

what has happened to the scheme of Mr. Mohan Dharia? Are they preparing a new scheme?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The difficulty is that two Ministries are concerned. I do not want to step into the jurisdiction of my colleague, and therefore if he puts a separate question, it will be answered.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I can add that the scheme is continuing. In fact, we had a meeting, and this scheme has not been abandoned.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I would like to know through you whether the Government is aware that there is large-scale smuggling of essential commodities, particularly edible oils, sugar, onions and spices on the western border with Pakistan, and if so, how Government is going to step up punitive measures, detention and raids?

MR. SPEAKER: That has all been done.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That is the crux of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: They are taking action against them. They have said so many times.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Let the Minister reply.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied. Have you anything to say further?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: A complaint has been received in the Government that some of the stocks are being smuggled along the west-

ern borders. We have looked into this matter, and we find that it does not have much substance. We find that it is not possible to carry sugar except through camel loads, and a camel carried only two quintals of sugar. We have examined all these things, but at the same time, we are trying to see that there is no smuggling.

Self-sufficiency in Steel

*64. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:**

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in regard to its needs of all types of steel;

(b) if not, what has been the requirement of the country for various types of steel and their availability from indigenous sources during each of the last 4 years and how much quantity has been imported from abroad each year indicating the value thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The requirement of steel as compared to actual production of all types of steel in the country and quantity imported yearwise in the last four years is given below:—

(’000 tonnes)

Years	Requirement	Actual Production	Imports	
			Quantity	Value in Rs. Crores
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1975-76	6,170	6,376	479.2	201.88
1976-77	6,340	7,857	320.6	132.39

1	2	3	4	5
1977-78	7,360	8,100	431.6	175.40
*1978-79	8,220	8,513	*182.2	*273.60

*Only items canalised through SAIL.

(c) Attainment of self-sufficiency in meeting the needs of the country for all types of steel may not, per se, be considered a necessary, or even a desirable, objective. The order of requirement and the economics of production may make it advisable to import certain items, wholly or partly, depending on the economics of scale in the production of these items. Thus, even some of the most developed and industrially advanced countries depend on import of certain types of steel, while exporting some others.

Subject to this general observation, Government agree that the planning and development of steel production within the country must aim at achieving self-sufficiency in regard to those items where the need is well established and the economics of production is favourable. Some of the major steps taken or proposed to be taken, by Government in this direction are indicated below:—

(i) Expeditious completion of on-going expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant and Bokaro Steel Plant to a capacity of 4.0 million ingot tonnes each. Further expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant to a capacity of 4.75 million ingot tonnes is under consideration.

(ii) Completion of first phase of Salem Steel Plant to produce 32,000 tonnes of cold-rolled stainless sheets/strips. The project is expected to be completed in the latter half of 1981.

(iii) Establishment of a plant at Rourkela to produce 37,500 tonnes of cold-rolled grain-oriented and 36,000 tonnes of cold-rolled non-grain-oriented sheets to meet the

requirements of the electrical industry. It is expected to be commissioned in 1981.

(iv) Provision of additional melting facilities at Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur, so as to increase its capacity from 1.0 to 1.6 lakh tonnes of ingots.

(v) Establishment of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with an installed capacity of about 3.4 million tonnes of liquid steel in two overlapping stages to be completed in a period of about six years.

(vi) Build-up of production in the existing steel plants to attain maximum capacity utilisation and modernisation and replacement of equipment to maintain their technical and physical health.

(vii) Incorporation of technological improvements/innovations so as to increase the productivity of Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants.

(viii) Higher capacity utilisation of mini steel plants through improved supply of raw materials and power.

(iv) The possibilities of setting up new steel plants with technical and financial assistance from some of the developed countries are being explored and some concrete proposals received in this behalf are presently under consideration.

श्री मूल सचिव द्वारा : क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी योजना बना ली है या बनाने जा रही है जिस से देश में हम आत्म-निर्भर हो सकें ? अगर बना ली है तो क्या उस योजना के अनुसार आज तक प्रगति हो रही है या नहीं हो रही है ? यदि नहीं हो रही है तो उसके कार्यान्वित न होने के क्या कारण हैं ?

क्या यह सही है कि 1977-78 और 1978-79 के अन्दर हमारी बुटिकाइरोनव कैपेसिटी 90 प्रतिशत और 84 प्रतिशत कम हुई? यदि हुई है तो उस के क्या कारण हैं तथा क्या सरकार वह समय बतला सकती है जब कि हम भारत-निर्भर हो जायेंगे?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

It is very difficult to use the word self-sufficiency so far as the steel industry is concerned, but so far as the projected demand and the extent we are going to meet it are concerned, I can give certain figures. It is desired to have production of steel in the order of 24 to 25 million tonnes by the end of this decade, 1981-1991. So far as the present installed capacity is concerned, it is a little over 11 million tonnes in the integrated steel plants and 3 million tonnes in the mini steel plants. I have given the production figures in detail and therefore I would not like to repeat them, but the actual state of affairs is that our production for the last three years has gone down. We have not been able to maintain the level which we had attained in 1976, so far as the integrated steel plants are concerned. So far as the expansion programme is concerned, the total projected figure, I have given. But in more detail, I can told the hon. House, through you, that expansion of Bokaro and Bhilai is on hand. The modernisation of Durgapur is also being considered. As regards the expansion of Rourkela, particularly with the variety of steel which is known as the electric steel that scheme is being implemented in Rourkela. We have received offers from various other countries also for establishing new steel plants and one such plant, as the hon. Member is aware, is in Vizag, with the Soviet collaboration.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: He has not answered my specific question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Minister was saying that we would require about 222 million tonnes of steel in a decade. There are press reports

which say that they are going to set up two new steel plants with foreign collaboration, where they will provide the entire credit and all that. I would like to know whether there is truth in it, what is the agency and what is the country. The Minister has also talked about the expansion of various steel plants. But Durgapur Steel plants is the oldest and it was originally planned to produce 3.5 million Plant is the oldest and it was originally because of any political motive that expansion is not being undertaken? Crores and crores of rupees are being spent in the import of tin sheets, which the Alloy Steel Plant was originally planned to produce. But it has been put in the cold storage and the country is incurring huge losses because of the dumping of the Alloy Steel Plant. Will the Minister enlighten the House and the country on this?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

The first part of the statement of the hon. Member in the form of a question is true, i.e., the technology applied in the Durgapur plant is one of the oldest technology; as it is the oldest plant, the technology applied is also almost obsolete and one of the oldest. That is why we are trying to modernise the steel plant and it is not true that any political consideration stands in the way. So far as the Alloy Steel Plant is concerned, I have already indicated in reply to an earlier question that the expansion and modernisation of the alloy steel plant of Durgapur is also being contemplated. In regard to the establishment of new steel plants, certain offers have been received. But it is yet to be decided which of the offers will be acceptable to the Government. It is already known that we have some arrangements with the Soviet Union so far as the Vizag plants are concerned. We have received offers from West Germany and Britain also in regard to establishment of another steel plant. But these are only in the formative stage and therefore, it would not be possible to say anything more.

† SHRI A. K. ROY: The figures supplied to us have been baffling. If the actual production is more than the requirements, what was the need for importing steel? Are we importing some special types of steel, which are not being produced in our country? That has not been made clear.

MR. SPEAKER: That is very clear if you read the answer. Put another question if you like.

SHRI A. K. ROY: The second point is, sometime back there was a resolution in Bihar Assembly on the expansion of Bokaro steel plant. The original plan of expansion of Bokaro steel plant was for 10 million tonnes. But later on, there was an apprehension that the Government is going to curtail this and so Bihar Assembly moved a non-official resolution, against any scheme or plan for curtailment of that expansion target. I would like to ask the hon. Minister to throw some light on that and remove the apprehension in the minds of people of Bihar.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the import is concerned, I have already given in part (c) of the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House what particular types of steels we import which are not produced in the country. Those are special types of steels. I have already mentioned, for instance, electric steels.

So far as the expansion of Bokaro is concerned, it is already on hand and certain expansion work has already taken place and some work is being implemented. But it would not be possible for me to indicate to what extent we will be in a position to do it because resources is one of the important factors which we have to take into account.

SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHERA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the potentiality of employment in the Rourkela Steel

Plant and, about the proposal for a second steel plant in Orissa, when it will be decided.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned that regarding new steel plants, the matter is absolutely at the formative stage and it will not be possible for me to say anything now.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: The hon. Minister has clearly stated that India needs a lot of steel in the coming years. Like power generation, steel plants also require a lot of gestation time. Since we have lost a lot of time, at least, the Government should see that the existing plants are used to the optimum capacity. As you are well aware, we are fortunate to have quality from ore. But, unfortunately, we are acutely short of metallurgical coal. A long time back, the Janata Government had planned to import metallurgical coal from Australia. I do not know what steps the present Government is taking to import metallurgical coal. May I know the exact position in this regard?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the optimum utilisation is concerned, it is our policy and already we have taken steps to utilise the capacity to the fullest extent possible. So far as the expansion of the existing units is concerned, that too we have taken up. About the particular type of steel import which the hon. Member has mentioned, I would require separate notice for that to give the exact position.

श्री मोती लाल भार्गव : मंत्री महोदय, ने इस्पात का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए भिलाई बोकारो आदि कारखानों के एकसंयोजन की बात कही है। कम मूल्य में ज्यादा इस्पात कारखाने देश में लग सकें और ज्यादा लोगों को काम मिल सकें और साथ ही जल्दी से जल्दी इस्पात का उत्पादन शुरू हो सके इस के वास्ते मिनी स्टील प्लांट्स जैसे चीन में ही स्थापित करने का विचार सरकार रखती है और लघु उद्योगों के द्वारा इस्पात का उत्पादन ज्यादा हो, इसके बारे में भी सरकार कुछ सोचती है या नहीं ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The question is about the expansion of steel plants.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: All our mini steel plants have been running in the red. There are special incentives to be given to make them viable units. Is there any scheme of the Government to give them further incentives and tax concessions to make mini steel plants to be economically viable so that they supplement the production of steel?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as tax concessions are concerned, I am not competent to speak of them here. But a series of concessions have been given to mini steel plants. That is why their performance in the last two years is quite satisfactory.

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश की असेम्बलियों में स्टाईल क्वेश्चन के रिप्लाइज सदस्यों को लिखित में मिल जाते हैं। यहाँ पर ये नहीं दिए जाते हैं। हम 540 सदस्य हैं और एक दिन में तीन चार सवाल ही आ पाते हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि यहाँ भी लिखित उत्तर सदस्यों के पास आ जाने चाहिए

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सुझाव नहीं आप प्रश्न करें। नैकस्ट क्वेश्चन।

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में भी कोई स्टील या मिनि स्टील प्लांट बनाने का विचार है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह कोई सवाल नहीं है। है कोई तो बता दीजिए।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Already the expansion of Bhilai is taking place in a big way.

पटना और दिल्ली के बीच विमान सेवा

*66 श्री प्रो० सत्यदेव सिंह : क्या पर्यटन और वायु विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पटना से दिल्ली के लिए सुबह की एक उड़ान और दिल्ली से पटना के लिए शाम की एक उड़ान आरम्भ करने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो ये विमान सेवाएँ कब तक आरम्भ हो जायेंगी, और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). No, Sir. Indian Airlines is not in a position to introduce any additional service to Patna because of fleet constraint.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: May I know, if the new service is not being introduced, whether it is possible for the Ministry to re-schedule the present flight from Calcutta to Delhi passing via Patna in such a way that there can be a morning flight as well?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: Because of the constraint at present, it is not possible to re-schedule it, but with the introduction of new aircraft in the middle of this year, it is possible to have a morning flight between Patna and Delhi, and that will be done by the Indian Airlines.

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि कोई इस तरह का विचार नहीं है। प्रसल में मैंने प्रश्नकार में जो पढ़ा वही पूछ रहा हूँ। मैंने यह पढ़ा प्रश्नकार में कि आपके राज्य मंत्री महोदय ने पटना में इस बात की खर्चा की कि पटना में शाम की विमान सेवा की प्र ही शुरू की जाने वाली है। तो उन्होंने यह किस आधार पर कहा, यह तो बताइये ? बाहर कुछ कह देते हैं, और यहाँ कुछ कहते हैं। मैं इन्विज फ्लाइंट के बारे में बोल रहा हूँ जो कि प्राज या कल के प्रश्नकार में निकला है। The Hon. Minister had said like this and it has appeared in the Press. Is it correct or not?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: I have not seen that statement, but I have already promised the House that with the introduction of new aircraft in the middle of the year we will have a flight between Patna and Delhi in the morning.