

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri F. C. Sethi): (a) There are at present 28,494 employees on the pay roll of the Rourkela Steel Plant, including the Fertilizer Plant and their captive mines.

(b) Statistics regarding employment of local people is not maintained.

#### Bharat Aluminium Company

4204. Shri A. Sreedharan:  
Shri P. Visawambharan:  
Shri Manglathumadom:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Aluminium Company has not gone into production so far, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to hasten the completion of the project?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been/ are being taken for the implementation of the Korba (M.P.) and Koyna (Maharashtra) Aluminium Projects, by the Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., New Delhi —

(i) Detailed investigation of the bauxite deposits to provide ore for the proposed plants has been completed and negotiations are in progress with the State Governments concerned for the supply of necessary electric power for the plants.

(ii) The proposals received from the Bharat Aluminium Company for sanction of Korba project estimates up to the alumina stage and for approval of consultancy agreement with M's Chemokomplex of Hungary for the erection and start up of the alumina plant are under consideration of the Government. A contract for the preparation of a detailed project report for the Korba smelter and facilities for manufacture of aluminium semis is being entered into by the

Bharat Aluminium Company with M/s. Tjzhpromexport of USSR

(iii) So far as the Koyna project is concerned, the examination of Detailed Project Report prepared by the Consultants has been completed and the scheme together with the cost estimates is under the consideration of the Government.

#### Increase in Exports

4205. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase/decrease in exports over the previous years from 1957 to 1966 and the reasons therefor;

(b) the effects of devaluation on export earnings and foreign exchange position; and

(c) the names of the countries where our exports have increased after devaluation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) A statement showing India's exports from the year 1956-57 to 1966-67 is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-868/67]. The Statement shows an increase in exports from year to year attributed mainly to the various export promotional measures launched by Government from time to time (except in 1965-66 and 1966-67 when there has been a fall).

(b) The immediate effect of devaluation on exports was somewhat unsettling but (a closer look at the export situation reveals that) subsequently exports have started picking up steadily and the future seems hopeful. A statement is laid on the Table. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-868/67] showing the trend in exports after devaluation, which shows that during the quarter June-August, 1966, there was a drop in exports by 16.8 per cent compared to corresponding period in the previous year. During the next quarter (September—