

Some items like special matching steel, which are required for the manufacture of railway wagons. In the statement, there are 13 categories of steel listed. May I know whether any special provision is made for the import of those matching steels which are in short supply?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That position is constantly kept in view. I may also add that out of this Development Loan Fund, an amount has been earmarked for the exclusive use of the railways. They can also fit in their special requirements within that portion of the loan.

डा० गोविन्द दास : चूंकि हमारे यहां खुद लोहे और स्टील का उत्पादन होने लगा है, यह कब तक आशा की जाती है कि हम को बाहर से इस प्रकार का सामान नहीं मंगाना पड़ेगा और हमारे यहां ही सब चीजें बनने लगेंगी ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : यह ठीक है कि हमारे देश में लोहे और इस्पात का उत्पादन चूंकि बढ़ गया है, इस बातें जो हम फारेन एक्सचेंज इस पर बहुत ज्यादा खर्च किया करते थे, उसमें बड़ी भारी कमी वाका हुई है। मगर फिर भी कई कैटेगरीज ऐसी रहेंगी जिन में शार्टफाल हो सकता है और कई कैटेगरीज ऐसी होंगी जिन में हम अपनी जरूरत से ज्यादा उत्पादन कर सकेंगे। बड़े से बड़े देश भी स्टील का कुछ माल हमेशा एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं और कुछ इम्पोर्ट करते हैं।

Shri Tyagi: With the substantial reduction in the imports of steel from foreign countries, is it the intention of Government to reduce the Equalisation Fund rates proportionately?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Probably the hon. Member is enquiring as to whether the price to the consumer is going to be reduced. If that is the question, I have already said 'no'.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether before deciding the quantity

and quality of steel information as to the State Governments' requirements has been obtained? If so, will State Governments be given the required quota?

Sardar Swaran Singh: State Governments' requirements are also kept in view. I said a moment ago that government projects like irrigation projects, power houses and the like also get steel out of the DLF imports or out of barter imports. The requirements of the various State Governments are always kept in view in arranging imports.

Shri Tyagi: May I request you to kindly look into this personally? The equalisation fund was sanctioned by this Parliament on the basis of higher cost in the import of iron and steel. With a view to give relief to the producers as well as the consumers in India, this was introduced. Now, when a reduction has been made in the import, how can Government continue with the same rates, as if it was not sanctioned by Parliament?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The main justification is to contribute something to the general revenues, and the Steel Equalisation Fund is contributing a substantial amount to the general revenues of the country.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Is it not a fact that one or two firms have been given monopoly rights in regard to the distribution of steel, and not all the controlled stockholders in the country?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir. That is not correct.

Expansion of Steel Plants

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 Shri Morarka:
 Shri Nathwani:
 Shri Osman Ali Khan:
 Shri P. C. Brooah:
 Shri Damani:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:

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

(a) whether the expansion programmes of all the three steel plants have been finalised;

(b) the estimated cost for the expansion programme; and

(c) the foreign exchange involved and how it is proposed to be met?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been decided to expand the million-ton steel works at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur to 2.5, 1.8 and 1.6 million ingot tons respectively. The detailed project reports for these expansions are under preparation. Meanwhile, for purposes of planning, the following figures of total costs and foreign exchange costs have been adopted:

	Total cost	Foreign exchange
	(Rs. in millions)	
Bhilai	1380	560
Rourkela	900	500
Durgapur	560	270

(c) The foreign exchange cost of the Bhilai expansion is to be met from a credit extended by the Government of the U.S.S.R. for Rourkela and Durgapur, negotiations are in progress.

Shri Morarka: May I know, for the purpose of this expansion, what amount of Indian materials will be used, and what the saving of foreign exchange would be as compared to the new plants which are installed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The effort is directed towards this that maximum use of materials that is available in the country is to be made in these expansion programmes. After taking into consideration the improved availability of higher component of indigenous material, these figures that I have indicated have been tentatively worked. I would again add a word of caution, that these figures are very tentative,

and they have been adopted more for the purpose of adopting figures for planning purposes. The picture will be clearer when the project reports for expansion are ready in every detail.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether the Government has worked out the expansion cost per ton of steel as compared to the per-ton cost of the new steel plants? Which is higher and which is lower?

Sardar Swaran Singh: In the original plants there are certain built-in capacities which will not be necessary to be provided in the expanded programme. Looked at from that angle, the cost of expansion per ton should work out to be lower than the investment per ton in the original plants, but that is a way of presentation, and if we take into consideration the fact that the additional capacities that we have provided in the original plants are to be booked against the expansion programmes, than the picture will be somewhat different.

Mr. Speaker: Question Hour Over.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: I have already extended the time by five minutes.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : प्रश्न ८५६ बड़ा इम्पॉर्ट है। फाइनेल मिनिस्टर को इसका जवाब देना ही चाहिये। आपने उसको पुकारा भी था।

Mr. Speaker: No. Calling Attention Notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

मूल्यां का एकीकरण

*८५६. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी योजना बना रही है जिस के अनुसार कृषि जन्य