

ever, information as readily available with Government will be placed on the Table of the House.

### Pande Committee Report on Durgapur Steel Plant

8874. **Shri G. S. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri G. Pande, who headed the enquiry Committee on Durgapur Steel Plant, was associated with the management of this plant;

(b) if so, his term of association and the capacity in which he has worked;

(c) the grounds on which he was asked to enquire into the affairs of Durgapur Steel Plant;

(d) whether he possessed adequate knowledge of steel technology and production management; and

(e) if so, his academic qualifications and experience in this regard?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy):** (a) to (e). Shri G. Pande retired from Government service as Chairman, Railway Board. He was associated with the Steel Plants under HSI, in the capacity of Deputy Chairman of the Company for the period from 21st August, 1957 to 13th April, 1958 and later as Chairman of the Company for the period from 14th April, 1958 to 15th October, 1960. He had been requested by Government to undertake this enquiry on account of his long experience of technical and administrative problems in the Railways and the Steel Plants.

### Plantations owned by Foreign Companies

8875. **Shri Shiva Chandra Jha:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies that are running tea, coffee and rubber plantations;

(b) the total acreage of the plantations under their control and the percentage of this acreage to the total acreage under such plantations;

(c) the amount of profit made by them per annum before and after taxation;

(d) how much of that profit they remit out of India and how much they plough back in their plantation enterprise;

(e) whether Government propose to nationalize those plantations; and

(f) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f). Government have not felt it necessary to consider the question of nationalizing them.

### Coke Oven Complex of Durgapur Steel Plant

8876. **Shri R. K. Amin:**  
**Shri C. Muthusami:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the blast furnace of Durgapur Steel Plant was blown off on the 9th September, 1966 and the batteries of Coke Oven Complex were found defective immediately after commissioning them;

(b) if so, whether Government suspect any deliberate attempt on the part of the British Contractors to give us the faulty plant;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry regarding the defective layout and workmanship of Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy):** (a) The Blast Furnace was blown off on 9-9-1966 after it had produced about 2.6 million tonnes of iron. This is

considered a satisfactory performance. It is not a fact that the Batteries of the Coke Oven Complex were found defective immediately after commissioning.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not correct that the layout and workmanship of Durgapur Steel Plant was defective.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Expansion of Steel Plants

8877. Shri R. K. Amin;  
Shri C. Muthusami;

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

(a) whether in the light of Pande Committee's Report Government propose to postpone the further expansion of iron and steel industry all over the country for the time being;

(b) what immediate action has been taken to improve the management in all public sector projects; and

(c) whether the system of giving orders to foreign firms has been thoroughly examined with a view to ensure that nothing similar to Durgapur might happen again?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings have made various recommendations in their Thirteenth Report on the 'Management of Public Undertakings', with a view to ensuring better planning of Public Sector Projects. These recommendations are at present under consideration of Government. The working of the Public enterprises is also constantly reviewed and efforts made to improve their performances. The steps contemplated in connection with Durgapur management have already been brought to the notice of the House.

(c) The Pande Committee's report has not pointed out any need for re-

view of the system of giving orders to foreign firms. It might however be that with the development of indigenous capacity for manufacture of steel making plant and equipment, the need to order equipment from abroad will go down considerably.

#### Pande Committee Report on Durgapur Steel Plant

8878. Shri R. K. Amin;  
Shri C. Muthusami;

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

(a) whether the defects and shortcomings pointed out in para 10.20 on page 29 of the Pande Committee Report were deliberate on the part of Engineers who designed the entire integrated plant;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against the persons responsible therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to remove these shortcomings?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The proposal to increase the number of soaking pits by four has been approved and action to instal them is in hand. The question of installation of reheating furnace before the 32 inch mill required to facilitate production of special steels is under consideration.

दिल्ली से कलकत्ता के बीच एक तेज रफ्तार वाली गाड़ी का चलाया जाना

8879. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :  
श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह :  
श्री क० मि० मधुकर :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार दिल्ली से कलकत्ता के बीच मुख्य लाइन पर डीजल या