

Rourkela Steel Plant

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress at the steel works at Rourkela is not according to the original timetable set for it;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties in keeping to the schedule;

(c) whether it is a fact that this loss of time is due to Government's system of calling tenders; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to remove this delay?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Several factors have contributed to the delay in commissioning of the various units of the plant, as per the original schedule, such as—

- (i) Delay in site formation due to the rocky strata being higher than originally envisaged.
- (ii) Delay in civil engineering work due to the difficulties in finding suitable contractors with adequate equipment and organisation to undertake the work.
- (iii) Labour strikes at Calcutta port and erection sites.
- (iv) Transport difficulties in the movement of plant and equipment.
- (v) Defective quality of the cement supplied and used for some time.

Delay in commissioning the plant cannot, however, be attributed to the procedure of calling for tenders. All efforts are being made to eliminate delay as far as possible.

Voluntary Organisations for the Handicapped

*218. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organisations working for the development of the orthopaedically handicapped people at present;

(b) what kind of assistance is given to these organisations; and

(c) the conditions under which such assistance is given?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) The exact number is not known, but the Ministry has information about eleven such organisations.

(b) These organisations are eligible for financial assistance representing upto 60% of the approved recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

(c) A copy of rules governing the scheme is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 55].

Salar Jang Museum, Hyderabad

*219. **Maharajkumar Vijaya Anand:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is converting the Salar Jang Museum at Hyderabad into a National Museum;

(b) if so, whether there will be a Board of Trustees to manage the museum; and

(c) whether the museum will be acquired free of cost or any compensation will be paid to the present trustees of the museum?