

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 Lakshminanthamma: 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 Lakshminanthamma: 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 बोरारों को बढ़ावा दिया जाये, ताकि लोहे का प्रोडक्शन कम न हो ?

डा० बन्ना 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;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the steps being taken to remove the said disparity?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (e). Central supply of foodgrains to different States cannot be based on the population of each State and a uniform standard of quantity to be supplied per person. For a particular year, some States produce more than the quantity that is required for consumption within the State and the others produce a part of the requirements. The part again varies from State to State. Central allotment of foodgrains to the different States is based on the overall availability with the Centre and the relative needs of each State taking material factors into consideration.

Production of Jute in Assam

*1058. Shri R. Barua: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a gradual fall in the production of jute in Assam;
 (b) if so, how does it affect our jute industry in regard to availability of fine varieties of jute.
 (c) whether any steps have been taken to increase the jute production in Assam and, if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) whether any steps have been taken to check fall in jute prices below the Assam bottom price in Calcutta?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No. The yield in 1966-67 was better than in the previous year. So far the crop is good.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes. A statement giving the details is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-977/67.] This will indicate the efforts to push up production.

(d) The current price is above the minimum support price fixed by the Government for Assam Bottom at Calcutta.

Construction of New Aerodromes

*1059. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to rebuild several new aerodromes, and if so, where, at what cost and within what period;
 (b) the amount of foreign exchange required for constructional fittings and providing other modern amenities;
 (c) whether this huge expenditure is considered essential when the existing aerodromes can meet all the requirements; and
 (d) if not, the reasons for taking up construction of the new aerodromes?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) to (d). The question presumably refers to the plans for improving the existing airports and for taking up construction of new airports. As regards the former, a high-powered Committee is being set up to work out the details of the requirements of the four international airports, keeping in view the introduction of very large subsonic and supersonic aircrafts in the 70s. It is not correct to say that the existing airports can meet all the requirements. In fact, the terminal facilities available at the international airports are proving inadequate even at present. It is, therefore, necessary to go in for planned and large scale programme of improvement of these airports to meet the vastly increased requirements of air traffic in the next decade. This will necessarily involve some foreign exchange liability, but it is not possible at this stage to give any detail until the report of the Committee is received.

As regards other existing airports, and also construction of new airports, these are undertaken as a continuous process as and when necessary to meet the traffic requirements of the Indian Airlines Corporation.