

can be done to see that there is a certain equalisation. Regarding the two major companies, the Indian Aluminium and the Hindustan Aluminium, by and large, the prices even at present seem to afford them a fair margin of profit. So far as the Madras Aluminium is concerned, while it is true that it has not earned a return upto 12 per cent of the employed capital, by and large, it has been a profitable concern in the past and, therefore, it is not facing any difficulty at present.

Proposal to open Steel Factories in Maharashtra and Goa

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*954. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT.

SHRI S. L. PEJE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether Government propose to open steel factories either in the private or public sectors in the regions of Maharashtra and Goa, where considerable iron ore is available?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): There is no proposal at present for setting up an integrated steel plant in Maharashtra or Goa. The locational advantages of suitable sites in the country including those in Maharashtra and Goa would, however, be kept in view while drawing up the programme for techno-economic studies to be taken up in connection with the long-term plan for steel development.

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: May I know whether the Government is aware that considerable iron ore is being exported from Maharashtra and Goa and that it is necessary to utilise this iron ore for converting into steel? Secondly, what are the reasons for neglecting this region so long? Thirdly, when would concrete steps in the direction of starting a plant be taken up? Fourthly, would at least a mini-steel plant be started immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM): Naturally Government is aware that there is a fair amount of iron ore that is exported from Goa, as a traditional export, out of which a substantial amount of foreign exchange has been earned. Undoubtedly, if we could transform the ore that we are exporting into steel and export steel, we would be better off. But there is a limitation in terms of the resources that can be devoted to putting up new steel plants, and that is really the limitation so far as putting up steel plants in this area is also concerned.

As has been mentioned in the main answer, we are studying the suitability of various sites for construction of plants in the Sixth and Seventh Plans. And that is where we are.

So far as the question of mini-steel plants is concerned, that is to say, electric furnace-cum-continuous casting, there are plants also in that area. At present, apart from Mukund, I am not able to bring to memory any other, but the hon. Member knows the facts as well as I.

SHRI S. L. PEJE: Are we to understand that a steel plant in Maharashtra or in Goa will be taken up in the Sixth or Seventh Plan?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: I did not state that. I said that the locational advantages for suitable sites in the country, including those in Maharashtra and Goa would be kept in view while drawing up the plans for the future. But it is unlikely that, even in relation to those places which we are studying at the moment, there will be any decision before the Sixth or Seventh Plan.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: While considering the location of steel plants in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, will the Government bear in mind the fact that the Chanda region of Vidarbha in Maharashtra is rich in iron ore deposits and is

ideally suited—it is centrally located from transport and other points of view. Would the Government, therefore, at least consider the question of starting a pig iron plant earlier, even before the Sixth or Seventh Plan?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: There is nothing very much to be gained by trying to put up pig iron plants, whether in Maharashtra or elsewhere in our country because we are not really deficit in pig iron at the moment; we are running surplus. Naturally, all the advantages which the hon. Member has mentioned will be taken into account in coming to a decision.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: May I know whether there are any proposals pending with the Central Government from the private sector, from Maharashtra, to start a mini-steel plant and if so, whether Government will expedite them?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: I am not in a position to give a categorical reply at the moment. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will answer that.

दिल्ली स्थित तिब्बती शरणार्थियों जिविरों में
आय लक्ष्य

* 956 श्री कुशोक बाकुला :

डा० हरि प्रसाद शर्मा :

क्या श्वेत और कुशोक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली में यमुना नदी के निकट विभाग 14 मार्च, 1973 को तिब्बती शरणार्थी जिविरों में आय लक्ष्य से लगभग 79 जिविर जन्म कर स्वाह हो गये ,

(ख) क्या इसके फलस्वरूप अनुमानतः लगभग 4 लाख रुपये की हानि हुई . और

(ग) इन क्षतिकार से प्रभावित तिब्बती शरणार्थियों की स्थिति का लही ढंग से अनुमान लगा कर उन्हें राहत प्रदान करने के लिए और

इन तिब्बती शरणार्थियों के लिए स्थायी निवास, भ्रम तथा बल्क उपलब्ध करके प्रत्येक परिवार को बसाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) 79 juggies were destroyed.

(b) No authoritative estimate of the loss has been made.

(c) An ex-gratia relief of Rs. 250/- per family has been given by the Government. The Central Relief Committee (India), a voluntary agency, has also given a grant of Rs. 60/- per family in addition to a total grant of Rs. 5,260/- for utensils. Clothings and milk powder have also been supplied by this Committee.

The question of giving rehabilitation assistance to these refugees, most of whom are reported to have some means of livelihood, will be considered in due course in the light of the priorities fixed and after taking into account their present means of livelihood.

श्री कुशोक बाकुला : अध्यक्ष महोदय इन लोगों की चार लाख रुपये की हानि हुई है—यै जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप उनको कोई महायत्ना देंगे ? यदि महायत्ना देने तो क्या महायत्ना देंगे ?

दूनरा प्रश्न—वे लोग इस समय जहाँ रहते हैं वहाँ न पानी है न बिजली है, अभी भी जिविरों में रहते हैं जहाँ अभी भी आग लगने का खतरा बना हुआ है। क्या आप उनके लिये कोई स्थायी निवास का प्रबन्ध करेंगे ?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The Ladakh Buddha Vihar of which Shri Kushak Bakula Member of Parliament is the President, had estimated the losses at about Rs. 4.30 lakhs. The Deputy Commissioner of Delhi has reported that the losses had been greatly exaggerated. According to him, most of the property was removed by the jhuggi-dwellers at the time