

**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.

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो फरनेस लगाई जायेगी उस से हमारी पिग आयरन की कमी कितनी हद तक दूर हो जायेगी, और यदि नहीं हो सकेगी तो भविष्य में क्या विचार है कि इस फरनेस को लगा कर हम पिग आयरन की कमी को दूर कर सकें।

**श्री प्र० चं० सेठी :** पिग आयरन फरनेस इस के अलावा और दूसरी जगह भी लगाने का इरादा है जैसे बैलाडीला विशाखापटनम और बेलारी हास्पेट में। दूसरी जगहों पर भी जो पिग आयरन फरनेसेज हैं उन की क्षमता बढ़ाने का सरकार ने निश्चय किया है।

**Shri Daji:** If it seems possible at Bhilai, what are the obstacles for its workability at Durgapur and Rourkela?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It depends upon the availability of nut coke and pearl coke for use in this furnace. In Rourkela and Durgapur no surplus is available as at Bhilai.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Have the Government studied similar Chinese experiments carried on by the communists there, the result of which was that they are uneconomical and not feasible?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Why do you want us to take them up when it has been proved uneconomical. (*Interruptions*).

**Shri Nambiar:** Is the smoke created by communism different from the normal smoke?

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** What is the total target of the increased production, and when is the actual production going to start?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** In the private sector, two projects are under process of implementation. They may take another 18 months to go into production or even a little more. As far as the public sector projects are concerned, once we take a decision, it will take 24 months to have the bigger blast furnace.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know whether there is any proposal to set up a pig iron furnace in the Punjab?

**Shri P. C. Sethi:** The Punjab Government have asked for it and we are taking action in the matter.

#### Export of Bananas

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Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri B. K. Das:  
\*685. Shri Swell:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri Rama Chandra Mallick:  
Shri Balakrishnan:  
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri M. Malaichami:

Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 240 on the 23rd August, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the delegation to West Asian and European countries to explore marketing possibilities of Indian bananas has returned and submitted its report;

(b) if so, main features of the recommendations;

(c) whether Sub-committees of "Banana Development Committee" have been formed in States that grow more bananas; and

(d) the amount in the form of foreign exchange earned up till now by the export of bananas from India?

**The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). The Banana Delegation has returned to India after visiting West Asian and European countries. An interim report has been received but the final report has not yet been received.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up Sub-Committees in the States.

(d) Bananas valued at Rs. 33.5 lakhs have been exported upto the end of September, 1963.