

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : In view of the fact that some international powers are already trying to alienate India and Bangla Desh from each other by some conspiratorial measures and also in view of the fact that friendship between Bangla Desh and India depends largely on social, cultural, economic and political inter-relationships between Bangla Desh and India, may I know whether, when negotiations will be undertaken after 30th June, this point would be stressed that travel between India and Bangla Desh should be as free as possible ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have already answered this question.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Quite recently the State Bank of Bangla Desh introduced the P form and that has created a lot of inconvenience and difficulty. May I know whether this matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangla Desh ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is, I think, an internal matter with us, because the insistence on getting a P form before going to Bangla Desh is not a matter which need be taken up with the Government of Bangla Desh.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : It was introduced by Bangla Desh Government.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is for them to decide what is best in their interest.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : What are the main guidelines for permission to travel to Bangla Desh from India ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : They are quite easy. If the hon. Member wants to go, he should apply for a certificate.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : A residential certificate is necessary either from an MLA or an MP. In many cases it is given but in some cases it is not given. So, I want to know what are the guidelines for giving this permission.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : If any specific case is brought to my notice, I can look into why in a particular case this was not allowed.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : What are the guide-lines I want to know.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Let him say, there are no guide-lines and that it depends on the whims of the authorities. (*Interruption*)

Purchase of Refractories by Rourkela Steel Plant

*388. **SHRI VEKARIA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of refractories purchased by the Rourkela Steel Plant from the indigenous sources during the last three years ; and

(b) the quantity imported during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b). The quantities of refractories purchased from indigenous sources and imported during 1969-70 to 1971-72 by the Rourkela Steel Plant are as follows :—

Year	(in tonnes)	
	Indigenous	Imported
1969-70	20,628	1,035
1970-71	24,814	1,068
1971-72	47,853	4,483

SHRI VEKARIA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of the factories which are manufacturing refractories in India from whom the Government is purchasing refractories

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question if he wishes to have a list of them. I have not got an exhaustive list with me here.

SHRI VEKARIA : In view of the fact that the Government is importing a large number of refractories and purchasing refractories from Indian factories, looking to this fact, and the requirements for our steel plants, may I know whether the Government propose to instal its own factory for manufacturing refractories or not ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The Government have taken a decision to set up a refractories plant at Bhilai which will have a capacity of 110,000 tonnes of the following products : Fireclay Refractories, Basic Refractories and Silica Refractories. The Central Engineering Design Bureau is preparing the detailed project report on this matter.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I know when this plant will go into production ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I am not in a position to give a definite date because we are awaiting the detailed project report which will give us a definite time-schedule for construction and bringing it into production.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Does the Ministry realise that it was bad planning to have no refractories factory of their own with a huge complex of steel mills ? Is it not a fact that in different countries where they have steel plants, the refractories are a part of the complex of the steel mill ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question but a matter of opinion.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total annual indigenous production of refractories and our total requirements of refractories from Rourkela Steel Plant and, if the indigenous production of refractories is not large enough, I want to know the reasons for importing the refractories. May I know whether the indigenous availability clearance has been obtained ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, you will appreciate that the question that we were asked was about the Rour-

kela Steel Plant. If the hon Member wishes to get the figures not merely of the Rourkela Steel Plant but of the different Steel Plants including integrated and non-integrated Steel Plants, it will take us some time and we will make it available.

Grant of Interest Holiday on Loans to Bokaro Steel Limited

*392. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to grant an interest holiday on all loans to Bokaro Steel Limited upto March, 1978 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Bokaro Steel Plant is a highly capital-intensive Project with a long gestation period. It is being implemented in the First Stage to a capacity of 17 million ingot tonnes to be raised on a continuing basis, in the second stage, to a capacity of 4 million ingot tonnes. The investments that are being made in the First Stage cover substantial in-built facilities which would be required for the 4 million tonnes stage. As this Plant has been planned essentially for a capacity of 4 million tonnes, it will reach a viable stage only at the level of production envisaged in the Second Stage. The excessive burden of interest on heavy borrowings in the early stages would have meant substantial losses to the Plant in view of the fact that the prices of steel are regulated, on a uniform basis, for all the Steel Plants and are not related to the cost of production of individual Steel Plants. As it will take the Plant 3 or 4 years to achieve the optimum level of production after the commissioning of the 4 million tonne stage, in 1975-76, Government has taken a decision to grant an interest holiday on all loans to Bokaro Steel Ltd. upto March 1978.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : According to the statement Government has taken a