

(b) and (c). The Oxygen Plant stopped because of an unforeseen mechanical breakdown which took some days to set right.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know what was the total loss so far as production is concerned and who is going to make good the loss? Will it be the contractor or others?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No outsider can make good the loss. If this machine breaks down, like the breakdown in a motor car, no one makes good the loss. These are the normal operation risks which have to be faced.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether this was taken over from the contractor after the testing? If so, what was the total loss incurred because of this breakdown?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I could not say whether it has been formally taken over or not. If it has not been formally taken over, then, it will be for the supplier to rectify the defect. But the loss of production is something which even a supplier cannot make good.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know if, before the Government took over this plant, it was tested? If not, I would like to know whether it has been decided or not as to whether loss of production resulting because of this breakdown is to be borne by the supplier.

Sardar Swaran Singh: In this particular case, there was a mechanical breakdown which could easily be rectified if the requisite spares were there. The requisite spares were not there or they could not be easily located. It took some time before the necessary spares could be put in position and it was thereafter that the converter started working. These are normal operational defects with regard to which we cannot hold any supplier responsible.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know why the normal precaution was not taken in such normal matters to have

the normal spares available for the plant so that such breakdowns do not occur? The question about ultimate loss has not been answered.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The normal precautions were taken. But breakdowns are breakdowns and they take place in spite of precautions. So far as the second part is concerned, the plant did not work for 12 days. On an average of 12 blows per day, the loss of production can be estimated at roughly 4300 tons of steel ingots.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether the Steel Ministry has decided to enquire into this matter as to why this breakdown took place and whether there were also previous breakdowns?

Sardar Swaran Singh: In the case of any breakdown an enquiry is always there. It is part of the functioning of the management that they look into the causes to see whether it was accidental or what was the defect; and then proper measures to rectify the defect are taken.

Shri Narasimhan: The Minister was heard to say—if I heard him correctly—that a new spare part was brought. Could we know the cost of the spare part?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the information.

Ban on Communal Parties

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*1905. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Kumbhar:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to ban communal parties is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?