

(a) whether the United States are supplying India increased supplies of cotton under P. L. 480; and

(b) if so, the quantum and value of the cotton to be supplied, and the purposes of the increased supply?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). The U. S. Government have recently agreed to allocate to India under P.L. 480 3,00,000 U.S. bales of cotton worth about \$47 million (Rs. 22.3 crores).

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** May I know whether there is any specific stipulation in respect of these supplies either in the PL-480 or any other ancillary agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the USA, particularly in respect of their utilisation?

**Shri Kanungo:** Yes, one of the conditions is that the normal import from other sources should not be cut down.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** To whom are these cotton supplies likely to be or proposed to be channelised? Are there any criteria for such channelisation of these cotton supplies?

**Shri Kanungo:** It is only the consumer mills which have used this type of cotton in the past, which would be allowed to import it.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** May I know whether there are any criteria for the channelisation of these supplies?

**Shri Kanungo:** The criteria are the staple length and the past use.

**Shri C. M. Kedaria:** May I know what incentives are given to the growers so that we may not have to import the equivalent type of cotton in future?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a different question altogether.

**Shri Kanungo:** I suppose that that does not arise out of the main question. 2442 (A1) LSD—2.

**श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय :** क्या देश के अन्दर रुई की कमी है इस वास्ते वह अमरीका से मंगाई जा रही है या यह आवश्यक है कि पी० एल० ४८० के अन्तर्गत रुई आये ।

**श्री कानूनगो :** रुई हमारे यहां हमेशा बाहर से आती है कई किस्म की क्योंकि हमारे मुक में वह नहीं होती है । आम तौर से करीब ६ लाख बेल इम्पोर्ट होती है इजिप्ट से और ईस्ट अफ्रीका से ।

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether this import of about three lakhs bales worth about Rs. 22.3 crores is made in the general interest of the consumers at large, that is, the middle class people, or whether it is going to be a specialised variety intended for a specialised class?

**Shri Kanungo:** This is intended mostly to produce medium quality cloth.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know whether this cotton would be imported on Government account directly by Government and then distributed to the consuming mills or whether the mills will be allowed to negotiate and import directly on their own account?

**Shri Kanungo:** The price is settled and the terms are settled, and it is a Government-to-Government arrangement, authorise the consumer mills or actual users as we call them, to take the shipments.

**Shri Heda:** Since this import is in excess of the normal import every year, will this be sufficient for the next two or three years' requirements?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, this is much less than the normal imports.

#### Rourkela Steel Plant

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\*578. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri D. J. Nalk:**

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to

state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German Technical Team during its visit to Rourkela in December, 1963 was not satisfied with the labour performance in the Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, whether the team made any suggestions to improve the performance?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam):** (a) and (b). H.E.Mr. Walter Scheel, Minister for Economic Co-operation in the Federal Republic of Germany accompanied by some officials visited Rourkela in December, 1963. During discussions with Hindustan Steel, the German team made a general observation that labour discipline in the plant should improve in order to improve the performance. No specific suggestions for improving labour performance were, however, offered by the German team.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** What is the labour performance in our country at present as compared to that in Germany?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I am afraid I cannot immediately give the comparative performance of the two.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** Are the labour unions also responsible for this bad performance?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** In Rourkela, there are too many labour unions competing for recognition. Most of the labour troubles are to be traced to this.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Did the Solveen Committee go into this question and make any suggestions for improving labour performance?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, every team visiting Rourkela has taken note of the labour indiscipline there and labour slackness there. It is a continuing trouble and we are taking all possible steps to improve the situation.

**Shri Banga:** Is anything being done to give the labour there regular training as well as refresher training from time to time to raise the tempo of their efficiency?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It is not the efficiency of labour which is involved; it is the question of the functioning of too many labour unions there, a race for recognition, and because of this race, putting forward all sorts of demands and creating difficulties there. They start their own strikes and slow-down movements and ultimately it leads to inefficiency in the working of the plant.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Was an effort made by Government to point out to the foreign mission in order to maintain the fair name of Indian labour, who should be the principal builders of socialism, that this alleged indiscipline was the result not only of rivalry but the alleged so-called indiscipline is the direct product of the fostering of unrepresentative unions which the Government indulges in?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No union has yet been recognised there because there is keen competition, and the matter has also gone to court. Therefore, there is no question of pointing out inefficiency of Government in this. It is a question of the functioning of labour unions

**श्री बजरज सिंह :** जब सरकार को यह पता चल चुका है कि बहुत सी यूनियनों के कारण इनएफिशिएंसी आ रही है तो इन यूनियनों को घटाने और एरैडिकेट करने के लिये क्या सरकार कोई प्रभावी कदम उठा रही है ।

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** That is a question of general labour policy. Therefore, it is a matter which will have to be investigated.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** That is a known to the Minister that the tripartite Labour conference and the Ministry of Labour of the Government of India have laid down in their code of discipline a specific procedure for recognition of unions? What prevents

Government from adopting that procedure in recognising the most representative union?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** In this case, a verification was made by the Orissa Government, and when they were on the eve of taking a decision, one union went to court and got an injunction, and it is still pending. And it is not only a question of recognising a particular union. As soon as a particular union is recognised, the other unions start all sorts of troubles, so that they may be recognised later on as the most representative union.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know whether this team has also pointed out that the labour welfare activities have also been ignored by the management, and that is why there is unrest among the labour?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No, Sir. No such thing was pointed out.

**Foreign Private Capital in Steel Industry**

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\*581. { **Shri Maheswar Naik:**  
      **Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating to effect a shift in their steel policy in order to facilitate participation of foreign private capital in the Steel Industry?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam):** No, Sir.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech made certain suggestions that foreign capital would be invited for participation in the steel plants etc?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** My understanding is that it had no reference to steel plants.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Is there any truth in the reports appearing in a section of the press that the American interest in Bokaro which cooled off has again

begun to revive, and that some private parties from the United States have come here to display this interest in the steel plant?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** For Bokaro we have to acquire equipment from foreign countries. Naturally, machinery makers are interested in supplying these things, and America is one of the countries taking interest.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** May I know if it is contemplated to get foreign capital for capital goods as far as the future expansion of the present steel plants is concerned?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** At present there is absolutely no intention of having equity participation either of private capital within the country, or private capital outside the country in setting up public sector plants.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri P. C. Borooah. Shri P. R. Chakraverti. Shrimati Savitri Nigam.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** 584.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** 582 has been dropped.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been transferred to some other day.

**Office of Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta**

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\*584. { **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
      **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**  
      **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five officials of Iron and Steel Controller's Office, Calcutta have been recently given a charge-sheet by the Department and Police in connection with some graft charge against them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?