

was Rs. 2461 crores with foreign exchange outflow of Rs. 396 crores, the three package bids by German firms alone amounted to Rs. 3356 crores, with foreign exchange outflow of Rs. 1795 crores. It means that there is escalation of three times of the original estimation of Rs. 1153 crores for these packages and there is an escalation of 6 1/2 times in so far as the foreign exchange outflow is concerned. Therefore we are examining these proposals at this stage and we take our investment decision immediately after the examination is over. I can assure the hon. Member that I have also told SAIL that like Burnpur, SAIL that like Burnpur, so far as Rourkela is concerned, they must give their report within 15th of May. I am informing this date to the House because I want to bind my own SAIL that date to the House because I want to bind my own SAIL that it is a commitment given to this House which the SAIL must fulfil. After that is given, obviously I will take some time. I would not like to bind myself to a time-table except by saying that I will try to examine it at the fastest and will come to an investment decision at the earliest.

I can also inform the hon. Member that it is not correct that our steel production price and cost is higher than the international cost. It is comparable and in fact it is lower than the international cost.

So far as the second steel plant is concerned, if I had been in position to commit, I would have been the most happiest person to commit. But I cannot; because there is the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for to examine the proposals. The matter is before the Planning Commission and I do hope that they will take a positive decision.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I would refer to the hon. Minister's answer to part (d) of the question. He has stated that work for modernisation of DSP and RSP has commenced. May I know from the hon. Minister, as he has given some time frame for other units, whether there is any specific time frame for the completion of the modernisation of Dur-

gapur Steel Project and the Rourkela Steel Project? This project, the hon. Minister knows, was sanctioned by the earlier Government and the money was also provided for it. And there was a time limit fixed. I would like to know whether the Minister is going to keep up that time limit and also as he had given as assurance and commitment about other units, a specific commitment should be made so far as DSP and RSP are concerned

The second part of my question is this. Although the Minister has said that so far as the second Steel Plant for Orissa is concerned, it is not in his hands, there is a great need for that. Potentiality and survey report are also there for having a second Steel Plant in Orissa. Therefore, would the hon. Minister, if he is satisfied for himself, take it up with the Planning Commission so that the second Steel Plant for Orissa is sanctioned immediately?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: So far as the estimated date of completion of the Durgapur Steel Plant is concerned, it is March 1993. The work is going on there. In Rourkela, because of the evaluation etc, there may be some time gap from the estimated time. I can assure you that we are trying our best to expedite the matter as far as possible. I am convinced that there should be a second Steel Plant in Orissa. But the hon. Member has been a Minister and knows as to how the matters are processed with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. However, I will try my best to carry this proposal through and I would seek the support of the entire House on this to convince the Planning Commission.

**Rehabilitation of Retrenched Workers
of Gandhamardan Bauxite Project of
Bharat Aluminium Company Limited**

*701. SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any time-bound programme to absorb/provide alternative employment to the re-

trenched employees/workers of Gandhamardan Bauxite Project of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Sir, from the answer given by the hon. Minister, I can presume that certain employees who were working in the Bharat Aluminium Company, have been retrenched from the job. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the reason for their retrenchment.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The hon. Member is involved in this whole matter. He has taken very strong interest. The problem has been that so far as the Project is concerned, it was conceived and CCA's approval for this Project came on the 1st July 1982. Then, some environmental objections were stated. The matter was examined at various levels. A high level Committee was formed and the high level committee has also submitted a report that this Project can go through, subject to certain conditions laid down by the Committee. But there was protest from the people on various grounds, particularly on the environmental ground and the hon. Member, I think did take a leading part in that. There was also an objection from the State Government of Orissa in view of the protest by the people. The objection by the people is that the work on this Project should not be carried on further. Now, we have already made an expenditure of Rs. 26.2 crores. So, when the people did not want this Project to go through, we had to abandon the Project. When we had to abandon this Project, the difficulty is that we have no opportunity of involving these people of absorbing these people. When the people want that the Project should not be carried on, we have to abandon the Project. At the same time, it is very difficult, if we are told to absorb these people in an non-existent

Project. Therefore, we have to give some compensation and other things and retrench them. We wrote even to other organisations saying that if it is possible, kindly absorb them. Unfortunately, the reply has not been positive. After taking over Office, I have written to the Chief Minister of Orissa whether it is possible now to carry the Project through. We are prepared for a discussion. He has written to me that he will examine this. I will now seek the cooperation of the hon. Member that if he can help me in carrying this Project through, I can assure him that we will immediately absorb all these people—not only these people, but also many more people.

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Sir, I do not want to discuss anything right now, about this Project. There are other forums for it. I do not know whether the hon. Minister knows that there are many employees who had left their secured jobs and joined Bharat Aluminium Company. From 1983 onwards, they have been working in Bharat Aluminium Company. My point is that the Environmental Management Plan was prepared by MECON and according to that only, Bharat Aluminium Company proceeded with the Project. It was later on found to be defective. A Committee was appointed by the Department of Mines. It was headed by Dr. B.D. Nag Chaudhury. The Committee visited the site in June and then in October, 1986. It suggested certain things.

Basically, I want to reduce my point to one argument that Dr. B.D. Nag Chaudhury Committee found that the EMP prepared MECON was defective. They had not taken care of all the issues of ecology and environment. My point is that the Department of Environment of the Government of India, did not finally clear the Project which was submitted by MECON. In the initial stage, only a provisional clearance was granted subject to production of the final EMP that would have been prepared by MECON.

My point is that when it was not finally cleared, why did the Department of Mines proceed ahead with the project and allure the people to join BALCO and subsequently

retrench them? It is besides the point whether the project will be there or not.

As far as I am involved, I am thoroughly opposed to the project on various grounds on economic grounds, on cultural grounds, on grounds of irrigation. There are various issues. I am not going to discuss this point. But the point is that it was not cleared by the Department of Environment finally.

MR. SPEAKER: Come to the question, Mr. Hota.

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Is it not the responsibility of the Department of Steel & Mines to provide jobs to the people, who have been retrenched, in other concerns of BALCO like Korba and other public sector undertakings? I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I inform the House that this project was approved by the CCA on the 1st of April, 1982. Now the Department of Environment also indicated that they had no inhibition provided a revised Environmental Management Plan was submitted. That was in May, 1983. The revised EMP was submitted in August, 1984. Then, the State Pollution Control Board, after examining the EMP, gave no objection certificate. Therefore, when the no objection certificate was given, we went ahead with the work. But then, there was stoppage of work because of the agitation by the people. Because we went ahead with the work from 1982 to 1985, some people had to be employed— I think, about 42 regular and 38 non-regular employees, that is, about 80 employees. When this work had to be stopped completely because of objections both from the local people and also from the State Government, obviously a decision had to be taken to retrench them.

Now, the hon. Member has said that Nag Chaudhury Report indicated for a revised EMP. I am prepared to sit with the hon. Member. I will ask for his support on the basis of a revised EMP if a project can be carried through, then, obviously we are pre-

pared to absorb all these people. Otherwise, if we absorb somebody for a non-existing project, tomorrow I shall have to answer as to why I am spending money on employees when there is no project itself.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Sir, the hon Minister has just now said that if Mr. Hota cooperates, then these people will be absorbed. He says that it is only a question of environment.

The hon. Minister must know that Narasinghanath is a holy place which involves the sentiments of the Vaishnavites as well as of the people of Chhatisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh. If uranium is found under Puri Jagannath Temple, which is a religious place of the whole country, will this Government be prepared to demolish the temple hurting the sentiments of the entire country? The poor people cannot go to any other place for *asthipravah* except in Narasinghanath Nallah. This is their religious sentiment. Secondly, government must be knowing that Narasinghanath and Harishankar contribute to the maximum religious pride of this country. Thirdly, is this Government aware that the process of desertification has already started in the entire region of Bolangir, Kalahandi, etc? A major part of the district of Sambalpur is under desertification. The rainfall which was 120-130 inches has come down to 40 to 45 inches in these areas for the last ten years. Adivasis are surviving in these areas facing great difficulties. I would like to know from the Government as to how many persons are recruited from Western Orissa in total. To my knowledge, only 80 people have been recruited from Western Orissa. Others have been recruited from other parts of the country. Only people from Western Orissa have been retrenched mostly compared to other parts of the country. The Minister has already stated in the House that Rs. 20 and odd crores have already been spent for construction of the plant. I would like to know as to how much timber has been consumed for this construction and whether the contractors have been permitted to use the timber for construction, as this affects environment of the area also.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: When I asked for Mr. Hota's cooperation, I do not mean that even if he cooperates, we will carry on with the project. We require the cooperation of the people there., I asked for his cooperation only because he may feel that there can be some other ways to carry on the project by which we can convince the people. Now, the hon. Member has raised certain objections. We do not want to carry on with this project if there is an objection from the people. We do not want to hurt the religious sentiments of anyone and that is why, we have completely stopped the work. As far as the question of rich mineral deposits is concerned, with the support of the people there, we have to see as to whether we can revive this project or not. This is the matter which we can discuss. As I said earlier, in deference to the wishes of the people and the opinion of the State Government, we have banned this project and therefore, we should not be blamed. We will not do anything. If the people do not want it to be revived, we will not revive. We will give the highest respect to the people. But when the question of employment and utilisation of mineral resources comes, I would like to have the cooperation of the hon. Members

coming from that region to explore as to whether or not it is possible to revive the project without hurting the sentiments of the people and without affecting the environment and other factors which the hon. Member has referred.

[Translation]

Persons Arrested Under Drug Trafficking

*702. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for drug-trafficking during the last one year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of action taken against them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The number of persons arrested for drug trafficking during 1989 and 1990 (upto 31.3.1990) in the various States/Union Territories, as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau are as follows:

Name of State/UT	1989	1990
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	639	15
Andaman & Nicobar	9	-
Arunachal Pradesh	1	2
Assam	46	-
Bihar	57	*572 (*combined figure for U.P. & Bihar).
U. P.	908	