

(b) if so, whether any further German collaboration and import of materials from West Germany involving foreign exchange will be necessary for the expansion?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Channa Reddy): (a) and (b). The draft outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan envisages the expansion of the Rourkela Steel Plant from 1.8 to 2.5 million tonnes of ingot steel capacity. The Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited is preparing the Detailed Project Report. Although the Detailed Project Report is being prepared on the basis of the maximum use of indigenous resources, there would be need for external assistance in respect of items of plant and equipment which have to be imported. The Government are in touch with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in this regard.

Small Scale Industries

***179. Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri S. R. Damani:**

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

(a) whether a committee of the Central Small Scale Industries Board has recommended the setting up of a national investment house for small scale industries to meet the financial needs of the small scale industries;

(b) whether the Committee has also urged Government to persuade the Life Insurance Corporation to provide finance to the industrial estates;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed) (a) Yes, Sir. The Small Scale Industries Board itself recommended the setting up of a National Investment House for Small Industries to meet the financial needs of Small Scale Industries. The official level Committee of the Small Scale

Industries Board at its meeting held on 27th February, 1967 reiterated this recommendation.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Small Industries Board and its official level Committee have urged the Government to persuade the Life Insurance Corporation to continue to provide finance to industrial estates.

(c) and (d) Proposal at (a) above has been taken up with the Reserve Bank of India and Ministry of Finance and that at (b) has been taken up with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. No final decision has yet been taken.

Development of Copper Projects

***180. Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri G. C. Naik:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri A. Dipa:**

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Metals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Company will be formed in the public sector for developing the three current major copper projects namely, Khetri in Rajasthan, Rakha in Bihar and Agnigandla in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether this Company would also start a consultancy service in this field; and

(c) the target date for the commencement of the Rakha Project and the capital investment and the estimated production capacity thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It is proposed that the new Company should in due course also develop consultancy services in the field of copper exploitation.

(c) The National Mineral Development Corporation has prepared a scheme for undertaking small scale mining of the Rakha deposits to start with. This is estimated to cost Rs. 6.50 crores and will produce concentrates

to yield 3500 tonnes of copper per annum. The scheme is now under examination. No target date has been set for the commencement of the Rakha project but it will take about 2-1½ years (30 months) to open a mine and start small scale production under this scheme.

Sabotage on Railways

*181. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any provision to save Railway property from damage, pilferage and loss by sabotage or students misbehaviour;

(b) the total loss of life and property, both public and private resulting from various acts of sabotage, students' unrest and otherwise during 1966-67; and

(c) in how many cases culprits were apprehended and punishment awarded to them and the reasons why others could not be traced?

The Minister of Railways (Sri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes Sir The State Government Police and Railway Protection Force are provided on the Railways to safeguard the railway property from damage, pilferage and loss by sabotage or students' misbehaviour

(b) 201 persons were killed and total loss to property has been estimated approximately at Rs. 3916 lakhs.

(c) In 79 cases, culprits were apprehended and in 2 cases punishment was awarded. The remaining cases are under police investigation under trial.

Exports and Imports

*182. Shri A. Sreedharan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the practice of under-invoicing of exports by exporters and over-invoicing of imports especially by the subsidiary concerns of foreign firms operating in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Some cases of under-invoicing of exports and over-invoicing of imports of firms including the subsidiary concerns of the foreign firms have come to notice

(b) Suitable action depending on the circumstances of each case is taken under the Customs Act 1962 and/or Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947

Supply of Stainless Steel to Manufacturers

*183. Shri Maddi Sudarasanam: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to supply directly stainless steel to the manufacturers of stainless steel utensils and other commodities; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Steel Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise

Price of Rubber

*184. Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Shri Umanath:

Shri Nambiar:

Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair:

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:

Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Shri C. Janardhanan:

Shri P. C. Adichan:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri A. Sreedharan:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has informed Government that the recent decline in the price of rubber was caused by the imports of rubber at a time when the production in India had considerably increased;