

**Foreign Technicians working in Steel Plants**

2335. SHRI HEM BARUA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign technicians working in our different steel plants have been completely withdrawn by now ; and

(b) if so, their plant-wise break-up and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT);

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of foreign technicians presently employed in Steel Plants under HSL and in Bokaro Steel Plant is given below :-

Bhilai Steel Plant	67
Rourkela Steel Plant	98
Durgapur Steel Plant	nil
Bokaro Steel Plant	159

Of the technicians at Bhilai, 28 are employed on the operation and maintenance side and the rest in connection with the expansion of the Plant beyond 2.5 Million ingot tonne capacity. Bokaro Steel Plant is under construction/erection and all the technicians are employed for this purpose.

During the peak period, more than 300 foreign technicians were working at Bhilai, more than 250 at Rourkela and about 100 at Durgapur. Most of the foreign technicians on the operation and maintenance side in Bhilai and Rourkela have been employed in connection with the new units installed under the expansion programme. Indian understudies have been placed to all foreign technicians/specialists and it is expected that with stabilised production and acquisition of adequate experience and expertise, it would not be necessary to have more than a very small number of experts for some critical positions only,

**Demand for General Elections**

2336. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether late political leaders of different parties are demanding General Elections throughout the country so as to end the present state of affairs; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Setting up of Steel Mills Abroad with Foreign Collaboration**

2337. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is looking forward for foreign collaboration for setting up steel mills in the third country;

(b) if so, the names of the foreign countries which have been sounded by the Government of India in this connection and their reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether any offer for the setting up of the steel mills in a third country has so far been received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) to (c). There is no concrete proposal, but the possibility has been kept in mind.

**Shortage of Scooters**

2338. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of scooters in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that much of the shortage can easily be mopped up if the existing plants are permitted to expand their production capacity;

(c) if so, the extent of the present shortage; and

(d) whether Government proposes to permit the existing plants to augment their production and, if not, the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the shortage within the minimum time lest the cost of scooters go up unreasonably high due to Government's indecision ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F.A. AHMED):** (a) The production of scooters in the country, at present, is not adequate to meet the demand.

(b) The imbalance between demand and supply can be met by increased production. Increased production can be achieved either by expansion of the existing units or by setting up of new units, or by expansion of existing units as well as establishment of new units.

(c) The current annual demand for scooters has not been assessed. However, the demand for scooters, motor cycles, three-wheelers, mopeds etc. has been estimated by the Planning Group for Machinery Industries at 2,00,000 nos. per annum by 1973-74. Against this, the production of scooters alone during 1969 was 49,270 nos.

(d) The question of filling up the gap between the supply and demand of scooters has been under the consideration of Government for some time past. Government have now come to the conclusion that it would be preferable to have a project in the public sector for the manufacture of scooters. In pursuance of this decision, Government had set up a Committee of technical experts to work out and advise on a suitable design and programme of production of scooters in the public sector. The first part of the Report of the Committee has been received and is being examined.

Government have also decided that if any private sector party is prepared immediately to take up production of scooters with indigenous know-how and materials, he should be allowed to do so. Accordingly, a public notice had been issued on the 27th October, 1969 inviting applications by 31st January, 1970 from interested entrepreneurs who are prepared to take up the production of scooters with completely indigenous know-

how and materials. The applications received within the stipulated date, including those for expansion from the existing manufacturers of scooters, are, at present under examination.

**Use of Bagasee, hard wood, jute sticks, bamboo for manufacture of newsprint**

2339. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar-cane bagasee, hard wood, agricultural residues, jute sticks and bamboo, which are going waste in very large quantities, can be utilised for the manufacture of newsprint which India is importing at present;

(b) whether some of the Asian countries like Ceylon and Japan have already made great progress in harnessing these mediums for newsprint manufacture;

(c) if so, the reasons why no steps have been taken by Government to utilise these non-conventional mediums for the manufacture of newsprint; and

(d) whether Government have drawn up any plan in this regard and, if so, the details ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F.A. AHMED) :** (a) to (d). Newsprint is already being manufactured in India from unconventional raw materials like hardwoods and bamboo in Nepa Mills. The possibility of utilising Eucalyptus for the manufacture of newsprint is also under consideration.

Except in certain remote and not easily accessible areas, bamboo resources are already being utilised to the maximum extent possible for paper making. Other raw materials like sugar-cane bagasee, hard woods, jute sticks and agricultural residues like straws are also being utilised for paper making to some extent. In future years, subject to techno-economic and other problems of collection, handling storage etc. being sorted out, it is expected that larger quantities of this material will find use in the paper industry.