

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Setting up of Hospet Steel Plant

S. N. Q. 4 DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether foundation stones have been formally laid and work already started on the construction of Steel Plants in Visakhapatnam and Salem ;

(b) when similar action is proposed to be taken regarding setting up of Hospet Steel Plant in Bellary District ; and

(c) the steps contemplated to be taken by way of advance action for training local people and giving them employment opportunities both in the construction as well as in the operation of the proposed Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHANKUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b). The work on Salem and Visakhapatnam Steel Projects has been formally inaugurated. The work on Hospet Project will be formally inaugurated after the current monsoon season.

Parallel work on all the new Steel Projects at Salem, Hospet and Vizag is in progress. There has been no delay in relation to taking preliminary steps at the Hospet Steel Plant site,

(c) No difficulty is anticipated in the recruitment of personnel during the construction stage and preference will be given to the local people, in accordance with the policy of Government on this subject.

Suitable training programmes will be organised in due course to meet the requirements of personnel during the operation and maintenance stage.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : I must thank the hon. Minister as far as the reply to parts (a) and (b) of my question is concerned. The people of Bellary are anxious that just as the Salem and the Vizag steel plants have been inaugurated and their foundation stones laid by the Prime Minister, they hope that the Prime Minister would also be

good enough to lay the foundation stone of the Hospet Steel plant and I hope the Minister will be able to give us an assurance when we make a request in that regard.

When we come to the third part of my question; I feel rather disappointed because, to be frank, we did not expect that the Minister would give me what I would call, a routine answer. Sir, great expectations have been roused..

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : According to the Institute of Applied Man Power Research, the Bhilai Steel Plant gave employment to 32,317 persons of whom 25,000 were on the works, 2,000 on Administration and 4059 on the Township. I won't give similar figures for other steel plants.

QUESTION NO. 1 : whether any estimate has been made by the Ministry of the employment potential of the Hospet steel plant and if so, what is the estimated number of people who will get employment and much more important, what is the estimated break-down of employment potential by statistics because people are anxiously looking forward to knowing what they would get out of this steel plant.

QUESTION NO. 2..

MR. SPEAKER : You can do it later on.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : This is my first question, Sir. Every member is asking a series of questions....

SHRI PILOO MODY : You may say '(a), (b), (c)'.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : I am grateful to the hon. Member for guiding me.

MR. SPEAKER : They must be inter-linked—(a), (b), (c).

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : (b) From what little study I have made of the employment pattern in the Bellary Steel Plant—I have had the occasion to see the study which has been made by a team sent by the Andhra University about the employment pattern in the steel plant in Bellary—I find that the staff

employed are engineers, diploma-holders, people with qualifications from industrial training institutes, ordinary matriculates, skilled people and unskilled people. All of them require different kinds of training. I thought that instead of saying that suitable training measures would be taken, the hon. Minister, because he knows the amount of time that it takes, would tell us what his Ministry is doing in regard to advance action for setting up a training institute. As he knows, in Bhilai there is a training institute already. In Jamshedpur there is a training institute in the private sector, and it is a first class training institute. So far as Bellary is concerned, we do not have any engineering college there. Would the hon. Minister think of establishing an engineering college in Bellary with suitable courses and training programmes appropriately tailored to the requirements of the Hospet steel plant so that the local people and the people in the neighbouring areas get the opportunity?..

MR. SPEAKER : This is an innocent way of asking a supplementary question. Let the hon. Member kindly ask a straight question now.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : Sir, you must be a little patient with a new Member, as far as this part is concerned. I am playing the role of a representative of the people.

MR. SPEAKER : I treat both Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad and Dr. V. K. R. Varadaraja Rao as new Members.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I am not a Member. I have gone from this side to the Treasury Benches and from there I have come back again as a Member. But my hon. friend has only been there as a Minister and it is only now that he has come to our side.

MR. SPEAKER : So, he is the only new Member.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether his Ministry is thinking of establishing, in consultation with the authorities concerned, an engineering college in Bellary with courses and training programmes appropriately tailored to the requirements of the steel plants. Would he

also consider reorienting the existing courses in the polytechnic and the industrial training institute that are already there in Bellary? Then, I would also like to know this. This is part (d) of my question, and this is about the construction..

MR. SPEAKER : When the hon. Member was a Minister, he was protesting against such type of volleys of questions.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : If one were to remember all of one's past history, I do not know....

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I do not protest.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : I shall ask part (d) of my question and then I shall wait for my second question.

Is the hon. Minister aware that the previous Education Minister had initiated a joint intensive educational development project in Bellary district, which is now in operation, with the specific purpose of linking up education with economic development? It is very important, the whole question of the steel plant, ancillary industries, training programmes, man-power, employment and so on all have to be linked up with this educational project. So, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of this project and what steps he is taking in conjunction with the Education Ministry to see to it that there is proper dovetailing between the intensive educational development project and the man-power planning and training programmes for the Hospet steel plant.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Four questions have been asked during the last five minutes. The first is in regard to the categorywise requirement of personnel, and he has asked whether we have made any assessment till now. The assessment is being made by the consultants, the Central Engineering Design Bureau and they will be able to give us the figures in their feasibility report which I expect in November, 1971.

Secondly, regarding the question of establishing a training institute or engineering college in Bellary, particularly for training persons who have specialised skills needed for a steel plant, this matter would be taken up after we have

got the feasibility report, because according to our understanding there is yet some considerable time before we shall need all those persons to come to work.

Regarding the construction programme, the initial steps are being taken, but naturally they are of a very preliminary character, because until the feasibility report is made available, we cannot proceed further in the matter.

Then, finally regarding the excellent proposal of the previous Education Minister—naturally, it must be excellent, considering that it came from my hon. friend himself—I can assure him that I have read the correspondence, because the officers naturally anticipated that I should read the correspondence and so on—and I have read it—between himself when he was occupying that exalted position, and my predecessor, Shri B. R. Bhagat, and the steps that he wanted should be taken are being taken. The officer whom he deputed is on the job, and I think that he is aware of the rest, and I need not tell him.

MR. SPEAKER : So far as the second, third or the fourth question is concerned, hon. Members should wait for their next turn. But I find that the rule of permitting two questions is being exploited, and hon. Members are asking four or five questions in one turn. I think that we shall have to amend the rules.

DR. V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO : It is nice to be disciplined after having disciplined others for about 35 years. I am grateful to you, Sir, for this.

The only question that I wanted to ask the hon. Minister was this. Since he has referred to the considerable amount of time that will be taken, I would like to ask him whether he has made some kind of preliminary study of the time-pattern involved, when the plant is expected to be started, when it will be commissioned how long it will take to train the people, in what way he will see that maximum possible opportunities are being given to the local people. I am not being parochial when I ask this question. I want this thing to be done not only for the steel plant in Bellary but also for the steel plant at Visakhapatnam or the steel plant in Salem.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : So far as the question of having time-bound

targets at different stages is concerned, I think the hon. Member will appreciate that it is difficult to fix time-bound stages until the feasibility report has been brought out. It is dangerous to make promises here without actually bringing them down to earth. Therefore, what we are trying to do is not to make wild promises but to keep ourselves to definite statements based on accurate and concrete studies. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to appreciate that not only in relation to Hospet but also in relation to Visakhapatnam and in relation to Salem, we have put certain broad targets, namely that by some time like 1978-79, we should be able to bring these plants into operation, 2 million tonnes for Visakhapatnam, 2 million tonnes for Hospet,—both are mild steel plants—and 250,000 tonnes so far as Salem is concerned because it is an alloy steel plant, which has certain specialised equipment and products also are of a certain specialised character. So, I can only assure the hon. Member that it is our intention to keep to that target. As regards how the steps are going to be taken between November, 1971 when the feasibility report will be in our hands and the actual production of mild steel in 1978-79, I think that it is better that I do not make any commitments but I will come before this House after the feasibility report has been examined and we have taken decisions in relation to it.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA : Have the Government of Mysore fulfilled their part of the obligation, namely that of acquiring land, and if so, could we have an idea of the extent of land that has been acquired by them for the Hospet steel plant, and have the Government also finalised the spot or the site where the proposed steel plant is going to be set up in Mysore ?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I would request the hon. Member to put a separate question about the exact extent of land acquired and I shall give him the information available to me. So far as the question of site is concerned, after some considerable debate and discussion, the site of the steel plant has been fixed, and as has been mentioned in the answer to the main question, we hope to have the inauguration soon after the monsoon is over.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I am sorry to say that while the former Minister Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao had a national outlook, we find that Mr. Varadaraja Rao, the present Member is very parochial and gerrymandering in the sense that he wants an engineering college for recruiting personnel for Bellary alone. While there are thousands of unemployed engineers, what necessitates the setting up of an engineering college in Bellary alone ?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The hon. Member will have appreciated that I have made it clear that no decision has been taken as yet on starting it, that is, on whether it is necessary to start a new college in Bellary at all. But I think the hon. Member also knows that there is a regional engineering college in Salem also. So, so far as Salem is concerned, I think that job is done already.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expenditure Incurred on Hangar Complex at Bombay

*873. **SHRI M. M. HASHIM :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hangar complex at Bombay has been completed ;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon ; and

(c) the number of aircrafts to be accommodated in the hangar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) The hangar complexes of Air India and Indian Airlines under construction at Bombay Airport are expected to be ready by December 1971.

(b) The cost of the Air India hangar complex is estimated at Rs. 153.8 lakhs while that of the Indian Airlines complex (excluding the cost of adjoining apron and connecting taxi-tracks) at Rs. 124 lakh.

(c) The Air India hangar will be able to

accommodate one Boeing 747 at a time. The Indian Airlines hangar will be able to accommodate up to 10 aircraft of all types including a few Caravelles, even.

Increased Assistance from France through Aid India Consortium

*878. **SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :**

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has agreed to raise its share of aid to India through the Aid India Consortium ;

(b) if so, whether France was the only member of the Consortium which had indicated an increase in the share of aid this year ; and

(c) what is the extent of increase in aid offered by France to India ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Increase in aid by France to India for 1971-72 amounts to Rs. 2.70 crores (FF 20 million) as compared to the level of her aid for 1970-71.

Apart from France, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, UK, USA, and the International Development Association have indicated increased assistance to India for the year 1971-72 as compared to the year 1970-71. The indications of aid by members of the Aid India Consortium are, however, tentative and are subject to necessary approvals by respective Governments. The increased aid by the International Development Association is subject to timely replenishment of its resources by Member Countries.

Taxation Commission

*893. **SHRI RAMCHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered any proposal to have a Taxation Commission in the country ; and