

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As a matter of fact, this requires my going into details. I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put down a question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the new budget proposals of Mr. Butler in the House of Commons recently have in any way affected our balance of trade?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachar: I do not think that so far as our trade with the UK—our export to the UK—is concerned, the 'credit squeeze' of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of UK is likely to affect us very much. One of the principal commodities that we export to UK happens to be tea, and the demand is not quite so elastic as to respond to a 'credit squeeze'.

Shri Kasliwal: While addressing the Export Advisory Council recently, the hon. Minister had said that he proposed to have an export plan to be included in the next Five-Year Plan. My I know what steps has taken towards that?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have made a statement day before yesterday; I cannot bring out a chart today. It has got to go through a period of incubation.

Steel Plant

*298. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a fourth steel plant in India; and

(b) if so, where?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Government are not at the moment considering any plans to set up a fourth steel plant. But it has been decided to take steps to develop the site near Bokaro in Bihar with a view to establish a fourth steel plant when such a scheme eventuates.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I enquire whether Government have in mind any period within which this development work at Bokaro has to be undertaken?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No. I have fixed no targets yet.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Is it a fact that the Bihar Government has proceeded ahead and acquired about 30 or 34 square miles of land for the location of this fourth steel plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no precise information. But if Bihar Government had done so, that would be a part of the scheme of development of that area.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if some countries have offered to erect steel plants in India—the fourth or fifth? If so, which are the countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These reports that appear in the newspapers from time to time are largely a matter of wishful thinking. I had no precise offer from any country.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if the difficulties which were prevailing at Bokaro at the time of selecting the site have been overcome, and also what efforts are being made to develop the site for the fourth steel plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Attempts at developing the site happen to be included amongst others attempts to overcome the difficulties which were found to exist when we were deciding on a site for the third steel plant, and when we develop this site, these difficulties such as the lack of road transport, lack of rail transport, bridge over the river, will all be overcome.

Salt

*299. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 2397 on the 29th September, 1955 and state:

(a) whether consideration of the representation made by the All India Salt Refiners' Association in connection with the proposed import of rock salt from Pakistan has since been concluded; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). Consideration has not been concluded. The points raised by the All India Salt Refiners' Association will, however, be borne in mind while arranging the distribution of rock salt to be imported from Pakistan.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that this salt refining industry is manned almost exclusively by displaced persons from Pakistan on explicit encouragement by the Government and on the distinct understanding that no foreign salt would be imported in future, so as to protect their interests?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is true that the refining industry is mainly being carried on by displaced persons. But I do not think that any undertaking of the kind referred to by the hon. Member was given by the Government.

Shri Kamath: In view of the fact that we have been exporting salt to Japan and Indonesia in the last two years, why was it considered necessary to import salt into India?