will not hazard a guess.

Shri Mahanty: The hon. Minister has stated that the production has been not according to the rated capacity in view of the initial difficulties, which is a universal feature in all the steel plants. May I know whether it is a fact that the production in the first blast furnace in Rourkela is not according to rated capacity because the steel mill has not been commissioned?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, that is one of the reasons, and that can be a teething trouble.

Shri Mahanty: Commissioning of the steel mill does not partake of any universal law. There must be some reason. What is the reason?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Universal law is not law in the sense of any Constitution or any rules. Actual experience of the world shows that one thing or another is not ready according to your expectations, and that is precisely what is meant by teething trouble.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the country is going to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of steel during the Third Plan period.

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is our aim, but only time will show as to whether our economic growth is such that we can feed all the requirements of our economy with steel. But that is the objective and the expansion programme is designed really in such a manner that it meets with the demands of our economy with regard to steel.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It has been estimated that the production of steel in the public sector factories in the Second Plan period will be 3.3 million tons. Could we know what the hon. Minister expects to produce in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur this year?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is still one year to go so I would not make a guess.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: This is the last year.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is there any agency which can do what I call performance audit of the construction of these steel plants with probable dates of their going into production, taking into account these teething troubles about which he is talking all the times?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid that I have given a wrong impression if I have said that I am talking of these teething troubles all the time. So far as the other thing that has been suggested by the hon. Member is concerned, namely, that there should be some agency to assess the performance and see whether schedules have been adhered to, that is a continuous process. No project authority would

be worth its name if it does not continuously watch the construction schedules and see that the expectations are fulfilled.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What definite steps are being taken to give reality to this continuous process to which the hon. Minister has referred?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is not abstract. There are parts of the organisation which are constantly seeing whether the construction schedules have or have not been fulfilled. There are monthly reports, quarterly reports and even weekly and fortnightly reports to see the progress of construction. With regard to production also, we know what any particular unit should perform and what its performance is. Therefore it can always be seen whether it is up to the expectation or not and, if not, what are the defects and how they should be removed.

Shri Tangamani: Out of this 89, 105 tons which was produced till January, 1960, how much has been produced in Rourkela and how much has been produced in Bhilai?

Mr. Speaker: Has he got the break-up?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Up to the 31st January, 1960, Rourkela has produced 38,901 metric tons of steel and Bhilai has produced 50,204 tons.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Not much difference.

Technical Personnel for Oil and Natural Gas Commission

+

*1153 { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

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

(a) whether any assessment of the requirements of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in technical personnel upto the end of the Second Five Year Plan and the Third Five Year Plan has been made;

(b) if so, the nature of the requirements;

(c) the steps taken and the result achieved so far; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the requirements?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirements of technical personnel consist mainly of Geologists, Geophysicists, Engineers and Craftsmen.

(c) The steps already taken and result achieved are:—

(i) Establishment of training schools at Jawalamukhi and Cambay to train up the drilling personnel.

(ii) Posting adequate number of Indian understudies with the foreign experts employed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(iii) Deputing Indian Officers for training abroad.

(iv) 34 Officers of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have already been trained in foreign countries and 15 are still undergoing training.

(d) The steps proposed to be taken are:—

(i) Establishment of training and research Wing of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission and instituting an apprenticeship course where the Graduates of the Indian Universities would be given a course for six months.

(ii) Sending the Indian personnel to foreign countries for specialised training.

(iii) Obtaining the services of foreign experts to train the Indian personnel locally.