

Small Blast Furnaces

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- *84. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Panigrahi:
 Shri N. E. Muniswamy:
 Shri Tangamani:
 Shri K S. Ramaswamy:
 Shri Narasimhan:
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 Shri Rameshwar Tanti:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 847 on the 27th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether small blast furnaces and converters have been established on an experimental measure,

(b) if so, where, and

(c) if not, what progress has been made in the matter?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Two furnaces for making iron and one converter for making steel have been permitted to be put up. Proposals for two other furnaces and 3 other converters are under consideration. It is the intention to permit some more furnaces and converters. Towards this end, out of the target for steel in the Third Plan, it is proposed to set apart about 250,000 tons for manufacture in small units.

(b) and (c) The two furnaces for manufacture of iron which have been licensed and are already in operation are in the States of Orissa and Madras. The converter—a hot-blast cupola—is being put up in Bombay. Besides these, the National Metallurgical Laboratory has already put up a low-shaft furnace where experiments are being carried out and a small converter for making steel is under construction.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any attempt will be made to construct such blast furnaces by the side of the big blast furnaces, that is, in places nearabout the big blast furnaces?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think that that would be really economic, because so far as the economics of an integrated steel plant is concerned, the furnaces have to be of a fairly large size. The intention is that these might be at places other than those where the integrated steel plants are located.

Shri Narasimhan: Has the Madras Government or any private party from Madras offered to start furnaces of this type in Salem, and if so, what consideration are Government giving to the same?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have already said that one such furnace is already working in the State of Madras.

Shri Narasimhan. I am referring to Salem.

Sardar Swaran Singh. I would require separate notice, to check that up.

Shri Narasimhan: May I know whether the machinery for these types of furnaces is going to be manufactured in India, and if so, what arrangements have been made for the same?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Let us hope so. It is one of our objectives to be able to manufacture our machinery requirements in the country. The hon Member is aware that a heavy machine-making plant and a forge and a foundry are going to be installed at Ranchi.

Shri Tangamani: May I know the present installed capacity of the blast furnace which has been set up in Madras, and the maximum capacity of these blast furnaces according to this plan?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am speaking from memory, when I say that it is about 15,000 tons a year. And the intention is not to encourage large ones, because the development of iron and steel is essentially in the public sector. As for these small ones, they are intended particularly to meet the

local requirements and to utilise ores which are away from the main coal-iron-ore belt, it is there that these smaller furnaces are encouraged

Shri Sarendramath Dwivedy: May I know whether Government consider it proper to leave all the small furnaces to the private sector or whether there is any proposal to start any of these small furnaces in the public sector?

Sardar Swaran Singh: At the moment, if the expansion in the public sector is visualised, it should be really in the sphere of larger furnaces rather than small ones, because the economics of those is better

Shri N R. Muniswamy: May I know the total estimated cost of the furnaces and converters that have been established up till now, and of the converters to be established hereafter?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid that would mean going into the realms of the future which is not quite clear to me. The number that is going to be installed hereafter will depend upon the decision that is taken, that is whether to start one, two, three or four

So far as the cost or the expenditure that has been incurred on the two furnaces, one in Madras and the other in Orissa, which are both in the private sector, is concerned, I think they started with about Rs 50 lakhs or so, but I think the actual expenditure that has been incurred is much more, it is nearer Rs 1 crore than Rs 50 lakhs

Shri Yajnik: May I know whether Government intend to promote any industrial co-operative societies in rural as well as urban areas to make pig iron and steel at different places in the country?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Government would like to encourage co-operative societies for any industrial venture and it is really the initiative that is shown by any co-operative society

that will answer the question which the hon Member has asked.

Shri Narasimhan: In *The Times of India* dated the 14th September, under a big headline about the low-shaft furnace going into operation, this news appeared

"Mr B Patnaik of the Kalinga Industries Ltd told newsmen in Calcutta the other day that 95 per cent of their next plant to be set up at Salem in Madras would be fabricated by Indian engineers at Barbil"

Can Government throw any light on it?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Throw light on what? The hon Member himself is already giving some information

Shri Narasimhan: I want to know whether that is true, and whether Government have been approached for any permission for this

Sardar Swaran Singh: I had already asked for notice. If I had had this information I would certainly have given it

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the hon Minister is aware that at present the cost of production of iron in the blast furnace in Barbil in Orissa is higher than that in the larger steel plants, and if so, whether he is aware that the small blast furnace is not proving successful?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It will be difficult for me to commit Government to any figure, but if the cost of production in a smaller blast furnace is higher, that is not unexpected as to what is the quantum of that excess, I would not like to commit myself

Shri S. C. Samanta: Last time, we were informed that the construction and design of some blast furnaces would be taken up on an experimental basis. May I know whether this experimental stage is passed and Government have taken a decision?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, I still say that the construction and designing of blast furnaces should be undertaken. We are not yet sufficiently organised to undertake that work. We have started a nucleus of designs organisation, but it is premature for me to say that every new blast furnace that is going to be installed either in the public, or in the private sector, would be designed by our own experts.

देवनागरी लिपि में सुधार

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*८५. { श्री भक्त वर्धन
श्री वी० चं० शर्मा :

क्या शिक्षा मंत्री ३ नितम्बर, १९५९ के तारांकित प्रश्न मध्या १११६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) शिक्षा मंत्रिया के सम्मेलन में पहले देवनागरी लिपि के सुधार के बारे में विशेषज्ञ समिति की जा बैठक हुई थी उसमें किन-किन व्यक्तियों ने भाग लिया था,

(ख) क्या देवनागरी लिपि के अन्तिम रूप में निर्धारित किये जाने के बाद विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उक्त लिपि के सुधार के बारे में प्राप्त सुझावों पर भी उम बीच विचार किया गया है और

(ग) मशामत देवनागरी लिपि देश भर में कब से लागू की जायेगी ?

शिक्षा मंत्री (डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली) :

(क) विवरण मन्त्रालय पर रखा गया है। [बैकवर्डे परिशिष्ट १ अनुबन्ध मध्या ३५]

(ख) जी हाँ।

(ग) राज्य सरकारों से प्राप्ति की जा रही है कि वे परिशोधित देवनागरी लिपि को तत्काल लागू करें।

श्री भक्त वर्धन : मेरे प्रश्न के लड़

(ख) के उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा

कि उस सम्मेलन के बाद जो सुझाव दिये गये उन पर विचार किया गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित की गई है ताकि जनता में तथा विद्वानों में जो गलतफहमियाँ हैं वे दूर हो जायें।

डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली : जी नहीं, कोई विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित नहीं की गई।

Shri D. C. Sharma: The Devanagari Script reform is to concern all the languages of India. May I know if the representatives of all the national languages of India were taken on this Committee? If not, why not?

Dr K. L. Shrimali: The whole matter was placed before the Education Ministers' Conference. I cannot think of a more representative Conference than that of Education Ministers. A decision was taken there and finally it was approved by the Cabinet.

श्री भक्त वर्धन माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकारों से अनुरोध किया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस बारे में कौन से कदम उठा रही है ?

डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली : जहाँ तक केन्द्रीय सरकार का सम्बन्ध है, उन्होंने इस मामले में निर्णय कर लिया है, और जहाँ तक टाइपग्राइटर और टेलीप्रिंटर का सम्बन्ध है उस के विचार के लिये भी कोशिश की जा रही है और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस मामले में भी अन्तिम निर्णय शीघ्र ही ले लिया जायेगा।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि टाइपग्राइटर के की बोर्ड, अर्थात् टंकण पटल के सम्बन्ध में निर्णय लोगों को जाहिर कर दिये गये हैं, यदि नहीं तो यह कब तक प्रकाशित हो जायेगा ?