

(b) what are the steps taken so far to see that adequate quantity of steel is supplied in time?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The question will be answered by the Minister for Irrigation and Power at a later date.

Report of Hindu Religious Endowment Commission

*549. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindu Religious Endowment Commission under C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer has submitted its report;

(b) if not, when is the report expected; and

(c) what States were visited by the Commission?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Commission is expected to submit its report to Government in the second half of 1961.

(c) The Commission has visited the States of Kerala and Mysore and is now on tour in the State of Gujarat.

Raw Materials Committee

*550. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the view of the Raw Material Committee to give a trial for transport of raw materials for steel plants by ropeways and pipelines; and

(b) whether the estimates of cost has been worked out?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). No, Sir. It was merely a suggestion for consideration in future plans. The raw materials for the steel industry in the Third Five Year Plan will be carried by the railways.

Manufacture of Rifles and Shotguns for Civilians

*551. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government arms factories have any proposals to manufacture shotguns and sporting rifles for Civilians on mass scale and what chances are there of prices of Indian cartridges coming down?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Ordnance Factories have already established manufacture of 12 Bore DBBL Shot Guns and '315" Rifles on a mass scale.

Prices of cartridges are being progressively reduced. The prices of '315" cartridges have been reduced with effect from 1st November, 1960 to Rs. 45 per 100 from Rs. 75. The cost of 12 bore is also being reduced.

Raw Material Supply to Steel Mills

*552. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set up any Committee to look after the raw material supply of all Steel Mills in the country belonging to private and public sectors; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this Committee?

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

(b) A copy of the Resolution setting up the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 31.]

Audit of Hindustan Steel Accounts

*553. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether only one firm of auditors has been appointed to audit the accounts of Messrs. Hindustan Steel Ltd. at (1) Bhilai (2) Durgapur (3) Rourkela and (4) Bokaro;

(b) whether a single firm of auditors has been appointed to audit the accounts of the National Oil Refineries;

(c) whether Government will state why only one firm has been appointed in these cases;

(d) whether they propose to appoint more auditors to carry on the work expeditiously; and

(e) what is the fee of the auditors at present engaged?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No Sir. Two firms of auditors have been appointed for the Hindustan Steel Limited for the year 1960-61. There are no separate auditors for different steel projects.

(b) Yes, Sir. Only one firm of auditors was appointed for the year 1959-60 to audit the accounts of Indian Refineries Ltd. Auditors for 1960-61 are yet to be appointed.

(c) The volume of work did not warrant appointment of more than one firm of auditors for the Indian Refineries Ltd. during 1959-60.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) (i) Hindustan Steel Limited Rs. 1,40,000 for 1960-61 to be shared by the two firms of auditors.

(ii) Indian Refineries Ltd.—Rs. 6000 for 1959-60.

Purchase of Ammunition

*554. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 740 on the 24th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to enquire into the purchase of ammunition in 1952 from a European Firm has drafted its report;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report;

(c) its main findings; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon) (a) No, Sir. The work of drafting the report of the Committee appears to be nearing completion.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Steel Plant for South

*555. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 445 on the 17th August, 1960 and state:

(a) the progress made so far by the committee comprising officials of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and the Madras State in investigating and reporting the feasibility of setting up a steel plant in the South; and

(b) by what time they will submit their report?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The Committee can report only after the detailed geological investigation recommended by it have been carried out and large-scale commercial tests undertaken with representative quantities of raw-materials i.e., lignite, iron ore and lime-stone. Sufficient quantities of lignite are expected to be available, for tests to be carried out, by the middle of 1961.

Pension of Ex-Servicemen

*556. { **Shri Bhakt Darshan:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to