

Shri Hathi : They are mentioned in the statement. It was Rs. 48 crores and it has been raised to Rs. 70.78 crores. It will be completed by July, 1956.

Shri G. P. Sinha : May I know whether the actual cost of Kosi project is less than the estimated cost and, if so, what is the reason ?

Shri Hathi : We have just started that project and therefore the question of actual cost does not arise now.

Coal out-put

*2349. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to step up the out-put of coal in the Serampore and Kurhurbaree Collieries of Giridih in view of the requirements for the Second Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in the matter ; and

(c) the number of additional labour likely to be needed ?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) and (b). Government have decided to set up a Technical Committee to report on measures to be adopted for maintaining the coal output from these old mines at the present level, or alternatively, on the desirability of closing them down on account of their diminishing reserves and uneconomic working.

(c) There is little scope for recruitment of additional labour.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha : May I know whether the Government have reports as to the number of layers of coal deposits which are there and, if so, what would be the approximate quantity of the deposits which can be extracted ?

Shri Satish Chandra : There are even now reserves of coal in these mines and they are estimated according to some old calculations, at 14 million tons. A technical committee has been appointed to go again into this question. The raising of coal from these mines is becoming difficult because they have already been worked for 85 years.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha : May I know if this technical committee has started its work ?

Shri Satish Chandra : It is shortly going to begin its work and it is expected to submit its report within a few months.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether this technical committee has given advice that this coal may be used after washing ?

Shri Satish Chandra : Coal in these collieries is of a very good quality. Difficulties are being experienced in taking it out economically on account of the depth of the mine and greater quantity of water into them. Some technical problems are in fact coming in the way. They are to be investigated by this committee.

Vamsadhara Project

*2350. **Shri Sanganna :** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 353 on the 2nd August, 1955 regarding the Vamsadhara Project and state :

(a) whether the Government of India have received the views of the Government of Orissa in the matter; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa propose to take up the scheme independently and not in collaboration with Andhra State ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sanganna : May I know whether this scheme is included by the Government of Andhra in the second Five Year Plan ?

Shri Hathi : There is a proposal for inclusion.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether the Central Government is aware that the Andhra Government and the Orissa Government have entered into an agreement as regards the execution of the Vamsadhara project ?

Shri Hathi : I do not think the agreement is finalised yet.

भिलाई का इस्पात का कारखाना

*२३५१. **श्री जांगड़े :** क्या लोहा और इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भिलाई के प्रायोजित लोहे के कारखाने की प्रारम्भिक अवस्था के क्या क्या कार्य पहले ही प्रारम्भ किये जा चुके हैं, अथवा १९५५-५६ के भीतर प्रारम्भ किये जाने की आशा है, और उस में किन्तने व्यक्त काम पर लगाये जायेंगे;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि कमचारियों की भर्ती छत्तीसगढ़ के बाहर अन्य स्थानों से की जा रही है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस के कारण क्या हैं ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) The works that are being carried out at Bhilai at present or proposed to be undertaken shortly relate to certain preliminary measures, *viz.* prospecting for minerals, topographical surveys, acquisition of land, construction of temporary accommodation for construction staff and offices etc. The number of persons employed on these works during 1955-56 would be about 5,000.

(b) and (c). The recruitment of technical and administrative staff is made by selection on an all-India basis. But it is expected that the bulk of labour employed for the Bhilai plant would be local.

Shri Jangde : Is it not a fact that some officers have gone outside Chattisgarh in search of labourers, though there are semi-skilled and unskilled labourers found locally and that from Chattisgarh hundreds and thousands of labourers go to the other coal fields ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I am not aware of it. I have given very clear instructions that if labour is available locally they ought to be employed.

Shri Jangde : Is the Government proposing to start some training centre to train the local persons in some sort of semi-skilled or skilled work ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : The question of training local people for employment in the factory is a thing which will be undertaken when the factory starts production. To the extent that we have qualified people we will be able to take the local people.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Do Government propose to make recruitment in such places where labourers, either semi-skilled or unskilled, are working in some steel plants, and where there are surplus workers who may be released if they are recruited to the new plant ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : That will be one of the considerations which will have to be borne in mind in making any recruitment.

Shri Jaipal Singh : In view of the fact that the land acquired is in a tribal area, may I know whether, as in the case of the hydro-electric projects, the Government will pursue the same policy in the case of the displaced persons ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I am not aware of the policy pursued by the Government in the case of hydro-electric projects, but so far as the particular project in my charge is concerned, it would be my earnest endeavour to see as far as possible that everybody who is a displaced person is treated generously.

Conch Industry

*2352. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether any loan or grant has been asked for by the Government of West Bengal for the development of the 'Shankhs' (Conch) industry.

(b) if so, the total amount, if any, sanctioned during the last three years ; and

(c) the nature of facilities provided to artisans for obtaining supply of 'Shankhs' for the production of various articles ?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) During the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 no financial assistance was given to the State Government for the development of Conch Industry as no specific request was received from them.

(ii) During 1954-55, a grant of Rs. 2,275/- and a Loan of Rs. 15,000/- was sanctioned.

(c) Supply of conch shells to the artisans, through the existing Co-operatives, at reasonable price was arranged.

A special import license has also been granted to the Government of West Bengal to import conch from Ceylon.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know whether it is a fact that there is some difficulty at present on account of the shortage of supply from Ceylon, and whether Government is taking any steps to see that such difficulties are removed ?

Shri Satish Chandra : The import of conch shells from Ceylon was banned on account of currency difficulties, I believe, but the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have issued a licence recently to the West Bengal Government to import shells valued at about Rs. 3 lakhs.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know whether Government have any idea as to the number of people engaged in this industry and, if so, whether Government considers that this grant of about Rs. 2,000 will be sufficient to help a large number of people engaged in this industry ?