

KHADILKAR) : So far as negotiations in respect of docks and port machinery is concerned, upto a stage the proposal had advanced but later on some hitch developed and now the two Secretaries of Shipping and Transport Ministry and Labour Ministry are at it whether that could be worked out or not, whether it would be feasible or not, and they are now examining it.

Permission Sought by M/S Hindalco For Commissioning Third Properzi Machine

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

(a) whether M/s. Hindalco had applied for permission to commission a third Properzi machine in addition to their existing two machines if so, whether permission has been given;

(b) whether Government are aware that the concern has been unauthorisedly operating a third machine for the last two years and returns of its production have not been shown ; and

(c) whether Government propose to investigate how much Excise Duty has been lost due to black-marketing of the excess Properzi rods produced illegally by Hindalco ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) : M/s. Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Limited have applied for grant of an industrial licence for expansion of their present installed capacity for manufacture of Properzi Redraw Rods by 6,000 tonnes per annum and the same is under consideration.

(b) and (c) : Government are not aware of the unauthorised operation of a third machine. However, Government will look into the matter.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is it not a fact that in 1970-71 this company was given ad hoc licence for raw materials in order to raise the production of EC Grade or Properzi Redraw Rods by 15,000 tonnes?

May I know whether it was found that actuals had not gone up to the extent warranted by this extra supply of raw materials ? What is happening to extra production which they might be producing on the basis of extra raw materials given to them as ad hoc licence in 1970-71.

The excess production is not being shown. Is that not a fact ?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : It has been shown. They were authorised for a production of 22,000 tonnes. Their actual production was 20 800 tonnes in 1969, 23 000 tonnes in 1970 and 24,000 tonnes in 1971.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The figures are quite misleading. The original capacity of this plant was 21,000 tonnes. That is what the hon. Minister himself has stated. I want to know whether subsequently they have been granted an *ad hoc* allotment of extra raw materials to raise their production to 40,000 tonnes, and as the figures themselves show, they have not in fact shown any higher production. Therefore, my question is whether the hon. Minister knows that in fact they have been unauthorisedly operating a third Properzi machine and the entire production from that is being sold to unauthorised customers in blackmarket ? Has the hon. Minister any information or will he look into it ?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : We have no information regarding the installation of a third machine. But as I have said, it is a matter which Government will look into in order to find out whether there is any truth in this statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Is it a fact that this company and also its sister concerns are producing far in excess of the licensed capacity, and if so, what are the details ?

MR. SPEAKER : The main question relates to only one concern.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I am referring to Hindalco and its sister concerns. My second question is...

MR. SPEAKER : He can put only one question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : It is part (b) of the same question. I have been absent from the House for seven days, and so I may be permitted.

May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there is extensive blackmarketing of aluminium and aluminium products in the bazar and if so, what steps Government are taking to prevent it ?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : I would like to inform the hon. Member that the firm was originally licensed to produce 60,000 tonnes of ingot aluminium. The present capacity which has now been sanctioned by Government is 80,000 tonnes, and the ultimate capacity sanctioned to them is 1,20,000 tonnes of aluminium ingots.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : What about the extensive blackmarketing in aluminium ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said that he will look into it.

कुमारी कमला कुमारी : तीसरी मशीन जो लगी है उसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं बताया है कि वह कब से लगी है और उसके जरिये उत्पाद जो हो रहा है...

एक माननीय सदस्य : वह कहते हैं कि मालूम नहीं है ।

श्री शाहनवाज खान : मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि लेडी मيم्बर मेरे साथ कुछ बेइसाफी कर रही हैं । मैंने यह कहा था कि हमें इस बात का इंतजार है कि तीसरी मशीन लगी है या नहीं लगी है ।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Notice of this question was given three weeks ago, and his reply is that he does not know whether a third machine is working or not. If three weeks' time is not sufficient for them to send their people and find out the position, what is the use of putting these questions ?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : The responsibility for finding out whether addi-

tional machines have been installed or not is that of the Director-General of Technical Development. We referred the matter to the Director-General and the reply that we have got is that he is not aware whether any third machine has been installed. He will look into it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He can neither affirm it nor deny it. He says that he is not aware.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGLAM) : The hon. Member will see that the answer to the question is that we are not aware. It is a fact. Because we know that the House would like to have correct information on this, we have stated in the answer that we shall look into the matter, and as soon as we get proper information, we shall put it before the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : They will hide the machine.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : They cannot ask them because they have taken a lot of contribution from the Birlas during the last elections. That is the pity.

Bharati Process of Steel Manufacture in West Germany

*692, **SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Bharati" Process of steel manufacture, which had been held uneconomical and not feasible in this country, is being acquired and adopted by reputed steel manufacturers in West Germany ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to re-evaluate this process ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGLAM) : (a) No report has been received so far about any foreign manufacturer having acquired and adopted the "Bharati Process" for steelmaking.

(b) Does not arise.