

difficulties, but our intention is to see that the allotted quantity is made available to the State.

Shri D. N. Patodia: The hon. Minister has given us figures for June. How much is the total requirement assessed for July and how much is likely to be available for that month?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: According to present arrangements, we expect that about 792,000 tonnes of foodgrains would be available to the State Governments

Shri Ranga: What is the total requirement?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: That is very difficult to say because many of the States, most of the deficit States, want more and more quantity

Shri Ranga: That is not the question. They must have had a budget made here as to how much they have to supply. He is only saying how much they have allotted. They should be able to know what is the total requirement from the budget they must have prepared.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In the statement laid on the Table, figures are given of the quantity actually allotted and delivered.

Shri S. Kundu: When the food problem is so acute and we are living on a ship-to-mouth basis and when the Orissa Government are prepared to give more paddy in lieu of wheat, why was the original allotment of 10,900 tonnes of wheat to the State reduced to 10,800 tonnes?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Last month, we had considerable difficulty in making the allotted quantities available to the State Governments. But our effort has been to see that whatever the understanding between the State Governments and the Centre, those commitments are fulfilled if factors beyond our control do not intervene.

Shri S. Kundu: He does not understand my question. When Orissa is prepared to give more paddy in lieu

of wheat, why should they instead of increasing the quota of wheat to the State decrease it?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I take it from the hon. Member that the Orissa Government are prepared to give an unlimited quantity of paddy in lieu of wheat. I welcome that suggestion. But in June, as the House is aware, a special situation arose and we had to reduce the quota.

Shri S. Kundu: What was the special situation?

Shri J. Ahmed: Assam does not require much rice, they want some more wheat. May I know from the Minister how much wheat has been allotted to Assam?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have already replied. We are trying to make available 15,000 tons of wheat to Assam.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Expansion of Durgapur Steel Plant

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S.N.Q. 27. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:**
Shri N. K. Sanghi:
Shri Shambhu Nath:
Shri Onkar Lal Bohra:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state whether any final decision has been reached in regard to the third stage expansion of the Durgapur Steel Plant?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Cheema Reddy): It has been decided, for the present, to postpone the expansion of Durgapur from 16 to 34 million tonnes. This decision has been taken in view of a slower growth than earlier anticipated in the demand for steel and, in particular, for flat products; the estimated cost of the Project and its foreign exchange component being in excess of the available resources; and the prior need of attaining normal production at the 1 million tonne plant and the 1.6 million tonne expansion.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether the British consortium which gave extension of time for this third stage expansion of the Durgapur steel plant have withdrawn their tender. Whether the Government has asked the British Government not to tie the British credit of £60 million to this expansion programme?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: The tender offered by the consortium organisation of the British firms was valid till 30th June of this year. The question of their withdrawal did not arise. The team led by Sir Henry Hartman on behalf of the British Government came here and discussed, and in view of the situation as explained above, Government decided to postpone the expansion.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether the Minister is aware that the capacity created in the Heavy Engineering Plant at Ranchi for meeting the requirements of other expansion programmes of the steel plants is going to remain idle because all the expansion programmes are going to be stopped, and what is that capacity?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: The capacities of the Heavy Engineering Corporation are being examined with a view to mobilise them for the use of different programmes that we are undertaking. As far as the Durgapur expansion is concerned it does not immediately and directly affect the capacities of the Heavy Engineering Corporation.

Shri N. K. Sanghi: By dropping the expansion of the Durgapur steel plant will the country not have to depend on increased imports in future years? Also by dropping this, will not the steel plant capacity remain more idle in future than it is now, and thus increase the production cost of steel in the country?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: The question of capacity being idle would not arise because already the expansion has gone up to 1.6 million tonnes, and that is how we are trying to streamline the entire production capacity. Regarding

requirements of steel, the estimates have been recently entrusted to the National Council of Applied Economic Research, and their findings are that as against our original estimate of 10 million tonnes, it will be 8.4 million tonnes. Therefore, the entire picture has been taken into consideration, and there would not be much of dislocation.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether it is a fact that the team of British experts visited this plant some time back, and they expressed the opinion (a) that the present strength of workers must be reduced from 14,000 to 8,000, (b) that the consultants or the British representatives whoever it is, must be permitted to have some share in the management, and (c) that they doubted the feasibility of the expansion programme. I would like to know whether this obstructive attitude and pressure by this British team of experts has been responsible for the Government's postponing this expansion.

Dr. Chenna Reddy: The question of obstructive tactics or pressures brought in by the British Government is not correct, because they did not show any reluctance. The only thing is that in view of our present economic situation and our commitments to various plants particularly Bokaro the Government thought this year they could not provide the necessary funds.

Shri Umanath: I do not mean the British Government. I mean the British experts whether they have expressed these opinions.

Dr. Chenna Reddy: They did not express specifically these opinions. They did visit the plant and in our discussions some of these points about overstaffing etc. were certainly made, and we are also conscious and we are at it. The expansion has been postponed only for the reasons I have mentioned.

Shri Kartik Oraon: I would like to know from the Minister whether the rated capacity of production has been

reached for the second stage of construction; if so, what was the target, and what is the achievement?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: I can say straightway that the rated capacity for the second stage, which is 1.8 million tonnes, has not been reached. The exact production that has been achieved, I am sorry at the moment I do not have.

Shri V. Krishnamoorthi: The cost of transport of steel from these areas to the South is about Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per tonne. Before allowing expansion, and in order to meet the aspirations of the Southern States, will the Government consider the starting of three plants at Salem, Vizag and Hospet, before expanding all these steel mills?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: I am afraid this question would not arise out of this.

श्री कालेश्वर सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दुर्गापुर इस्पात कारखाने के एक्सपान्शन का जो प्रोग्राम है उसमें क्या धाप कंटीन्युअस स्टील प्रोडक्शन को जो लेटेस्ट टेक्नालोजी है उस के अनुसार विस्तार करेंगे या जो पुरानी टेक्नालोजी है उस के अनुसार करेंगे? जो कंटीन्युअस स्टील प्रोडक्शन की टेक्नालोजी है उस से जैसे ही लोहा बनाता है वैसे ही फिनिश गुड्स तैयार होने लगते हैं। यह पुराने मेथड से सन्नी पड़ती है।

डा० बन्ना रेड्डी : जिस टेक्नालोजी का माननीय सदस्य जिक्र कर रहे हैं उस के बारे में तो मैं इस वक्त खाम तौर से नहीं कह सकूंगा। लेकिन धाम तौर से यह कह सकूंगा कि जहा भी नई टेक्नालोजी इन्वेलव हो उस का इस्तेमाल करना प्लानिंग कमिशन का पहला फर्ज होगा।

श्री अक्षय सिंह : जो मजूदा कारखाने उनमें इतना ज्यादा प्रोडक्शन है कि इस बक्त मार्केट काफी डाउन हो गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी स्थिति में

बोकारो प्लान्ट को बनाने की क्या जरूरत है?

डा० बन्ना रेड्डी : बोकारो प्लान्ट को बनाने की जरूरत है और इस के ऊपर हम विचार कर रहे हैं ताकि 1970-71 तक जो हमारी अल्टिमेट डिमाण्ड है उस को पूरा करने में हमें मदद मिल सके।

Shri D. N. Patodia: The considerations that the hon. Minister has applied for postponement of expansion of the Durgapur steel plant more or less generally apply to all the steel plants. Will the Government consider postponing all further expansions in respect of all the steel plants in India until the economy improves and consumption goes up?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: Within limits it is possible to provide the necessary funds Bokaro has been taken up and it is being pursued. After that Government feels we are not able to provide the necessary funds, and therefore the other expansion has been postponed.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: In view of the fact that the installed capacity in Durgapur is not being fully utilised and in view of the fact that the Forge Foundry plant there which has a capacity of 2,000 tonnes a month produces only 200 tonnes a month, may I know whether the Government will first concentrate on making full use of the installed capacity before starting any other plant or taking any step to expand any steel plant.

डा० बन्ना रेड्डी : यह सही है कि इन्स्टाल्ड कैपैसिटी को इस्तेमाल में लाने की हम पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं। धान्सर में भी इस बात का जिक्र किया गया है।

Shri Ranga: Already Mr. Ramamurthi has made a very useful suggestion.

An hon. Member: Mr. Krishnamoorthi.

Mr. Speaker: It is the same avatar.

Shri Ranga: Anyway, the Minister was pleased to say that it did not arise out of this question. Whether it arises or not I do not wish to discuss, it is for you, Mr. Speaker, to be good enough to say that it is a suggestion for action, it is for the Government to consider it. I would like the Government to consider that suggestion as well as the other suggestion, instead of being stuck up with the Bokaro plant just because they were good enough to take a decision

steel I would like to know whether the Government has enquired into the possibility of export of Indian steel to foreign countries

Dr. Chenna Reddy: As the hon. House is aware, we have been trying to do our best, and that has been one of our main, priority items in the steel industry. Last year, the exports reached over Rs 28 crores and this year, in the target, we have fixed about Rs 50 crores.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: The Pande Committee made a suggestion in regard to the shortfalls and idle capacity, what steps have the Government taken in the meantime to improve the position regarding the shortfalls to which the Pande Committee made a pointed reference?

Dr. Chenna Reddy: The Pande Committee's main stress has been on the neglect in the maintenance of the Durgapur plant, and they have been trying to fix the responsibility for it at different levels. The Ministry, in consultation with the HSL, has examined the details and is trying to take the necessary action in this regard.

Shrimati Lakshminathanamma: What percentage of steel, that is required, are you able to meet from within the country, and when do you expect us to be self-sufficient in steel, and may I know whether the Government have considered this aspect of the matter, namely once they go on increasing the desires of the people, rouse them to such a pitch and then pull them down, and having done that in Andhra Pradesh will the Government along with the Bokaro plant take up now the fifth steel plant at Visakhapatnam?

Mr. Speaker: That had been raised already.

Shrimati Lakshminathanamma: I want a reply, Sir.

Dr. Chenna Reddy: The question of self-sufficiency in steel is a general item, because in most of the categories of steel, even today we are self-sufficient. In certain other categories, such as special steel and alloy steel, etc., we cannot say, and it takes some time to get really self-sufficient in them and perhaps for ever the main items may have to be imported by us.

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि दुर्गापुर में जो अस्त-व्यस्तता और गड़बड़ियाँ हैं, उनको रूढ़ते हुए अगर हम वक्त कोई एक्सपेंशन का काम किया जायेगा, तो वह व्यर्थ होगा और इस लिए क्या यह अच्छा नहीं होगा कि पहले वहाँ सुधार कर के स्थिति को ठीक कर लिया जाये और फिर बोनारों को बढ़ावा दिया जाये, ताकि लोहे का प्रोडक्शन कम न हो ?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : यह सही है और हम इन्हीं लाइन्ज पर काम कर रहे हैं ।

Shri S. Kandappan: There have been reports in the newspapers to the effect that there have been enquiries from certain quarters for Indian

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Foodgrains Supply to States

*1053. **Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per capita quantity of foodgrains supplied to each State is not uniform;