

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The question is about unemployment and not education. We have been given information about the amounts allocated, we want to know how much impact has been created as a result of the allocation of these amounts.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said that he would lay it on the Table of the House.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : That is no answer. What is the fun in answering like that ? They say that such and such amount has been allocated, so many crores of rupees have been allocated, and now we want to know what influence has been there of these amounts on employment. They have no figures to show that.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : To judge the scheme of this nature, it takes some time and to get the exact number of those who were not employed or were self-employed etc. I am not in a position to supply these figures but, as I said, the schemes have been initiated and some impact it has made on the problem of educated unemployment.

**DELAY IN COMPLETION OF FIRST STAGE OF
BOKARO STEEL PLANT**

*622. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : SHRI
M. K. MOHTA :f

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press Report appearing in the Statesman dated 25-5-72 commenting that the completion of the first stage of Bokaro Steel Plant was behind schedule, and that the plant would not be ready by March, 1973, as expected; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-
LAM):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the schedule of construction, the first stage of the Plant to produce 1.7 million tonnes of ingot steel is to be completed by March, 1973. There have been delays in the supply of equipment by indigenous manufactures. Despite this, every

"iThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M.K.Mohta.

effort is being made to keep to this schedule. The work relating to civil engineering, procurement and erection of structural and equipment is being speeded up to the maximum extent possible.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : On the 10th July last the hon. Minister told the Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry that the Bokaro blast furnace was expected to be ready during the month of August but the month of August has already gone by. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the blast furnace has been commissioned ? If not, when is it likely to be commissioned ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : The hon. Member is correct in stating that when a discussion took place in the Consultative Committee I told the Committee that I expected that the first blast furnace would be commissioned towards the end of August. Unfortunately it has not been possible to do so. The reason is that, we had some trouble in ball mill of the boiler and while with that solved we might have kept to the original schedule and commissioned the blast furnace by the end of August we felt that it would be better to extend the trial period for different items of equipment and make sure that no mistake is committed because at this stage any mistake could be very expensive. We are expecting that the first blast furnace would be commissioned within this month.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon. Minister as to when, according to the latest realistic schedule about the commissioning of this plant, the first lot of pig iron for market is likely to come out of this plant and at what rate and at what monthly rate of production ? When is this rated production of 1.7 million tonnes of steel —yearly rate of production—is likely to be achieved ? I mean, in which month exactly production at this particular rate is likely to be achieved ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-
LAM : May I request the hon. Member to put a separate question on this because I have not got all the details with me at this moment ?

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : It is related to this very question. When there is a question of delay it follows when it is going to produce steel. That we should know.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : I would like to know whether the contract labour which has been employed at the plant, particularly those coming from the peasantry whose land has been requisitioned, will be absorbed by the plant itself instead of being under the contractors.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I am sorry; I did not follow the question. Will the hon. Member kindly repeat it ?

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Will the workers who are now being employed by the contractors for the erection and other work of the plant, particularly those workers coming from the peasantry of the locality whose land has been requisitioned for erecting the plant, be absorbed by Hindustan Steel or not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is Bokaro Steel.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : It is not possible to give any guarantee that all the workers who are contract workers now working under different contractors in Bokaro should be employed by the Hindustan Steel Constructions Limited. We shall, of course, try to provide maximum employment in the steel plant itself but it is difficult, as the hon. Member will appreciate, as a large number of the workers who are in the construction of the plant may not be suitable for the actual operations of the plant itself. And so far as Hindustan Steel Constructions Limited is concerned, we are expecting the Hindustan Steel Constructions Limited to take a considerable burden of the work when it takes the responsibility for the construction of the other steel plants in Vijayanagar, Visakha-patnam, Salem and so on. Naturally much of the labour that will be employed for the construction of those plants will be taken from the locality where these plants will be built, and we cannot expect that all the unskilled labour working in Bokaro today can be transferred to the different parts of the country. But about skilled workers who are very important and whose skill cannot easily be acquired in other places, certainly every attempt is being made to assimilate them.

श्री श्रीमप्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं गवर्नमेंट से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सच है कि प्रारम्भ में ही रशियन इंजीनियर्स ने सरकार

का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाया था कि ईंटों जो इस्पात भट्टियों में लगने वाली हैं और उन ईंटों को बनाने वाले यहां के जो प्राइवेट फैक्ट्री वाले हैं वह न तो सही क्वालिटी और न पूरी क्वांटिटी में ही उसे दे पायेंगे ! उन्होंने इशारा किया था कि अपनी ओर गवर्नमेंट को इस प्रकार की ईंटें बनाने का इंतजाम करना चाहिये परन्तु गवर्नमेंट ने नहीं किया ! क्या यह सच है कि उन ईंटों के अभाव के कारण और क्वालिटी के खराब होने के कारण ही इन भट्टियों के बनने में देरी हुई और यदि हुई तो भविष्य के लिये आपने क्या इंतजाम किया है कि वह कभी दूर हो ।

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : It is true that we have not got the indigenous bricks that we need to the extent that we had originally expected. There has also been a certain shortfall in the quality of the indigenous bricks but we have made every attempt to make up by import of bricks from the Soviet Union and so far as the figures are concerned originally we had planned to import 47,621 tonnes of refractories from the Soviet Union and we have actually imported 65,985 tonnes, that is to say, 138.6 per cent of the original quantity ordered. This increase is to make up for the lack of good bricks of indigenous manufacture.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : May I know what was the original estimate of this project and how many times the project estimates were revised and what is the latest cost of this project ? I am given to understand that the cost of the project has appreciated considerably. In view of that may I know whether the Government feels even now that it is a feasible and economic project ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : The hon. Member knows, as a very experienced administrator who has handled matters of this character, that there is always a certain revision inevitable in a long-term project of this character because of the rise in prices which occurs on in a developing country. The major revision, I think I would be correct in saying took place in 1969-70 and we have not made any further revision though undoubtedly there will be some increase on that. I have not got all the figures with me but if the hon. Member wishes to have them I shall certainly provide the details to him.