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LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 4, 1961/Vaisakha 14, 1883 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Institute for Scientific and Technical Information

*1899. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1426 on the 7th December, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the recommendations of the Committee set up under Dr. D. S. Kothari about the establishment of the Central Institute for Scientific and Technical Information; and

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

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has recommended that there is no need at present for starting a Central Institute for Scientific and Technical Information and that taking into account the real needs of the country, the Indian National Scienthe country, the Indian National Scienstrengthened.

Shri Ram Krisan Gupta: What are the reasons for turning down of this suggestion by the Committee?

511 (Ai) LS-1.

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Committee went into this question and after surveying the position they came to the conclusion that the INSDOC with a little development would be able to do the work.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the full report of the Kothari Committee will be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I do not think it is necessary. And, in fact, even on an earlier occasion I had told the House that the INSDOC was already doing the work. There was a recommendation for a new body. We examined its ourselves and referred it to an expert committee and that committee has come to the view that the INSDOC should be able to tackle this thing. And, I am sure the House does not want unnecessary duplication of committees.

Rourkela Steel Plant

*1904. Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the L.D. Steel Plant in Rourkela remained closed for thirteen days recently due to stoppage of oxygen supply from the tonnage oxygen plant of the steel works;

(b) the reasons for the stoppage of oxygen supply and the loss suffered on this account; and

(c) the precautionary steps, if any taken by the steel plant authorities to meet such eventualities?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir, for eleven days from the 8th of March.

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

Shri Chintamoni 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 Chintamoni 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 lloss of production is something which even a supplier cannot make good.

Shri Chintamoni 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 These converter started working. 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 Šwaran 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 Chintamoni Panigrahi: May 1 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

+ Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Shri D. C. Sharma: *1905. 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?