

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON WEL-
FARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

SHRI B. R. MUNDA (Bihar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Home Affairs— Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS OF COM-
MITTEE 'E' ON DRAFT FIFTH FIVE-
YEAR PLAN**

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Synopsis of Proceedings of Committee 'E' on Draft Fifth Five Year Plan (Implementation and Public Co-operation).

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Delay in expansion Project of Bokaro and
Bhilai Steel Plants**

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel and Mines to the delay in the expansion projects of the Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants from the original schedule and the reported statement of the Soviet Counsellor of Economic Affairs in this regard.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Sir: The capacity of the Bhilai Steel Plant is 2.5 million ingot tonnes. Government have taken a decision to expand the capacity of the Plant to 4 million ingot tonnes. As originally scheduled, this expansion is to be completed by December, 1976. As regards Bokaro, it is proposed to expand its capacity to 4 million ingot tonnes in continuation of the first stage of 1.7 million ingot tonnes. The coordinated construction schedule of Bokaro for expansion to 4 million ingot tonnes capacity, finalised last year, envisages completion of entire construction

and erection work (except 5—Stand Cold Rolling Mill Complex) by December, 1976 and commissioning by March, 1977. 5—Stand Cold Rolling Mill is expected to be completed one year later. It is proposed to further expand this capacity to 4.75 million ingot tonnes by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Both these schemes for expansion are being implemented with Soviet cooperation and assistance.

A number of problems have been encountered in the implementation of the schemes for expansion. It is likely that some of these will have the effect of delaying the proposed schedules for completion of the expansion. However, it has always been our practice to attempt to settle these problems by discussion with the Soviet agencies and authorities cooperating with us and not to attempt to apportion blame in any manner. It is unfortunate that there should have been reports in a section of the press suggesting that the blame is attributable to one side or the other. I have no doubt that such problems as there are will be settled by mutual discussion and that every attempt will be made by all parties to minimise whatever delays become inevitable. We have always received the fullest cooperation from our Soviet friends in our schemes in the steel sector and I have no doubt that with this continuing cooperation we shall be able to overcome the difficulties that might crop up.

I would like to state in unequivocal terms that it is not correct to say that there has been any attempt by any one to thwart or in any manner delay the expansion programme of Bokaro Plant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT. Sir, in his statement the Minister has not mentioned at all about the statement made by the Economic Counsellor in the Soviet Embassy. He has not said whether he has seen that statement or not. In the whole reply that he has given, he has not mentioned about that statement at all. And it was in that connection that we wanted to know information as to whether, as was said in the statement the Economic Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy, there was delay of two years. And the Economic Counsellor also made certain specific remarks. The whole statement can