

(b) if so, the steps so far taken to implement the proposal;

(c) the site chosen to start the training centre; and

(d) the amount expected to be spent on the scheme.

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrinani): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to establish the Centre permanently at Faridabad. A suitable piece of land has been tentatively selected for the purpose of constructing a building for the Centre. Plans and estimates for the construction of the building have also been prepared.

In the meantime, efforts are being made to locate the Centre temporarily at some other suitable place.

(d) There is a provision of Rs. 8 lakhs in the Second Five Year Plan for the purpose, at present.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know the nature of technical training that is contemplated to be imparted to these deaf and dumb?

Dr. K. L. Shrinani: Various kinds of training which could be imparted, for instance, tailoring, carpentry and cabinet-making, machine work, commercial painting, electro-plating, printing, book-binding, photography, and various skills in which the deaf could be trained.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know the number of trainees that will be trained in the centre?

Dr. K. L. Shrinani: I am afraid that I do not have that information but I will be glad to give that information to the hon. Member.

Shri R. C. Majhi: What will be the duration of the training period?

Dr. K. L. Shrinani: All those details have still to be worked out.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether it is a fact that the I.L.O. expert had worked a scheme for the training of the handicapped at Bombay, whether that scheme had been worked

out and also whether it has got any response from the public or the industrialists?

Dr. K. L. Shrinani: The hon. Member is referring to the I.L.O. expert. One expert has been invited to help us in planning the education of the handicapped. I could not follow the latter part of his question. But if that is his question, the answer is, as already given by me, in the affirmative.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad: May I know if there has been any survey as to the State in which there are the maximum number of deaf?

Dr. K. L. Shrinani: I do not have that information. But I may inform the hon. Member that there are 47 schools for the deaf in the country.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: After these trainees pass out from this institution, has the Government any system of giving them financial help to settle them in industries in which they have been trained?

Dr. K. L. Shrinani: All these matters will be decided and I would get that proposal also examined. Normally, they have some kind of sheltered workshops for this kind of people but our policy in the past has been to persuade the existing industries to employ these people and that has worked in the past. I think on those lines they would continue to work and we are only proposing to set up a special employment office for these people.

Shri Achar: May I know the total number of deaf and dumb in the country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already answered that question.

Import of Steel from Russia

+

* 174 { Shri Ram Krishna:
Shrimati Ha Falchoudhuri:
Shri Bishwanath Ray:
Shri Jadhav:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to import steel from Russia;

(b) if so, whether any arrangements have been made or are being made in regard thereto with the Government of that country;

(c) the details of the arrangements made; and

(d) total value of steel to be imported?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Arrangements are being made with the Government of U.S.S.R. for this import.

(c) and (d). Under a Trade Agreement already existing with the Government of U.S.S.R., the Government of India propose to purchase about 2,16,000 tons of steel in 1959. Although details have not yet been finalised, negotiations are in progress for this import. The value will depend on the result of negotiations.

I may add that the value is likely to be of the order of Rs. 10 crores or so.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the purpose for which this steel will be utilised? Will it be utilised for public services or distributed for private purposes?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It will be distributed but a part of it will be used for public purposes also.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the ratio between the public and private purposes?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir; no such ratio has been fixed.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: How far will the annual demand of steel be fulfilled by this import of steel from Russia?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is very difficult to give the proportion of that type.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know when the actual import of steel will begin?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As soon as the terms are finalised, the order will be placed. Our experience is that when the orders are placed, supplies start coming in within a couple of months or so.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if there has been any indication of the price at which steel will be obtained and whether there is any chance of getting it at lower than world prices?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Generally the prices that prevail in the international market are quoted. But there are always marginal adjustments this way and that way. The Brussels market generally throws up the prices and its quotations are generally of the same pattern as those in the international market. Brussels appears to be the general index for it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Apart from the trade agreement that was referred to now, there was originally some import of steel. May I know whether this import of two and odd lakhs tons will be in addition to that?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know what is in the mind of the hon. Member. In the original agreement, it was mentioned that India would be prepared to import about a million tons of steel if conditions are suitable and the terms are appropriate. If the amount that has been indicated is imported, that will bring the total import from the Soviet Union to the tune of about a million tons.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether there is any proposal for import of steel in 1959 from any other country, besides Soviet Union and if so what is the quantity?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes. There is a proposal for import of steel from Japan and the U.S.A. also but no quantities have been settled.

Shri Tyagi: What would be the medium of payment in the bargain with Russia?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The arrangement, as the House is aware, is to make payments in rupees here which the Russians would normally utilise for purchasing Indian goods for the purpose of exports to the Soviet Union. But there is also a condition that to the extent the amount cannot be utilised for the purchase of Indian goods, the amount can be asked for in foreign currency.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the type of steel to be imported—whether it will be structural steel or other type steel?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There are a large number of categories: structural, non-structural, plates, etc.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, my question was not fully answered. I wanted to know the medium of payment. My hon. friend said that to the extent to which Russia can buy from India it will be in rupee, otherwise they can go in for sterling or any other foreign exchange. What is the proportion? To what extent have they undertaken to buy in India?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no such fixed proportion—subject, of course, to the final details being given by the Finance Ministry. But the general terms are that the payment is initially made in rupees. Those rupees can be utilised, or are normally utilised for purchase of Indian goods and being exported to the Soviet Union; but the condition, as I have already indicated, is that to the tune Indian goods cannot be purchased in foreign exchange—that is the undertaking—will be made available. But the point which the hon. Member is suggesting in his question is really agreed to.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know what main considerations weighed with the Government in importing this steel; is it the vast Government building activities or is it the requirement of established licensed importers?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is a fact, Sir, that our production of steel inside the country is less than our require-

ments. Our requirements are for public purposes as well as for building purposes, for industries and for a number of other things. Therefore, to make that shortfall we have been importing steel for a number of years.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are still a number of hon. Members who want to ask supplementaries. We will go to the next question.

Accident at Cochin Naval Dockyard

*175. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two-civilian workers employed in the Naval Dockyard at Cochin died as a result of an accident on the 9th September, 1958;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was held to ascertain the causes of the accident;

(c) if so, findings thereof; and

(d) the amount paid as compensation to their dependents?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A summary of the findings of the Board of Enquiry is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 75.]

(d) An amount of Rs. 3,000—has been sanctioned to the heirs of each of the two deceased labourers.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any arrangements have been made to avoid future accidents, because my information is that.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has put his question. Why should he state what his information is? Let him hear the answer.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is, what steps have been taken to avoid future accidents?