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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 28th August, 1956

इस्पात का आयात

1784

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steel Imports

*1490. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been concluded with West Germany for the import of the steel; and

(b) if so, the quantity of steel to be imported therefrom?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). No agreement has been concluded with the West German Government for import of steel. An agreement has, however, been concluded on 12-3-56 with a West German firm for the import of 205,000 Metric tons of steel for supply during 1956 to 1958.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the phased programme of the delivery of this steel in India?

Shri M. M. Shah: They are going to deliver 45,000 tons in 1956, 80,000 tons in 1957 and 80,000 tons in 1958.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how the prices charged by West Germany compare with the prices charged by the U.K.?

Shri M. M. Shah: There is no actual comparison of prices. As a matter of fact, in answer to question No. 1492 on the Order Paper today, a detailed statement is going to be given. On an average, foreign steel prices are higher than indigenous prices by about Rs. 200 per ton.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I do not quite follow, Sir.

Shri M. M. Shah: I said that in answer to question No. 1492, a detailed statement is going to be given.

Mr. Speaker: Let it also be answered just now, and both may be taken together.

2 L.S.D.—1

*१४९२. श्री भागवत झा साज़ाब : क्या कारिग्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५६ में अब तक किन-किन देशों से इस्पात का आयात हुआ है ;

(ख) इन देशों में से प्रत्येक से किस किस दर से और कितनी कितनी मात्रा में इस्पात खरीदा गया है ;

(ग) बाहर से मंगाये गये इस्पात के मूल्यों और स्वदेशी इस्पात के मूल्यों में क्या अन्तर है ;

(घ) क्या अन्य कुछ देशों से भी इस्पात मंगाने के बारे में उन से बातचीत चल रही है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो किन-किन देशों से, कितनी कितनी मात्रा में तथा किन-किन दरों पर इस्पात खरीदा जायेगा ?

भारी उद्योग मंत्री (श्री म० म० शाह) :

(क) तथा (ख) एक विवरण सदन की मेज़ पर उपस्थित किया जाता है । [रेलिये परिशिष्ट ६, अनुबन्ध सं० ८]

(ग) बाहर से मंगाये गये इस्पात के भाव देशी इस्पात के भावों से लगभग २०० रुपये प्रति टन अधिक होते हैं । यह अन्तर लोहे के वर्ग पर प्रायः निर्भर होता है ।

(घ) जी, नहीं ।

(ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: Let the answer be given in English also.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 8].

(c) Foreign steel prices are generally higher than indigenous prices by about Rs. 200/- per ton, depending on the category.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is the steel that we have imported by now in accordance with our demand that we have placed or there is any lag in the import?

Shri M. M. Shah: I think the arrivals are very satisfactory. So far, out of 1 million tons already ordered, 8,54,595 tons are due to arrive and most of it has already arrived.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Have we placed orders for import for all our requirements for the current year or have we left any lag?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Next year?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: 1956.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position, I think, is reasonably well covered. My own trouble, in fact, is that the goods that are coming in are not being lifted. We have got to make arrangements for storing them because they are coming in such large quantities. Our plans for the next year have to be thought of.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know under what currency the cost of the steel is going to be paid? Is there going to be any barter deal with any country so far as the import of steel is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as payment is concerned, it differs from country to country. For certain goods we have to pay in rupees. In some other cases, we have to pay in dollars. In some cases it comes as part of the aid. We have no specific barter deal as such. I can only say that we are paying in all currencies.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the proportion of our imports to our total demand this year? What is it likely to be in the next year?

Shri M. M. Shah: The current indigenous production is 1.26 million tons. The anticipated imports are about 2 million tons.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: It is stated that a quantity of 1.1 million tons of steel has been allotted for the year 1956-57. So far only 4,12,000 tons has been allotted. May I know whether we can reasonably expect that the full allocation will be fulfilled?

Shri M. M. Shah: As I have already indicated, 8,54,595 tons have arrived. According to the programme, another 2 to 3 lakh tons are due to arrive shortly. That

would fulfil all our expectations regarding the import programme.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the steel is available to the consumers at the price stated in the reply?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: One can hope that it is so. So far as the protected consumers are concerned, we are making it available.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Minister referred to the fact that goods arriving are not being lifted. May I enquire whether the Cochin port is under-worked and what is it that stands in the way of the Government diverting some of the goods to that port?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Nothing stands in the way except that we have to lift the goods from the Cochin Port to the place of consumption which is not quite an easy matter.

Seth Govind Das: For how long shall we have to import steel? After the work commences in Bhilai, will the country be self-sufficient as far as steel is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I hope the country will not be self-sufficient. The industrial progress of a country depends on its consumption of steel. It is my expectation that our demand will rise rapidly far above what we can produce so that we can go on planning for more production.

Shri B. D. Pande: With the advent of the plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai, are we supposed to be self-sufficient in steel?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have already replied that our expectation is that we may be short of 1 million tons.

Shri Damodara Menon: In answer to part (d) of the question, the hon. Minister said that no negotiations are now being carried on with any other country for the import of steel. May I know what persuaded the Government to carry on negotiations with West Germany and not with any other country?

Shri M. M. Shah: In the statement the names of 21 countries are given. The answer only indicates that no other negotiations than the ones given in the statement are being undertaken.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister said that 8,95,000 tons have since been imported. We are going to import 1 million tons more during next few months. How is it possible to import another 1 million tons in view of the shortage of shipping space?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May be the facts mentioned by the hon. Member are correct. We still expect that between now and March 1957 which is the official year, we will be able to complete our import programme or very nearly complete it. Th

problem of shipping space being short is certainly there.

Shri P. C. Bose: It has been said that the cost of imported steel is Rs. 200 more than indigenous steel. May I know whether this higher price is due to transport charges?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No. As a matter of fact, they are largely higher production charges and to some extent the cost of freight from the place of production to India.

Spun Silk Mills

*1491. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding the proposal to establish spun silk mills in the States of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of mills that are required to consume the annual export quantity of silk waste; and

(c) the number of spun silk mills at present working in the country?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) the Government of Assam have taken preliminary steps to establish a spun silk mill of 3000 spindles. Similar proposals from the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir are under the consideration of the Central Silk Board;

(b) One or two mills with a total capacity of about 6,000 spindles.

(c) Only one at Chennapatna in the Mysore State.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how much silk waste was exported last year, that is 1955?

Shri K. C. Reddy: In 1955, 1.5 lakh pounds of silk waste was exported.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much was utilised by the Mill in Mysore which has been mentioned by the hon. Minister?

Shri K. C. Reddy: In Mysore, the silk waste that was utilised by the Spun silk mill was about 3 to 4 lakh lbs. the capacity of the silk mill is to use about, I think, 8 lakh lbs. But, they were able to utilise only 3 to 4 lakh lbs.

Shri Shivananajappa: May I know whether Government are aware that there is a lot of silk waste lying unutilized in the godowns in the State of Mysore for want of export facilities?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir; Government is aware that there is a large stock of silk waste, but Government cannot take any risk of starving the only spun silk mill at Chennapatna of the raw material that it requires. Though it consumed only about 4 lakh lbs. last year, it is now making better progress and it is expected it would need about seven to eight lakh lbs. during this year. We are examining all aspects of the question, and recently we have increased the quota

for the export of silk waste. Now we have decided so far to export 2.25 lakh lbs. this year and we are examining as to how much more we can safely allow for export.

Shrimati Khongmen: In view of the fact that Assam produces some of the best varieties of silk in the country, will Government help in the establishment of these mills there?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have already said in my answer that there is a proposal to establish a spun silk mill in Assam with a capacity of 3,000 spindles. The Central Silk Board have accepted the proposal in principle and the Assam Government has already taken preliminary steps to establish it. In fact, they have invited an expert from Japan to come over and prepare a scheme for this, and the Government of India have also accepted in principle to contribute towards the capital outlay.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether any Central assistance has been sought for by the South Indian Silk Mill at Gudiyattam which is now dormant for want of capital?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like to have notice to answer the question.

Shri Nijalingappa: May I know whether it is a fact that nearly ten lakh lbs. of silk waste are lying with the merchants and they are clamouring for export?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I received a long letter from the hon. Member about this matter. About the figure of ten lakh lbs. I am not quite sure. Government is examining the factual position. My information is about six to seven lakh lbs. are in stock. We have now written to the various State Governments concerned to give us the firm figures of the stock they have. After receiving the information, we shall decide as to what to do about it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the expert who is coming from Japan an expert in establishing the mill or in silk in general? If he is an expert in sericulture, may I know whether he will be made to tour all over India for improving sericulture?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The information we have is that the Assam Government have invited this expert to advise them on the establishment of a spun silk factory in Assam. He has not been invited for general purposes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that the Central Silk Board have recommended the opening of this mill. May I know what steps have been taken by the Board for the consumption of this silk waste in the areas where silk is produced?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I think I have already stated that the Central Silk Board have agreed to the establishment of a spun