

**Rourkela Steel Plant**

**\*818. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to bring in more and more West German technicians to work in the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) the number of West German technicians who are being brought in from West Germany; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the authorities are not able to operate this plant with Indian technicians?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). Government have agreed to Hindustan Steel Limited's proposal to recruit upto 225 German technicians for the operation and maintenance of the various units of the Rourkela Steel Plant for periods upto 3 years.

(c) Hindustan Steel Limited have also recruited and trained a large number of Indian technicians. However, they still lack the experience necessary to operate and maintain successfully a complex steel plant like the one at Rourkela. The German technicians who are now being recruited will help and guide Indian technicians. It is expected that by the time Germans are ready to leave the Indian Staff of Rourkela will be fully competent to run this plant.

**Testing of Neyveli Lignite by East German Experts**

**\*819. { Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:**

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

(a) when the supply of 1000 tons of Neyveli Lignite to East German Experts was made for test;

(b) whether any result of tests has been received from them either interim or final; and

(c) if not, how long it will take to finalise the tests?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Not yet. The East German experts have since revised the quantity required for the test to 2,000 tons. This quantity is expected to be supplied towards the end of this year when the mine goes into production.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Closure of Bank and Stores Ltd., Purnea**

**\*820. Shri P. G. Sen:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Bank and Stores Ltd., Purnea (Bihar) is closed;

(b) the amount of loss to the depositors and the number of such depositors having accounts below one thousand rupees and above;

(c) what steps Government contemplate to safeguard the interest of the petty depositors?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha):** (a) Yes.

(b) The necessary particulars are not readily available and will have to be compiled from the bank's records. As the total deposits of the bank amounted only to about seventy three thousand rupees in June 1961, the loss to the depositors, individually or in the aggregate, cannot however be very great.

(c) In order to preserve the remaining assets of the bank and to prevent fraudulent or unauthorised payments, an order of moratorium under Section 45 of the Banking Companies Act has since been passed in relation to the bank. An officer of the Reserve Bank has also been deputed to investigate the affairs of the bank and the question of taking further action will be considered in the light of his report.