

payment of bonus for 1972-73 at a rate higher than 8.33 per cent. May I know what are the broad details of these agreements? Secondly, how is it and why is it that the Minister says that at different ports different sets of agreements and arrangements have been arrived at? What are the reasons for differentiation between one port and another in regard to a general question?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I only hope that the hon. Member will not give cause to further troubles in other ports now.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Are there different problems at different ports and if so, what are those different problems? If the demand is the same, how can there be different agreements?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: With your permission, Sir. I can give some details which the hon. Member wants. At Cochin the bonus paid was about 12/3 per cent extra over and above 8.1/3 per cent; that comes to about 10 per cent. At Mormugao, a settlement has already been arrived at for payment of bonus for 1972-73 at the rate of 10 per cent on the gross salaries. At Calcutta discussions were held at the level of State Chief Minister and an agreement was arrived at on 28-9-1973 for payment of interim bonus at the rate of 37 days' average earnings. The adjudication award is awaited. In Madras the registered and listed dock workers, the casual pool workers and the clearing and forwarding workers at Madras had gone on a strike from the second shift of 9-11-1973 demanding a bonus of 20 per cent. We had advised the concerned authorities to settle this matter. As a result of that, negotiations were conducted and as a result of negotiations, the parties agreed to pay ten per cent and the workers also agreed. These are some of the details which the hon. Member wanted.

Ratnagiri Aluminium Project

*67. **SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final estimates of the Aluminium Project at Ratnagiri have since been prepared;

(b) if so, what are the estimates; and

(c) whether any schedule has been drawn for completion of the Plant and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capital cost of the project has been estimated as under:

(Rs. crores)	
1. Mining Establishment	2.7
2. Alumina Plant	20.6
3. Smelter including Foundry and Properzi Mill	55.5
Total.	78.8

(c) The Project will be fully implemented over a period of 60 months after sanction of the cost estimates. The alumina plant will be commissioned in 50 months. The first pot-line, which will produce half the projected quantity of metal, will be completed in 55 months and full production is expected to be achieved in 60 months.

SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT: The carrot of early implementation of the plant is being dangled before our eyes for the last twelve years but nothing tangible has come out so far. We would, therefore, like to know specifically whether it is a fact that some of the officers of the Bharat Aluminium are opposing this plant from time to time. I should like to give one example of the intransigence of officers.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not give the reason himself.

SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT: Let me, therefore, know who has to sanction the cost estimates and when is he going to do it?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): The decision in the matter of the Ratnagiri plant is not taken by the officers of any Government concern. The decision is taken by the Government. So, the hon. Member need not have any apprehension that the scheme will not go through.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: It will meet the same fate of the Konkan Railway.

SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT: I wanted to know as to who is to sanction the cost estimates and when he is going to do it.

SHRI S. L. PEJE: Is it a fact that this project was originally planned to go into production in 1974-75 and if so, what expeditious steps is the Government contemplating to achieve this object?

SHRI T. A. PAI: It would not be possible for the plant to go into production in 1974-75, whatever might have been the original idea that it should be put through. There are some difficulties like transport, and the infra-structure problems have got to be settled. It is no use going into the construction of the plant without looking into the other problems that are likely to be created. However, I can assure the House that the Government is very keen that this public sector project must go through as expeditiously as possible by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the hon.

Minister whether the Planning Commission had already allocated for the Fifth Plan Rs. 45 crores for the aluminium project at Ratnagiri and Rs. 90 crores for the aluminium project at Korba and whether the Bharat Aluminium had made a plea and a request that the entire amount of Rs. 135 crores should be allocated only to the Korba project and whether the Planning Commission had given its consent to that. In the end I would like to know whether he would like to make his best effort to see, inspite of what he said earlier, knowing the backward development of this particular area, that at least by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan...

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not put questions in the form of leading questions.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a straightforward question and very much relevant, Sir.

SHRI T. A. PAI: It may be true that the Planning Commission had indicated an allocation of Rs. 50 crores for the Ratnagiri project as against our demand for Rs. 78.82 crores for the whole project. But there is no question of diverting this to anywhere else. We shall certainly see that the Planning Commission is persuaded to give us adequate resources to complete this project because....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have not replied whether Bharat Aluminium has requested that the entire allocation of Rs. 135 crores should be given to Korba.

SHRI T. A. PAI: I am not sure whether they have requested. We, on the part of the Ministry, have been showing the utmost concern to see that this project is put through. The Maharashtra Government has

taken some steps in regard to acquisition of land and they have committed themselves to give power and so far as we are concerned, we are as keen in the development of Ratnagiri as Korba.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question—Question No. 68.

Shri Indrajit Gupta—not here.

Shri S. N. Mishra—also not here.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने इसकी खत्म कर दिया ? मैं भी एक पूरक प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ। रत्नागिरी मेरा मूल स्थान है। ये तो हमारे प्रतिनिधि हैं। एक सवाल मुझे पूछने दीजिए। एक भी सप्लोमेंटरी आप एनाउ नहीं करेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मझे पता लग गया है कि आपका जन्म स्थान है।

श्री मधु लिमये : एक दो तो सप्लोमेंटरी इस पर और चलने दीजिए।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I am representing that area...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो दूसरे माननीय सदस्य खड़े हो रहे हैं, क्या उन का भी जन्म-स्थान वही है ? मेरा जन्म स्थान तो भारत है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, वह हमारा मरणस्थान हो सकता है। आप हमें भी प्रश्न पूछने दीजिए।

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या रत्नागिरि में एलुमिनियम प्रकल्प बनाने के साथ वहाँ एन्सिलिगि इंडस्ट्री लगाने की भी योजना बनाई जायेगी, या वह प्रकल्प बनने के बाद सरकार इस बारे में सोचना शुरू करेगी ?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The Ratnagiri project is expected to have a capacity to produce 50,000 tonnes of

aluminium metal per annum including 25,000 tonnes of conductor-grade wire rods with captive alumina and mining facilities. We shall certainly see that ancillary development takes place with the help of the State Government and this is provided with adequate raw materials. (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: I had made an exception because of his birth place...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: According to the Constitution you cannot distinguish on the basis of birth or religion or language. (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Next question. He has made it very clear.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: I want to ask a perfectly relevant question, Sir....

MR. SPEAKER: Relevant question, as if others are asking irrelevant questions....

SHRI DHAMANKAR: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether some offices of the Bharat Aluminium are being shifted from Ratnagiri to somewhere else? If that is so, does it indicate shifting of the project also?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: May I ask one last supplementary to the relevant question?

SHRI T. A. PAI: May I inform the hon. Member that what he asks has no relevance to the question under consideration? Naturally the hon. Members are exercised over the fact whether the Ratnagiri project is going to come into existence during the Fifth Plan or not. It is a simple question. I am holding out the promise that it will go through.