

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** He made pretty exhaustive enquiries and the report is a very detailed one.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it going to be laid on the Table?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** No. I am afraid it cannot be laid.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the Government have any plan to have a new approach to this problem, in view of the facts given by Shri T. K. Chaudhuri?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** It is a very general question; it is very difficult for me to answer it by way of a supplementary question, because it is an important matter.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The point is this. There is an hon. Member of this House who has given his personal experiences. Therefore, may I know whether the Government is considering that aspect of the question to see whether some of the difficulties experienced by the Indian prisoners in Goa can be removed and better facilities given to them?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** The first Secretary of the Egyptian Embassy has already written to the Governor-General in Goa referring to the difficulties and the grievances of the Indian prisoners there.

#### Low Shaft Furnaces at Salem

\*47. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for setting up low shaft furnaces at Salem to make pig iron have been examined;

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to export Salem iron ore to Japan?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No such proposal for setting up low shaft furnaces at Salem is under consideration at present. But such a scheme has

been sanctioned for production of 15,000 tons of pig iron per annum at Coimbatore, based on Salem iron ore.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For purposes of export, no distinction is made between iron ore of Salem and that of other regions in the country; proposals for export of iron ore to Japan are under consideration of the Government of India and the Government of Japan.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Is the scheme referred to in answer to part (a) of the question in the private sector or the public sector? May I know also if there is going to be a ceiling upon the capacity of the plant in the private sector and if so, what is the ceiling?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This plant is in the private sector; the ceiling is 15,000 tons a year.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** What is the capital outlay of such a plant and when is it expected to start working?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The plant would cost about Rs. 30 lakhs and may start functioning in two to three years.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** If a licence is sought for setting up such a plant in Salem itself instead of in Coimbatore, will the licence be granted?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It will be duly considered when received.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** Is iron ore being produced in Salem at present?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Actually mining of Salem iron ore deposits has not started on any substantial scale. Most of the mining is of the Sandur deposits in Mysore and Madhya Pradesh deposits.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** What is the agency for mining of the iron ore in the private sector? Or, will Government take any steps in regard to it?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It depends on different proposals. The general

policy now with regard to major minerals is that most of them will be in the public sector; but, individual proposals are considered on their own merits.

**Shri Heda:** May I know how much iron ore are exporting to Japan or other countries? Is the proposed plant adequate to exploit all the resources or will some more plant be necessary?

**Shri Manuhhal Shah:** This plant is not for producing iron ore; it is for the conversion of iron ore into pig iron. As far as iron ore exported to different countries is concerned, in 1953 we were exporting about 11 lakhs tons; last year, it has risen to about 18 lakhs tons.

#### Hindustan Housing Factory

\*50. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken with regard to the future of the Hindustan Housing Factory Delhi; and

(b) if so, what it is?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). The future working of the Factory is still under review and a decision is expected to be taken very shortly. Since 16th August, 1955, the Factory has been run by Government as an interim measure and the results are not considered to be unsatisfactory.

**Shri Kamath:** What has been the total loss to the public exchequer or rather to the poor tax-payer, since the inception of the factory in 1948 or perhaps 1949 up-to-date?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** This point has been discussed here in this House at the time of the debates and in reply to various questions. If a separate question is put, then these figures can be collected and the total can be given.

**Shri Kamath:** Has the Hindustan Housing Factory produced or built up-to-date a single house in Hindustan, and if so, where and how many?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The factory is now engaged in manufacturing pre-stressed and pre-cast concrete and also wood work. The intention is not to produce or manufacture complete houses, but components.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** The hon. Minister has said that since August, 1955 the factory has been run by Government and the results are not unsatisfactory. Could we know whether Government expect that the results will be positively satisfactory any of these days?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I should think so. To give a complete picture, during this period the pre-stressed and pre-cast concrete department of the factory executed orders to the extent of Rs. 13.54 lakhs, as against orders of the same value under the previous management spread over a period of 2 years and 4 months. In the wood work department, the factory has given orders worth Rs. 14 lakhs during the year and orders worth a similar amount are in hand, which should keep the factory busy till the end of March, 1957. In the foam concrete department, the factory executed orders worth Rs. 2.3 lakhs during the year as against orders worth Rs. 1.23 lakhs executed over a period of two years and four months by the previous management.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** May I know whether these orders which were executed were given by Government departments or they were given by Government departments or they were given by some commercial concerns?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Both.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** May I know whether the cost of production for these outputs was nearly double that in any commercial concern?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** That is wrong. It is quite comparable with