

about 300,000 tons of pig iron, over one million tons of steel and about 11,250 tons of aluminium.

(b) Government have under consideration plans for increasing the capacity of existing units in the iron and steel industry and for the establishment of additional units. Government have in mind the establishment of another unit for aluminium production. It would be premature to state how much of our requirements would be covered when these schemes take shape and what our imports will have to be.

Sardar Hukam Singh: In view of the limited availability of these essential articles, has the Government decided which particular industries would be allotted the daily quantities that we can make available?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is being done, Sir, every day. Actually allotment is made to particular industries on the basis of essentiality.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If the present target is achieved, shall we have self-sufficiency in some of the engineering industries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, at the present moment the consumer is starved and only industrial and agricultural needs are provided for. It is quite possible—I am really dwelling in the realms of conjecture when I am trying to answer my friend—when the targets are achieved, the industry might get what it wants.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether there is any decline in the allotment of steel to the steel processing industries? If so, what is the reason?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I want notice for that.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that some priority is given to the needs of agriculturists. May I know what percentage of the needs of agriculturists is met at the present time?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would suggest, the hon. Member puts down a question.

PIG IRON

*1522. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has given highest priority to the development of Pig Iron Industry; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken for this development during the year 1952-53?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have under consideration schemes to assist the existing producers of pig iron to increase production.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there is a plan for the production of pig iron only or steel also is included in it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The whole question is under consideration. We have several alternative schemes. At the present moment we are thinking of increasing the production of the existing units and if our present tentative programme goes through we shall have a considerable quantity of additional steel and also additional pig iron perhaps to the extent of 300,000 to 350,000 tons per year. That is on the basis of increase in production in the existing units. Government have also the idea of starting a third unit—in what manner and how, these matters are not settled. Then perhaps the availability of pig iron might be greater.

Sardar Hukam Singh: According to the plan when is it proposed that these two additional plants will come into production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I could not quite follow the import of the hon. Member's question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is there any plan for having these plants ready for production during these five years or even after that?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, if our expectations are realised we shall probably have these plants in full production before 1957.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any location been worked out for the second plant that is proposed to be set up in the near future?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I have said these questions are under very serious consideration. Government are working on alternative schemes. So far as existing units are concerned, we have more or less made up our minds to see that we shall assist in the increase in production of these units. So far as new units are concerned, we are exploring the pos-

sibilities and I am not prepared to commit myself to any answer at this stage.

Shri Madhao Reddi: May I know whether there is any agreement entered into in this connection with a Japanese firm?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether any final decision has been taken about the pig iron plant in Madhya Pradesh?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have not come to any decision in regard to the third unit, and when the decision is taken we will know what the location of that unit will be.

APPROACH BY BRITISH COLONIAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*1523. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Colonial Development Corporation have contacted the Government of India for Indian labourers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Yes. A representative of the Corporation contacted the Controller-General of Emigration informally to discuss the prospects of workers being available in India for work in North Borneo. The provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, under which emigration of unskilled workers has been banned and emigration of skilled workers may be permitted, were explained to him. No concrete proposals have so far been received from the Corporation. The question of any action on the part of the Government does not, therefore, arise at present.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government have allowed the entry of skilled or unskilled Indian labourers into Borneo?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have said that an informal request has been made on behalf of Borneo and it is still under consideration.

Shri Nambiar: Why are the Borneo Government asking the Indian Government to send labourers there as if there is no possibility of their getting labourers from anywhere else, as if we were the only people who could supply them?

Shri Satish Chandra: Government of India do not intend to allow any emigration of unskilled labourers to Borneo.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government is aware that the British Colonial Development Corporation is only a contract labour organisation?

Shri Satish Chandra: I am not aware of the character of that organisation.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government of Borneo has asked the Indian Government whether it is possible to send settlers to North Borneo, that is whether it is possible to send some people to settle down there permanently?

Shri Satish Chandra: No, Sir.

LABOUR PROVIDENT FUND

*1524. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have finalised the scheme for Provident Fund for workers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): The Employees Provident Funds Scheme has not yet been finalised. It is expected to be finalised and published shortly.

TRADE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

*1525. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what were the terms of trade arrangements with Czechoslovakia in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) What were the goods that were exported to and imported from Czechoslovakia in these two years (with quantity and value year by year)?

(c) Has any trade arrangement been made with Czechoslovakia for 1952-53?

(d) If so, what are the terms?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The terms of the trade arrangement with Czechoslovakia in the year 1950-51 are contained in the Indo-Czech Trade Agreement, (1950-51), copies of which will be found in the Library of the House. There was no trade arrangement with that country in the year 1951-52.

(b) Two Statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 40.]

(c) A Trade arrangement between the two countries for 1952-53 is under negotiation.