

(b) if so, whether Russian technicians have asked the Indian Government to widen and extend the air strips; and

(c) what is the Government's decision in this regard?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Certain improvements to these landing grounds had been planned where continuous and heavy use of some of these landing grounds became necessary for the Border Roads project.

(c) These planes will now be taken in hand as necessary.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know how many of the An-12 Ukraina transport planes have been purchased so far from the USSR and how many of them are operating in the borders? What is the nationality of the crew of this aircraft?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** That goes for beyond this question, but as a matter of information, wherever the aircraft had to be taken, it has landed successfully, and there has been no trouble at all.

#### Barauni Refinery

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\*1602. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1088 on the 23rd December, 1960 and state further progress made in the construction of oil refinery at Barauni?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

##### 1. Progress of construction works

Contract for earth work, site grading etc. of the refinery site has been placed. Arrangements for the construction of a Hostel for the foreign experts are in hand.

##### 2. Railway Colony—Roads & Build ings

72% of the repairs and maintenance works of the colony which was taken over from the Railways at Hathidah has been completed.

##### 3. Township

Work orders for the construction of Russian Hostel and 100 'F' Type quarters has been issued.

##### 4. Trainees

22 Indian trainees and 1 Officer-in-charge Training Programme, who were selected after interview, will be proceeding to Russia by the middle of April, 1961 and another batch of 37 trainees will be leaving India in July, 1961 for training on erection, maintenance and operation of the refinery. 6 Indian trainees would be proceeding for training to U.K. with Messrs. Larson & Toubro.

##### 5. Project Report

The Project Report was received in December, 1960 and the discussions with the Soviet experts on the Project Report were concluded in March, 1961. The cost estimates and the contract to be placed with the Soviet organisation for execution of the project are under consideration.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** From the statement I find that 22 Indian trainees and 1 Officer-in-charge Training Programme, will be proceeding to Russia, and another batch of 37 trainees will be leaving India in July, 1961. May I know in which country these trainees will get training?

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** These trainees went to Russia.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** It was stated some time ago that commercial contracts for supply of equipment and the technical services to be rendered by the Soviet organisation would be concluded by February, 1961. Since the examination of the project report itself was concluded only in March, may I know when the orders for this equipment will be placed?

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** It has been concluded in March, but it will take some time to place the order. Though it has been completed, some details are still being worked out.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Is equipment a detail? It is very necessary. It will cost about Rs. 25 to 30 crores.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If he has a further question, he may put it.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether the time-schedule which was originally fixed will be adhered to, that is, the first unit will go into stream some time in the middle of October—December, 1962?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** There may be a little time-jag, and it may be delayed by a few months, but the exact time can be given only after the orders are placed.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** In view of the fact that the project report has been examined and the agreement concluded, what would be the cost of this Barauni refinery?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I would not give a figure at the present stage, when the question of placing orders is still a matter of negotiation.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether this project report that is under examination by the Government is going to affect materially the production pattern of this refinery or any other things of vital importance?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The production pattern is what is contained in the project report. So, there is no basic variation as hinted by the hon. Member.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit that on a previous occasion the production patterns of the Noonmati and Barauni refineries were announced. My question is whether the pattern that was announced here long back is going to be affected by this project report or not.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The acceptance of the project report with regard to Barauni does not at all affect the product mix at Noonmati. As to the product mix at Barauni, it is contained in the project report. So, there is no basis for comparison.

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** May I know whether the Government has not yet worked out the estimated expenditure of the Barauni project so far?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Because the orders are yet to be placed, I would not give a firm figure because that would prejudice the negotiations also.

**Shri Hem Barua:** With reference to the production pattern of the two refineries it was my purpose to pinpoint only one thing. The production patterns of the two refineries were given. I want to know whether the project report pertaining to the Barauni refinery is going to affect to original production pattern that was placed on the floor of the House.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** By and large that pattern would be adhered to.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The Question hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Borax Deposits in Ladakh Area

\*1581. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pugga Valley in Ladakh area is the only area in India where Borax, an important industrial raw material, is known to exist; and

(b) what steps are being taken to arrange for proper exploitation of these deposits?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** The only promising deposit of borax is that in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir.