

start holding back it is this which does harm. We should not be worried about it.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR : Is the minister aware that one of the major factors for decline in exports is the variation between the sample supplied and the actual supplies thereafter? May I know what steps are being taken about quality control as a measure of export promotion?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The House is aware that I have mentioned on various occasions the quality control measures we have taken. We are tightening them all the time.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Though the minister has remarked about the stiff competition from other countries, he has not mentioned about one of the stiff competition our textile exporters are getting which is from the ministry itself. One such thing is about our textile exports to USA where an out-dated quota system prevails and the new-comer exporters cannot get orders because the importers in USA prefer to buy their goods mostly from those who have the quota system because they get on the average a lower price, as a result of which we lose a considerable amount of foreign exchange, which we could have otherwise got through textile exports to USA if the quota-system was not allowed. In the light of that, may I ask what increase would there be in India's total textile exports to USA if there was no quota system? Since we are losing valuable foreign exchange, will Government abolish the quota system?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I do not think the quota system which the hon. member has mentioned has created any difficulty in our export. But now that the hon. member has mentioned it, I shall have the matter re-examined.

SHRI R. BARUA : The obligations under the GATT are not being properly observed by developed countries like the USA and others. May I know whether the minister will throw any light whether some long-term arrangements can be made or are being made in this matter

for exporting cotton textiles to the developed countries?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Yes, Sir, this matter is constantly discussed in the GATT and in the next UNCTAD also we will discuss this matter.

SHRI PILOO MODY : The hon. Minister just now said that there are no restrictions on exports; in fact, there is some encouragement. May I know whether he has exported anything from this country? If he has not, I would like to inform him about the innumerable restrictions that are plaguing export trade in this country.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a general question.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Let him answer whether he has exported or not.

CONSTRUCTION WORK OF BOKARO STEEL PLANT

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*693. **SHRI MARANI :**

SHRI MAYAVAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.S.R. have expressed concern over the delay in setting up civil engineering and construction work of the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to expedite the construction work of the plant?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government of U.S.S.R. as also the Government of India were concerned over the delay of nine months in the construction schedule of Bokaro Steel Plant. With a view to finalize a revised construction schedule with the U.S.S.R. authorities, and to expedite despatch of working drawing from the U.S.S.R. the

Managing Director, Bokaro Steel Limited visited USSR in August, 1967. A revised construction schedule envisaging completion of the plant by the end of December, 1971, has since been drawn up, and working drawings and supplies of equipment and materials have started coming according to agreed programme of construction. Constant liaison is being maintained with the Soviet consultants at plant site and in U.S.S.R. for timely supplies of equipment and drawings. The Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. are regularly impressed to expedite the civil work. Arrangements for supplies from public sector industries have been finalised, and that from the private sector units, are being finalised expeditiously.

श्री मरंडी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विलम्ब के कारण रूस सरकार को कितना नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा और भारत सरकार को कितनी क्षतिपूर्ति देनी पड़ेगी ।

इस्यारत, खान तथा धालु मंत्री (डा० चन्ना रेड्डी) : नुकसान होने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है ।

श्री मरंडी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि रूस सरकार के कितने निपुण और टेकनीशन वहाँ पर इस विलम्ब के कारण बेकार पड़े हुए हैं और सरकार को उन पर कितना खर्च करना पड़ता है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री मयावन ।

SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the hon. Minister tell us whether he has got any idea of including the Salem steel plant also in the Fourth Plan?

MR. SPEAKER : How des it come out of this question which is about Bokaro ? It does not arise.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : We are interested to know the answer.

श्री स्वतंत्र सिंह कोठारी : क्या मिनिस्टर महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अब तक बोकारो स्टील प्लांट पर कितना खर्च हो चुका है, उस में से टाउनशिप पर कितना खर्च हुआ है और इस समय कुल कितने एम्प्लॉयड बोकारो स्टील प्लांट में हैं ?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : स्टील प्लांट में अभी टाउनशिप का काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है । इसलिए उस पर कोई खर्च नहीं हुआ है । अगर टाउनशिप के माने स्ट्रक्चर खड़े करने के हैं, तो अभी तक वह नहीं हुआ है । लेवॉलिंग का काम पूरा हुआ है । उसका पूरा खर्च अब तक तीस करोड़ रुपये तक आया है । ग्राइंडिंग प्लेस किये हैं ।

श्री स्वतंत्र सिंह कोठारी : वहाँ पर एम्पलाइड कितने हैं ?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : शालिवन कोई दो हज़ार तक है ।

श्री स्वतंत्र सिंह कोठारी : वे क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री मृत्युंजय प्रसाद : यह प्रश्न है सिविल इंजीनियरिंग और कंस्ट्रक्शन का, जिसके माने हैं नींव, इमारतें इत्यादि । इसके लिए विदेशी सामान की आवश्यकता नहीं है । नक्शे यू० एस० एस० आर० से आ रहे हैं । लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इमारती काम के पूरे नक्शे पहुंचे हैं या नहीं, क्योंकि पहले इमारती काम होगा और फिर उसके बाद मशीनरी बिठाई जायेगी । इमारती काम शुरू करने के लिए पहले उसके नक्शे चाहिए । उसके बाद सामान जुटाना होगा और फिर ठेकेदार के द्वारा या सरकार के अपने डिपार्टमेंट के द्वारा काम का इन्तजाम करना होगा । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कहां तक हो चुका है ।

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : इस एप्रोमेन्ट के पूरा होने के बाद दिसम्बर, 1966 से काम शुरू हुआ । जहां तक इसमें कंस्ट्रक्शन के इन्वैस्टमेंट का सवाल है—उसमें सिर्फ कंस्ट्रक्शन ही शामिल नहीं है, उसके साथ सिविल इंजीनियरिंग, फॅक्टरी प्लान बगैरह के कंस्ट्रक्शन का भी सवाल है—इसमें काफ़ी काम हुआ है, डिजाइन्ड बगैरह भी आये हैं । मिसाल के तौर पर जो इन्वैस्टमेंट बाहर से आया था—वह 1,77,166 टन था, जिसमें से 15,393 टन अब तक इम्पोर्ट हुआ है, जो

आ चुका है या रास्ते में जहाज से आ रहा है.....

श्री मृत्युंजय प्रसाद : क्या यह इमारती सामान है ?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : इमारती और कंस्ट्रक्शन का सामान सब है। जो लोकल काम होना है, उसके लिये भी आर्डर प्लेस किये गये हैं, डिजाइन्ड तैयार कर चुके हैं। 9 महीने की देरी हुई है, क्योंकि जमीन वगैरह लेने में दुश्वारी आई थी।

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether an all-party committee from Madras met the Prime Minister on the 26th November, 1966 and submitted a memorandum stating that instead of locating a big plant costing Rs. 750 crores at Bokaro, it can be split into various pieces and located in different places, say, one at Hospet and another at Salem? May I know whether the Minister is aware of that memorandum given to the Prime Minister on the 26th November, 1966 and, if so, what was the decision taken by the government on the memorandum?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : I am not aware of it.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : That is not an answer at all. Either he must give a reply just now or he should state that he will look into the matter and give an answer later. It is a fact that an all-party committee submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : It may be so.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Kindly bear with me. The dignity of the House demands that the Minister should give a satisfactory reply. I am not going beyond the question on Bokaro. Sir, you were the Steel Minister then and you know better.

MR. SPEAKER : I signed the Bokaro agreement.

SHRI PILOO MODY : But we cannot hold the Speaker responsible for past mistakes.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Let the Minister give an answer.

MR. SPEAKER : If he is prepared to give an answer here and now, let him do so. But I cannot compel him. All I said was that he has given an answer.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : That is not a proper answer. Either he must give the answer just now or he must give an assurance that he will give the answer on a later date.

MR. SPEAKER : If he has no answer to give, I cannot help it.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : This project is proving to be inauspicious. This is not the first time it has been delayed. It has been delayed several times and, unfortunately, with every delay the investment programme has also been increased and we have arrived at a stage where it is very doubtful whether with such a heavy capital base this project will ever be able to make any profit. May I, therefore, know how many times the project has been delayed, and compared to the original investment programme, what is the investment programme now and whether the government thinks with these investment programmes it will ever be able to make any profit?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : The point is, to consider this as inauspicious is itself inauspicious. The question of collaboration with several countries was explored at different stages but the actual collaboration arrangement was entered into only with the Russians. Regarding the progress of work, I have already pointed out that there has been a delay of only nine months. In a huge project of this type this is not a big delay. The work is proceeding according to schedule.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : What was the original schedule for completion of the township and the project and target of production? If there is any delay in following up the schedule, what definite

steps do the government propose to take to speed up the work?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : Catching up with the schedule would be practically and physically impossible. Therefore we have now reconciled with the Board and also the Russian collaborators that we will be able to make up the second schedule and extend it by nine months. We are trying our best to keep up to it.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दो-हाई महीने पहले मैंने उस इलाके का दौरा किया था, तब मुझे पता लगा कि करीब-करीब एक लाख लोग, ग्रामीण लोग उस इलाके में रहते हैं, जो कि विस्थापित हो गये हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनके जो बच्चे हैं, जो नौजवान हैं, उनको प्रशिक्षण दे कर यह जो कारखाना बननेवाला है उसमें उनको काम दिलाने के बारे में क्या कोई योजना बनाई जा रही है? क्योंकि ऐसा न करने से उनमें असन्तोष हो जाता है और फिर वह विकृत रूप धारण कर लेता है।

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : यह सही है और यह एक जैनरल पालिसी है कि जहां पर लैंड लेने से जो डिस्प्लेस्ड होते हैं उनको जगह देने में ख्याल रखा जाय। यही ग्राम पालिसी ग्रमल में लाई जा रही है। इस सिलसिले में जो काम हो रहा है, वह मैंने आपके सामने रखा है।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : ग्रामी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि 30 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर चुके हैं और 9 महीने की देरी हुई है। इस बारे में जो दिक्कतें उनके सामने थीं, क्या आप डेफिनेटली बता सकते हैं कि अब वे दिक्कतें दूर हो गई हैं और अब काम ठीक तरह से चालू हो जायेगा। यदि हां, तो 9 महीने की जो देरी हुई है, वह उतनी ही रहेगी या अभी और देरी होने की सम्भावना है?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : हम आशा रख सकते हैं कि जो 9 महीने की देरी हुई है, उसका सिकेण्ड शेड्यूल में हम ख्याल रखें।

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या यह सच है कि और फौलाद के कारखानों की तरह से अगर इस कारखाने की सब मशीनें विदेशों से आतीं, रूस से हम को मिल गई होतीं, तो यह कारखाना समय से चालू हो सकता था, लेकिन रूस वालों ने यह तय कर लिया है कि केवल बही मशीनें आपको देंगे, जो आपके यहां बन नहीं सकती हों, इसलिये देशी-मुद्रा का इसमें संकट है और इसी वजह से इसमें देर लग रही है?

डा० चन्ना रेड्डी : ऐसा कोई सवाल नहीं है। लेकिन यह सही है कि बनिस्बत दूसरे स्टील प्लांटों के हम ज्यादा तादाद में लोकल मशीनें तैयार कर रहे हैं। इसलिए इस में पैसों की दिक्कत नहीं है, बल्कि फिजिकल प्रोग्राम खुद हम को इस प्रकार रखना पड़ रहा है।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : In view of the various assurances given in this House by the hon. Minister or the earlier Ministers that at least most of the work will be completed during the Fourth plan—now we have heard that there is some Plan holiday going on—I would like to know whether despite this holiday this project is likely to be completed during the Fourth Plan and, if not, when?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : There is no question of a Plan holiday. As far as the specific project is concerned, as I have stated, as against the original target of March 1971 the target now will be December 1971 by which, we hope, it will be completed.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : The statement speaks of a revised construction schedule. Would it also involve a revision of the cost of the entire project? Secondly, what is the reason why the equipment that was to be imported from Russia was so short of the schedule? Instead of 1 lakh-and-odd tonnes only 15,000 tonnes have been imported.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : What I said was that 1,77,000 tonnes was the total equipment to be imported during

the entire period. It would not be useful and profitable also to import all the material much in advance and keep it idle. Regarding cost and delay, on account of the delay there shall not be any increase in cost.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Is it not a fact that at one time the Government thought of establishing this Bokaro plant with its own resources and men; if so, are the services of the consultants who came forward to help the Government being utilised at present?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : I am not aware if the question whether the whole thing can be done by ourselves was ever contemplated, but I can say that as the position stands now about 90 per cent of the structural steel works, 64 per cent of the plant and equipment and 96 per cent of the refractories are being done indigenously and only the balance is being imported from Russia. Regarding our technical personnel, we have arrangements to get our people trained in Russia as far as this work is concerned. We have to employ in different phases about 572 technicians from Russia. But in due course, in about 5 to 10 years, we will be able to, completely, replace them and we will have our own technicians.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Whether the Consultants have been utilised in this project.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : Most of the work is done by the Russian Consultants and also a part of the work is done by our own Consultants, Dastur & Co.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I know if Government are aware of the fact that the Russian Government have put the blame for the delay in the construction of this plant at the door of the Government of India and, if so, what has the Government to say on this particular point?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : About the question of apportioning the blame, I would not like to take the attitude on the lines of what the hon. Member has

suggested. I have already said that there has been delay on our part and, to some extent, there has also been delay on the part of Soviet Russia. But this is all inevitable and we appreciate each other's difficulties.

SHRI HEM BARUA : My question was different. The Russian Government has put the blame for the delay at the door of the Indian Government. The Russian Government says that it is because of the intransigence on the part of the Government of India that the delay is caused. We want to know how far the Russians are justified in putting the blame on you.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : If it comes to that let me clarify it. There was some delay in the supply of designs from Soviet Russia and also equipment specifications at Bokaro not being able to be furnished by Indian consultants. This is all inevitable in the cause of a huge project of the type and we appreciate each other's difficulties.

SHRI K. RAMANI : The hon. Minister had stated, some days ago, in Ujjain that the delay of 8 to 9 months was due to Indian fabricated machinery manufacturers not being able to keep to schedule. May I know whether it is correct or whether there is any pressure being brought on the Government by the big capitalists and steel magnates that this Bokaro plant should not be allowed to be located in the State sector or whether the World Bank has brought any pressure on the Government.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : No pressure.

SHRI K. RAMANI : What about the delay? The Minister has stated that there was a delay.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : About the reasons and the factors involved in the delay, I have already explained in details that it was because of acquisition of land, preparation of specifications or letting out the construction work and getting the designs, etc. All these are the reasons.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : May I know whether it is a fact that a big hostel type hotel was constructed at the Bokaro plant site for the accommodation of the Russian Engineers and that they have rejected it and now that hotel is lying unused and new houses are being built, thereby incurring a lot of wastage, and, secondly, whether it is a fact that most of the land which has been acquired for building purposes is fertile land which grew very good paddy, while there is a stony land available nearby which could have been used for this purpose and the fertile land could have been spared for production of food?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : The hostel constructed can be used for different purposes. I cannot exactly state right now whether the Russians rejected it or there was any other reason. I will certainly check it up. About the fertility of land, this was done after proper examination.

SHRI K. N. PANDEY : May I know whether it is a fact that 200 civil Engineers are working at the site and, if so, how many more are required so that there is no delay?

DR. CHANNA REDDY : It may go into 2000 or even more ultimately, when the whole work gets into full tempo.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The statement which has been laid by the hon. Minister says that arrangements for supplies from the private sector units are being finalised expeditiously. I presume, he refers to the material which is required for the structural construction work.

May I know from him whether it is a fact that the distribution of this work among different structural fabricators in the country has been held up for a long time and if so, why and whether it is a fact or not that the major fabricators who are located—some of them at least—in Calcutta or near about Calcutta are not being given any of these orders on the ground—I had written to him and he has written to me saying this—that their charges were very high.

I want to know whether they are placing the orders simply on the basis of tenders or they are also taking into account the need of efficiency of work and the need of giving work to these big concerns who are facing recessionary conditions.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : The delay in finalising the structures was there, I quite agree, because the whole details were to be looked into.

Regarding the question of allocation of these orders for structuralists to Calcutta and other fabricators, in fact, the complaint is the other way about people from south and west regions have complained that they were not getting the orders for structuralists, because they are located in Calcutta, the eastern regions was having an advantage. The attempt has been made to have an eye on efficiency and also on equity of distribution, and most of the structural concerns which are working in different parts of the country also get an opportunity of employment and participation in this.

UNLOADED FOODGRAINS AT HOWRAH

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- *695. **SHRI K. RAMANI :**
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :
SHRI B. K. MODAK :
SHRI UMANATH :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wagon-loads of Moong and pulses booked from various places are lying at railway yards at Ramkrishnapur, Shibpur and Shalimar and hundreds of bags of pulses are lying on the floor of Railway sheds at Howrah and Ramkrishnapur;

(b) if so, the total quantity of pulses lying at the station;

(c) whether this has caused dislocation in goods traffic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?