

routes for producing steel, one, the blast furnace route, and the other, the electric arc furnace route. Blast Furnace route uses coking coal whereas the electric arc furnace route uses steel melting scrap.

The Members are also aware that the reserves of coking coal in the country are limited and therefore, methods have to be found to use non-coking coal in the production of steel. The indigenous availability of steel melting scrap is also limited and is just sufficient for the production of 1.7 million tonnes of liquid metal, whereas the installed capacity of the electric arc furnaces in the country is over 3 million tonnes.

It is known that sponge iron can supplement steel melting scrap in the feed material for the electric arc furnaces to the extent of 20 to 40 per cent in the charge and may go up further. Sponge iron can be produced by using gas or non-coking coal as a reductant. Since availability of gas in India is limited, it is of vital interest to this country to establish the technology of using non-coking coal in the production of sponge iron.

The choice of technology was limited to two processes—one offered by Lurgi Chemie of Germany and the other, Allis Chalmers of USA. The technology offered by Allis Chalmers was based on the use of oil to some extent and therefore the technology offered by Lurgi Chemie which is based on 100 per cent use of non-coking coal was accepted. I am happy to inform the House that since 12th November, 1980 this plant has been running without any use of oil. The metallisation which should have been 92 per cent according to the contract has been varying between 92 to 96 per cent. Although the plant is using low grade iron ore containing 60 to 61 per cent iron, the sponge produced from it has about 88 per cent iron content. The House will also be pleased to know that within a few days of its starting operations, the plant achiev-

ed a daily production of 100 tonnes which is its rated capacity. The steel produced from this sponge iron used in various furnaces has indicated that the quality of steel produced is better than that produced when all scrap is used. The reports from the rolling mills also indicate that they have found it easier to roll steel produced out of this sponge iron. The plant will be inaugurated on the 31 December, 1980, by the Vice President of India.

I take this opportunity to thank UNDP/UNIDP for their Assistance and to congratulate the officers and staff of Sponge Iron India Ltd. and M/s. Lurgi Chemie which have set up this plant.

12.10 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (i) ADULTERATION OF DIESEL WITH KEROSENE OIL IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF UTTAR PRADESH.

श्री रणवीर सिंह (केसरगंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश के बहराइच, गोंडा, बलरामपुर एवं बाराबांकी जनपदों में डीजल में किरोसिन आयल की मिलावट के कारण अनेक ट्रैक्टरों के पम्प डाउन गये हैं, जिनसे किसानों को भारी क्षति उठानी पड़ी है। पंजाब ट्रेडर्स द्वारा निमित्त स्वराज ट्रैक्टरों के अभियन्ता ने जांच के पश्चात् उक्त पुष्टि की है। क्षतिग्रस्त ट्रैक्टरों की संख्या उस क्षेत्र में 70 से ऊपर पहुंच रही है। किरोसिन के मूल्य डीजल से कम होने के कारण अनधिकृत मिलावट से मुनाफा कमाने की दृष्टि से यह घातक कदम उठाये गये हैं। आपूर्ति हेतु उपलब्ध डीजल की जांच के अभाव में भी इस प्रकार का अनर्गल कार्य करने को प्रोत्साहित किया गया है। अविलम्ब जांच करा कर इसकी पुनरावृत्ति रोकी जाये तथा उत्तरदायित्व निर्णीत कर क्षतिग्रस्त कृषकों की क्षति पूर्ति कराई जाये।