

kela steel plant which has been set up with the collaboration of Germans and the cost of production in steel plants being the highest in our country, I would like to know why the Government again want to enter into agreement with the German consortium?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: It is the German Government that has assisted us in the setting up of the Rourkela plant. If some private industrialists form a consortium, as the Anglo-Americans are attempting to do now, that has absolutely no bearing on it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that on the floor of this House the Minister for Steel and Mines told us that for future setting up of steel plants we will stand on our own legs; if so, may I know why the other offers that are being put before Government are being considered?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: We need financial assistance. Technically, perhaps, our engineers are capable of drawing up plans and all that. That will be considered later. But just at present if somebody is prepared to help us with finance we will be happy to receive it.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : जर्मनी और फ्रांस के जिन लोगों ने यह इच्छा व्यक्त की है कि हिन्दुस्तान में इस्पात का कारखाना स्थापित किया जाये, क्या उन्होंने किसी दल को यहां भेजने का विचार किया है, ताकि वह हिन्दुस्तान में आकर जांच कर ले और फिर कारखाना ऐस्टैब्लिश करे ?

श्री प्र० च० सेठी : अभी दल का सवाल नहीं है। जर्मनी के कारखाने की ओर से उसके एक प्रतिनिधि 1964 में यहां आए थे और इसी प्रकार फ्रांस के एक प्रतिनिधि, श्री लेवाइबर, 1963 में यहां आए थे। उसी के आघार पर यह विचार किया गया है।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बरवा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस कारखाने में सरकार क्या

मदद करेगी और सरकार का क्या प्राकृत रहेगा।

श्री प्र० च० सेठी : अभी प्राकृत का कोई सवाल नहीं है। अभी तो कारखाने को स्थापित करने की बात है।

Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma: Is the proposed visit of the hon. Minister to France of an exploratory nature?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: I am hoping to visit other countries also to tie up some of the existing plants, etc.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether during the course of his visit to Germany and other countries the hon. Minister will pursue this matter and come back with a definite proposal so as to get the necessary financial assistance for setting up steel plants?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: It is a long way to go before you can take any final decision. You can talk to them, but it is not so easy because the fifth steel plant itself will take time. About the sixth plant I am not able to say; it may flow into the Fifth Plan.

Export of Textiles to Saudi Arabia

*1102. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 94 on the 20th November, 1964 and state:

(a) whether as a result of the steps taken by the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council in collaboration with the Indian manufacturers/exporters of textiles there has been any improvement in the position of textile exports to Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the present position in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). It is too early to assess the results of the steps

taken by the Cotton Textiles export Promotion Council in boosting exports of cotton textiles to Saudi Arabia. However, India's exports in the first three months of 1965 show an improvement as compared to the exports in the corresponding months of 1963 and 1964.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the factors that contributed to the deterioration of our export to that country have been fully eliminated or do they still exist?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There are several factors. One of them is that they are imposing tariff restrictions. There is tariff restriction. A heavy duty is imposed on the imports. Secondly, there is severe competition from China. They are even under-bidding Japan. There are other factors which have contributed to this, but these are the two major factors. Incidentally, also, there have been changes in the varieties and types of cloth required. But I am glad to submit to the House that it is looking up. In January-March 1964, for instance, the figure was 14.99 lakhs and in January-March 1965 it has gone up to 18.23 lakhs.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Which are the other textile exporting countries, so far as this country is concerned, and what is our proportion of exports?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Among those countries are: Pakistan, Syria and Japan. I could not say off hand our share.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: May I know to what extent the contracts entered into for export of cotton textiles last year by the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council and the Indian manufacturers could not be fulfilled?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: That is a very broad question, which does not arise out of this.

Shri R. S. Pandey: Apart from Saudi Arabia, which are the tradi-

tional countries to which we export textiles?

Mr. Speaker: In this question we are concerned only with Saudi Arabia.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: But I can submit one point. Our export of cotton textiles has been increasing considerably. In 1961 it amounted to Rs. 48 crores. In 1962 it rose to Rs. 50 crores, in 1963 to Rs. 60.49 crores and in 1964 to Rs. 71 crores. So, there is a progressive increase of exports.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: In this connection, may I know whether any representative of handloom interests like those of Banaras, Gorakhpur or Andhra were consulted and, if so, whether there is any improvement in the export of handlooms?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): Is he referring to Saudi Arabia or our global exports?

Mr. Speaker: Here we are concerned only with Saudi Arabia.

Shri Manubhai Shah: The handloom interests have been consulted and our export of handlooms is much better than that of mill-made cloth. Considerable improvement has taken place in Banaras varieties.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any delegation has been sent, or is proposed to be sent, to that country to study the tastes and requirements of that country with regard to textiles?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The Textile Export Promotion Council is aware of this problem. It is even thinking of sending individual merchants to contact the merchants there and find out the nature of the market.

Shri Ansar Harvani: How does our country fare, as compared to Pakistan, in the export of textiles to Saudi Arabia?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I could not give the figures off hand.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: The hon. Minister, while replying to a supplementary, has stated just now that there is keen competition from China, Japan and other countries. As that competition is likely to continue, may I know what steps will be taken, particularly in these virgin or non-traditional countries to boost up our exports now and in the future?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The measures which we have taken have yielded more than satisfactory results, if I may say so. In three years we have gone up from Rs. 42 crores to Rs. 71 crores in a market which was declining not only for India but also for Japan for the last ten years. It is true that things can be further improved. Therefore, only yesterday, in a seminar at Bombay we have proposed that in the Fourth Plan we should lift it to Rs. 150 crores per year.

Handlooms and Powerlooms

*1103. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received from the State Governments urging the Centre to reserve production of dhoties of less than 60 counts and coloured sarees of all counts for the handlooms;

(b) whether this protection to handloom industry will help it to survive against the competition of power looms;

(c) whether the rebate on handloom cloth has been reduced in terms of the suggestion of the Union Government; and

(d) whether the powerlooms are being allotted to handloom weavers' co-operatives?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). No request has been received from the State Government for reserving for Handlooms the production of dhoties of less than 60 counts and coloured sarees of all counts. The Second Working Group on Handloom had, however, made a recommendation to this effect in its recent Report which is now under examination by Government.

(c) No, Sir. The Second Working Group on Handloom, has in its recent Report, made some recommendations in the matter. This Report is still under examination by Government.

(d) Allotment of powerlooms to Handloom Weavers' Cooperatives is one of the recommendations contained in the Powerloom Enquiry Committee Report which is still under the consideration of the Government.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: As a result of the study of the two sectors, that is, the handloom and the powerloom, may I know whether Government feel the justification that handloom should be given a little more priority *vis-a-vis* the competition from the powerlooms?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As far as handlooms are concerned they deserve help; but both the reports are under consideration of Government and, I am sure, Government will give due weight to the requirements of the handloom industry.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Khadi Commission has come out with a statement that the Khadi Commission can stand only on its own legs provided a particular portion of the industry is reserved for it?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): As regards demarcation of fields, if the Chairman of the Khadi Commission or the Khadi Commission wants to make specific