

Sardar Swaran Singh: I will not use a strong adjective. I have stated the facts and I would leave it to the hon. Member to decide whether his assertion is wrong or correct or partially correct. I would leave him to draw his own conclusion.

ZINC FACTORY

*2382. **Shri Balakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 894 on the 22nd December, 1954 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in considering the report of the committee which was formed to examine the question of the establishment of a Zinc factory in India;

(b) whether Government propose to start a Zinc factory in the immediate future; and

(c) whether it is a fact that all the requirements in respect of this commodity are met at present from imports from foreign countries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). According to the recommendations of the Committee a Zinc Smelter can be established only when the daily output of ore has reached a thousand tons. Today the output is only of the order of 300 tons. The question of establishing a zinc smelter can therefore, be taken up only after the ore output has reached the required target.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know under what conditions our raw materials are exported to foreign countries? Now we are exporting our raw materials to foreign countries. Is there any agreement?

Shri Kanungo: There is no agreement. The export is conducted under the usual forms of trade.

Shri Balakrishnan: In the reply given to unstarred question No. 894 on the 22nd December, 1954, in part (c) the hon. Minister of Commerce and

Industry stated: "Before the establishment of a zinc smelter is contemplated, it is necessary to ensure a minimum daily output of ore. Government have under examination certain proposals for the development of the mines concerned towards achieving this minimum ore output." May I know what is the daily output which is ensured now in our mines and what is the daily output expected to start a zinc factory?

Shri Kanungo: The present output is 200—300 tons a day. The question of increasing the output is being considered by the Government and negotiations are being carried on between the company and the Government and also Consultants from abroad.

Shri Balakrishnan: How much is required for starting a factory?

Shri Kanungo: 1,000 tons a day.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know the names of the countries from which zinc is being imported now?

Shri Kanungo: I require notice.

HOSPITAL IN FARIDABAD

*2383. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the hospital in Faridabad during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54;

(b) the amount spent on the purchase of medicines and other stores for the hospital during these years; and

(c) whether any tenders were invited for the purchase of hospital stores and other requirements during these years?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 19.]

Shri Gidwani: In reply to part (c) of the question, whether any tenders were