

Shri R. C. Majhi: I find that in the statement only the combined figures for 1958 have been given. What is the difficulty in collecting separate figures for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes when stipends are given under separate heads?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The difficulty in getting separate figures is that we have not been able to get that information from the State Governments. Some of the States have supplied the information. The remaining States felt that during the Second Five Year Plan period it would not be possible for them to expand their statistical units and therefore separate figures for different categories have not been supplied. In any case, we have the combined figure for all States.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether there are frequent complaints from the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the effect that these figures are delayed very much from the States as a result of which proper assessment of the progress of the Scheduled Castes is delayed?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, Sir; there has been delay in getting the figures. We are trying to assist the State Governments in improving their statistical units.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I do not quite understand where the difficulty is. Money is specifically given for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. So there is no question of statistics. You give a certain amount of money for a certain group, you divide it by so-and-so and you get the result. Where do statistics come in?

Mr. Speaker: What is the difficulty when it is earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The difficulty is that it is not the Central Government which is giving all this assistance. Assistance is being given by the State Governments and they have to supply

the information. Some of the States have supplied the information. I think all except five States have given the information. The remaining five States have also promised to send the information. I hope it will be forthcoming. It may only take some time. At least by the Third Five Year Plan I hope all States will be regularly sending the information.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether Government will request all the States including the five States to supply the information separately for the year 1959-60, because they still have time for sending it and so far no State has sent them?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: We will request them.

Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants

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} Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Parulekar:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri Subiman Ghose:
Shri Halder:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri N. M. Deb:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

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

(a) how many times the blast furnaces of Rourkela and Durgapur stopped during the period from April to June, 1960;

(b) what were the reasons for the stoppage of production of pig iron in the blast furnaces; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II,

annexure No. 59].

Shri P. K. Deo: From the statement I find that there has been a breakdown in the blast furnace in three consecutive months, that is, in April, May and June. From the statement we further find that the blame has been put on the suppliers for the bad supply of ore on the first two occasions and on the last occasion on defective operation. May I know if Government are considering to appoint an expert committee to go into the matter so that this sad state of affairs does not recur?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no need for an expert committee of the type suggested by the hon. Member. These matters are already being looked into by experts.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if there has been any loss in production and in man-hour output?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Because of the stoppages there has been a loss in production during the period the blast furnace did not work; it did not produce pig iron.

Shri Supakar: Is it not the duty of the operating staff at Rourkela to see that these fines in iron ore which cause the trouble are separated before the ore is taken into the blast furnace?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Normally what the hon. Member has said is correct in the sense that with a proper screening plant the iron ore that is fed into the blast furnace is free from any fines. But because the mechanical arrangements are not yet complete, the iron ore that is being supplied is manually worked and loaded in wagons. There are no proper screening arrangements. As soon as the mechanical screening arrangements are complete, this difficulty is not likely to recur. In the mean time, the matter has been taken up with the State Trading Corporation, who are the suppliers of iron
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ore, to see that the iron ore that is supplied does not contain the fines.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that apart from this technical difficulty, so far as Rourkela steel plant is concerned blast furnace No. 3 is ready but it cannot go into operation for want of coal supply? If so, may I know the loss that the steel plant is suffering on that account?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That does not arise out of this. But it is a fact that blast furnace No. 3 is practically ready for being commissioned. It is not actually being commissioned for production for two or three reasons. One is that constant supply of the raw materials in requisite quantity is not yet assured. The second reason is that the rolling mills which will ultimately take the steel for rolling purposes are not yet ready. If the blast furnace goes into production, the iron cannot be handled because there is only one pig-casting machine. This Rourkela steel plant is not designed to produce large quantities of pig iron. So, it is on account of lack of synchronisation that we are not commissioning this blast furnace.

Shri Joachim Alva: There were three cases of stoppage of blast furnace in regard to Rourkela despite a very distinguished consortium handling the mill. There are also cases of defective piling in Durgapur mill. I want to know what happens to the accumulated experience built up in these two mills at Rourkela and Bhilai? Don't you utilise that in the case of the third mill? What have you gained by the experience that you have already acquired? You do not seem to utilise it in the case of the third mill.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is very difficult to answer because I did not catch the import of the question. All that I can say is, in all humility, that we are being benefited by our experience.

Mr. Speaker: The Question-hour is over.