

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to the slum dwellers in Jhandewalan who are living there for the last so many years and whether any scheme has been chalked out for their settlement?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir; I understand that a systematic effort is being made to offer alternative accommodation to such of the people as had settled earlier on land. As my honoured colleague said just now, an attempt will be made to give them alternative accommodation. It is impossible to cover all. First let us give accommodation to those who have settled and later on make other efforts.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Some time ago there was a serious fire near Rajghat in which hundreds of jhuggies were burnt. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister in charge assured this House that there will be some alternative arrangement for them. I want to know whether those jhuggiwalas who lost their jhuggies in the fire have been provided with alternative accommodation.

Shri Karmarkar: I think so. The fire came in good time not because it hurt the people concerned but because the people got readily to settle down on alternative land. So far as my information at present goes, they were offered accommodation and they were contented.

Rourkela Steel Plant

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S. N. Q. 6. { **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by the leader of the West German team on the breakdowns of the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) whether the Government agree with the alleged statement that breakdowns were due to mismanagement by Indian authorities; and

(c) if not, who were really responsible for the breakdowns?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). Yes, but when the team arrived in Delhi and saw officials of the Iron and Steel Department they expressed concern at the press statements which had appeared and added that obviously due to difficulties of interpretation the press reports tended to give a misleading impression of what the team had intended to convey. Summing up their views, the leader of the team, informed the Ministry that they were deeply impressed by the achievements of the Hindustan Steel in the past years and according to them teething troubles during the running in periods of such technically complicated plants as Rourkela are normal. The detailed recommendations of the team have not yet been received and will be examined by Government when they are available.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether the Government of India has made any enquiry on its own about the working of this steel plant and, if so, whether they have any proposals for the improvement of the working of the steel plant by themselves?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No enquiry was necessary, not an enquiry of the general type as is implied in this question. I informed the House that there was trouble in the slabbing mill and a technical team was constituted to examine the causes of that break-down. They made certain recommendations and I will inform the House about the recommendations made by the technical team. The process of making improvements is continuous. Production now is steadily increasing even in Rourkela.

Shri Nath Pai: It is a bit difficult to accept this interpretation given by the hon. Minister that the blame was placed on the Indian personnel because of misinterpretation. The words of the German leader are very clear. The spokesman is alleged to have stated that we build a house and hand it over to the owner. If he cannot run, it is his responsibility. It is not possible that this thing was misinterpreted. May we know what is the truth? The blame has been squarely placed on Hindustan Steel by the German expert. It does not admit of any possible misinterpretation.

Sardar Swaran Singh: May be that that is the view of the hon. Member. But, the person to whom that statement was attributed has clearly stated that he did not make that statement. I think I should accept that rather than pin him to a statement which he says he did not make.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: This is a very serious matter, Sir. With your permission, if I may quote the report which appeared in the papers, this is a P.T.I. report. Because in this, if this question had not been tabled, the Government would have left the country in the dark about it....

Mr. Speaker: Nobody objected...

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I want to know from the Minister....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. What is the meaning of the hon. Member going on when I am telling him this?

Shri Indrajit Gupta. I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: It is not as if the question has not been admitted. It has been admitted to clear up the matter. Two questions have been put, one by the hon. Member and the other by Shri Nath Pai. The hon. Minister has said clearly—we do not know what the interpretation is—he has made a definite statement. What is the meaning of going again

into it? If he has made a statement, he has corrected it. Let it be so.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: With all respect, what I want to ask is....

Mr. Speaker: Are we having a criminal case against that gentleman here?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Why did not the Government issue any contradiction? This news has been flashed all over the country.

Mr. Speaker: If, according to the hon. Minister, he corrected the statement or he said that he did not make that statement, why was not the later statement published?

Shri Morarka: It was published.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The later statement was also published. This being a free country and our press being free to report and choose in displaying certain types of news and soft-playing other types of news, there was a news item, but that did not get that prominent publicity as the original critical statement received. There was a note which was issued after the team visited Delhi and it has actually been published in certain newspapers.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know what, according to the Government, is the reason for the breakdown and if this teething trouble was Indian teething trouble or German teething trouble?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Teething trouble of the plant. Teething troubles have not get any nationality as such.

Shri Morarka: The hon. Minister said that the trouble is of a teething nature. The German experts also said that because of the complicated nature of the plant, these troubles were bound to occur. May I know why find this teething trouble in Rourkela plant only and there is no teething trouble in the Bhilai plant. Also how the Bhilai plant is less complicated than the Rourkela plant, because in the Bhilai plant, we do not have any such trouble?

Sardar Swaran Singh: We are going a little beyond; we are now travelling into the relative performance of the various plants. But, this is a point which has been explained by me. The Rourkela steel plant is manufacturing flat products. Rolling mills manufacturing flat products are more complicated.

Shri Nath Pai: Teething troubles are limited normally to the initial stages. In the case of Rourkela, it seems to be a chronic process. May we know when the so-called teething troubles are expected to come to an end?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That I have already attempted to answer that most of the troubles are being got over and I expect that there will be a significant increase in production during the current year.

Shri Narasimhan: The hon. Minister stated that a technical committee was appointed by the Ministry. Will the report of that committee also be placed before Parliament at the proper time?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have no objection to placing a copy of the report on the Table of the House. Or, any hon. Member who is interested in it can write to me and I will supply him a copy.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether these teething troubles are peculiar to the Rourkela Plant only? Why was it not there in the other plant?

Mr. Speaker: The same question as Shri Morarka's.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether the number of German officials has increased in the Rourkela steel plant? What is the present strength in comparison with the strength that it had two years ago?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think that the hon. Member expects me to remember details of the number of German experts. On short notice, I agreed to answer the ques-

tion that related to a certain statement that was attributed to the leader of the German team. I cannot give all the information with regard to the Rourkela plant, particularly information where figures are involved.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Iron Deposits in Goa

*300. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of mineral deposits of iron that have come over to India as a result of the liberation of Goa;

(b) whether in view of the increased availability of the mineral reserves the Third Five Year Plan targets for the production of steel have been revised; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) to (c). No reliable figures of iron ore deposits of Goa are available. Estimates vary from 60 million tons to 250 million tons. The Geological Survey of India will be undertaking a survey shortly in order to obtain a more accurate estimate. These ore deposits, however, represent a small fraction of the total deposits in India. The question of revising the Third Plan target for the production of steel, therefore, does not arise.

Unemployment and under Employment in Tripura

*303. **Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of unemployment and under-employment is acute in Tripura; and

(b) if so, measures that are taken by Government to solve the problem?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Nothing special has come to our notice.