

Shri P. C. Sethi: It is being assessed; after it goes into production, we will have castings and forgings to the tune of 55000 tons grey iron castings, 14000 tons of steel castings and 16000 tons of steel forgings.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: The other part of my question—whether any survey has been made regarding our requirements and what percentage will be met after full production—has not been answered.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): A survey has been made: because there is a gap we are proposing to set up the second foundry forge plant.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What is the gap?

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is that hon. Members mix up two, three questions at a time.

Shri C. Subramaniam: The gap was mentioned by the Deputy Minister.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether it is possible to have production at the very start and whether it will be able to meet the gap?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The second foundry forge is intended to cover the entire gap.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether this is with foreign collaboration and, if so, with whose collaboration?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We may have to get some foreign collaboration, but it is not yet decided.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: Is the Government aware that small foundries in and around Calcutta are suffering for want of raw materials and are going without work?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That has nothing to do with the main question.

Production of Vacuum Flask

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*683. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of vacuum flask is adequate to meet the needs of the country; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government to increase the production of indigenous flasks?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Subodh Hansda: What is the amount of foreign exchange involved?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No imports are allowed. 180,000 dozens are manufactured per year in this country.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Is it a fact that the flasks manufactured in our country are not up to the standard?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They are up to the standard. They are a bit expensive and their costs have to be brought down. Actually we have started exporting.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बात पर गौर किया है कि जो थर्मस फ्लास्क यहां बन रहे हैं उनकी कीमतें बहुत ज्यादा हैं और उन कीमतों को कम करने के सम्बन्ध में क्या सरकार कोई यत्न कर रही है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो उन्होंने पहले ही कहा कि कीमतें ज्यादा हैं और उन को कम करने की कोशिश की जा रही है ।

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether the Government think that vacuum flask is the common man's necessity or an article of luxury and, if the later, are they considering allocating it to the private sector?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a common man's thermos flask and that is why we are trying to increase production and reduce costs so that it can circulate among the middle-class.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: Which countries import from us and what is the exchange earned?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Iran, Iraq, Yugoslavia—to a small extent Japan also. The exchange earned is about 150,000.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the manufacture of vacuum flasks by some ordnance factories which prevailed during the period before the Chinese invasion been well and truly discontinued or are they still manufacturing them?—Sir, he does not answer it; it cannot also be ruled out of order.

Mr. Speaker: He thinks the hon. Member is not serious.

Shri Manubhai Shah: The hon. Member is mixing it up with coffee percolators.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Not at all; both used to be manufactured.

Shri Manubhai Shah: No regular production was undertaken.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Are Government aware that the inner lining of our flasks is not strong as compared to that of the imported ones?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is true; the inner lining is therefore still imported. It is highly rarified glass which we have not been able to produce in the country.

Furnaces for Pig Iron

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*684. { **Shri B. K. Das:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. O. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines

and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to put up small furnaces for pig iron in each public sector steel plant;

(b) if so, whether the project reports are prepared for these furnaces; and

(c) what would be the capacity of these furnaces and when these projects are expected to come into being?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The feasibility reports on setting up small furnaces at Rourkela, Durgapur and Bhilai Plants revealed that it would not be desirable to set up such plants at the Rourkela or the Durgapur Plant. The question of setting up a small furnace of 150 tonnes per day capacity at the Bhilai Steel Plant is being further examined. A decision in this regard is expected to be taken shortly.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether a project report has been prepared about the small furnaces in any foreign country or in our country?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It has been prepared in our country and it is our intention to put up small plants at Bhilai.

Shri B. K. Das: What is the cost of such a furnace?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The capital cost will be round about Rs. 400 per ton.

Shri Subodh Hansda: In view of the shortage of foundry pig iron in our country, is it a fact that a number of small units have not been able to fulfil the assurance during the Third Plan period?

Shri P. C. Sethi: There, is no doubt, shortage of pig iron and we are trying to make up.