

For the additional expenditure on the railway employees, provision is also made, but as to how this will have to be paid is a matter under discussion and that will be decided very soon, and then the amount that has been provided for by this House will be utilised.

श्री हुकूम चन्द कछवाय : उस के प्रन्दर समय कितना लगेगा ?

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : यह मामला सिर्फ रेलवे मजदूरों के लिए नहीं है बल्कि तमाम जो हमारे केन्द्रीय सरकार के नौकर हैं उनके लिए है और ऐसे जब सवाल खड़े होते हैं तो उन को हल करने के लिए आपस में बैठ करके एक जे०सी०एम० जैसी मशीनरी बनी पडी है तो उस का फैसला होने के पहले जैसी कि रेलवे बोर्ड और फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर के बीच में चर्चा होती है वैसे ही जे०सी०एम० की बैठक गुला कर उस में इस की चर्चा करके बाद में गवर्नमेंट फैसला करेगी या नहीं ?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: As I mentioned earlier, all these matters are under consideration, and a decision will be taken at a very early date. I cannot give any further information now in this regard.

Shri S. M. Joshi: May I appeal to the Finance Minister? अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल बिल्कुल स्पेसिफिक है कि ज्वाएंट कंसल्टेटिव मशीनरी जो बनी है .

Mr. Speaker: He cannot answer off-hand. He is not able to give a categorical answer.

श्री एम० एम० जोशी : हमारी रक्षा तो आप को करनी चाहिये । ज्वामंट कंसल्टिएशन मशीनरी जो बनी थी उस में सड़ाई झगड़े की बात नहीं है । उस में यह बतलाया गया है कि सब लोगों के नुमाइन्दे

होंगे । जैसे हमारे नुमाइन्दे बैठेंगे वैसे ही हुकूमत के बैठेंगे । जब रुपये वैसे का सवाल आयेगा और सुझाव बनें रद्द आयेगे उन पर वहा चर्चा होगी और फैसला होगा । उस के बाद हम फैसलों पर चलेंगे । जब यह स्कीम बनी है तब क्या वह इस मशीनरी को खटाई में रखेंगे या उस पर कुछ भ्रमस होगा ?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: All these are the subject matter of discussion between the JCM machinery and Government. They are discussed in detail and a decision will be taken very soon. The representatives of the employees and the federations concerned are all well aware of it.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee: In view of the facts that Railways are a commercial undertaking and the DA so far given by the Government is not sufficient to cover the rise in prices, is the Government thinking of supplying food and other essential articles at subsidised rates to the railway employees, as was done several years ago, because the prices have gone up and they will be soaring higher and higher in the near future?

Shri Parimal Ghosh: Subsidised food was only introduced during war time. We have considered that matter and it gives rise to a lot of corruption and other things. Considering the present food position, the railways are not thinking of introducing subsidised food supply.

Mr. Speaker: Question 1295 has been transferred to the 31st for reply by the External Affairs Minister.

Travancore Titanium Products, Ltd.

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*1299. **Shri A. Sreedharan:**
Shri P. Viswambharan:
Shri Mangalathumadom:
Shri K. Anrudhan:
Shri P. C. Adichan:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-

ceived any request from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance for the expansion of Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri Raghunath Reddi): (a) and (b). During meetings held in the Planning Commission to discuss the proposals of the Government of Kerala for the Fourth Five Year Plan, the representatives of the State Government requested Central assistance for the expansion scheme of M/s Travancore Titanium Products Ltd. A provision of Rs. 2.5 crores has been tentatively made in the Central Sector in the Draft Outline of the Fourth Plan for this project. A provision of Rs. 2 crores has also been tentatively made in the State sector for this scheme. A final decision on the scheme has not yet been taken. However, we have made a provision of Rs. 30 lakhs in the current year's budget.

Shri A. Sreedharan: Travancore Titanium Products Ltd. is the only factory of its kind in the entire country and it is earning a lot of precious foreign exchange. On a number of occasions previously, the Government of Kerala have knocked at the doors of the Central Government asking for financial assistance to expand this factory. In addition, there is another potential also that is relevant here. Ilmanite is being mined on the shores of Kerala. Today ilmanite export has decreased and the only indigenous use made of it is in this factory. Because of lack of capacity to use ilmanite, a number of workers employed in the industry are out of job. This is an immediate, serious problem. The Central Government have promised the Kerala Government Rs. 2-1/2 crores of financial assistance. Every time we ask whether it has been paid, they say, we are looking into matter, whether it is Idikki or any Kerala project. I would like the minister to

give a categorical reply and specify the time before which financial assistance will be forthcoming. There is no point in saying something will be done shortly.

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): As has already been indicated, the matter has been discussed. In this discussion a representative of the State Government was also present and on principle we have agreed that the capacity of this plant should be increased to nearly 24,000 tons, which will require an investment of about Rs. 825 lakhs. Now it has been decided that some amount may be given in the form of share capital and the other amount by way of loans. The question is how much should be given by the State Government and how much by the Central Government. This matter has still to be decided in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. Already, in order to prove our bonafides that we are anxious to develop this plant, a provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been provided in this year's budget. A similar amount is also expected to be found by the company itself out of its resources and the work will proceed accordingly.

Shri A. Sreedharan: May I know whether it is a fact that a private firm in Bombay had applied for a licence to start a titanium factory somewhere near Quilon? In view of the fact that the establishment of such a factory will adversely affect the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., a public sector undertaking, will the Government give a categorical reply that no licence would be issued to any industrialist to start a titanium factory anywhere in this country?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: In giving preference to a public sector company certainly, the suggestion of the hon. Member will be kept in view and no private sector company will be allowed to come in.

Shri A. Steedharan: My question was specific, whether any private sector company has applied for a licence and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government to that?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: It has not been received.

Shri Mangalathumadam: In view of the fact that titanium products are earning precious foreign exchange and also in view of the fact that the raw materials are available in abundance in Kerala for producing titanium, will the Government of India treat the project as a special case and give immediate financial assistance to this project for expansion.

Mr. Speaker: It has already been answered.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The expansion of this plant is hanging in the balance for so many years due to lack of funds and the State Government is naturally in very difficult financial position. So, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Industrial Development will persuade the Finance Ministry to give a major part of the Rs. 6 crores, which is needed for expansion, from the Central funds itself so that the expansion can definitely take place within the Fourth Plan period itself?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: I may repeat what I said earlier, that the expansion of this project will require nearly Rs. 625 lakhs and the company have proposed that an amount of Rs. 450 lakhs may be covered by additional equity capital to the extent of Rs. 186 lakhs and by medium-term loans to the extent of Rs. 264 lakhs. The Kerala Government have proposed during the discussion that out of Rs. 186 lakhs of equity capital to be floated, they will contribute Rs. 36 lakhs and expect the Central Government to contribute Rs. 150 lakhs. This matter is under consideration and already a provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been made during the current year's budget.

Shrimati Lakshminathanamma: Since Kerala is industrially a backward State and this project has good prospects, will the Government sympathetically consider the proposal for its expansion?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. S. Kothari: Will the hon. Minister kindly explain the policy of the Central Government in regard to investment in State projects?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: This is a public sector project where both the Central and State Governments are participating.

Self-sufficiency in Newsprint

*1302. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri M. Meghaachandra:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will become self-sufficient in the matter of newsprint by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if not, the steps under consideration to achieve self-sufficiency in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri Raghunath Reddi): (a) and (b). It is not possible to say with certainty at this stage that India will become self-sufficient by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. However, in addition to the expansion scheme of NEPA Mills, which is under implementation, two more schemes one in Public Sector and one in Private Sector with an initial total capacity of 75,000 to 1,00,000 tonnes per annum are under examination by the Government and if they materialise then the country hopes to achieve near self-sufficiency.