

economic relations, some ship or similar other things. They do not arise out of this question.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: It is a question between Indian and Bangla Desh.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : You should table a separate question about the ship.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Regarding the supply of the ship which has been described as "Junk" by the Bangla Desh authorities. . .

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: This is a specific question which is not necessarily related to this one. You may give notice to the Minister concerned.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: It gives rise to misunderstanding. That is my submission.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: May I know what steps the Government proposes to take before the anti-India campaign turns into one of serious proportions?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I would take the step of requesting my friends not to give too much credence to these things. The surest way to give encouragement to the stray elements is to take too much notice of them. It is for the Government and the political parties of Bangla Desh to deal with this situation, and I am sure that they are dealing with this situation.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, he has not answered my question. I wanted to know what our Government proposes to do, what steps our Government proposes to take, not what the Bangla Desh Government proposes to do,

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Not to take notice of this is the best policy. And what do you expect us to do in Bangla Desh except to appeal to the abiding friendship and the commonality of interests between the people of Bangla Desh and the people of India? There is wide understanding of this aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*123. [The question (Shri O. P. Tyagi) was absent. For answer vide col. 34-35 infra]

TRIAL OF PAKISTANI POWS IN BANGLA DESH

♦124 SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: †MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-TAM KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Bangladesh for handing over Pakistani P.O.Ws for trial; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have not received any communication from the Government of Bangladesh in respect of handing over Pakistani POWs for trial in Bangladesh.

PROPOSAL TO SET UP AN ALLOY STEEL PLANT IN PURULIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

*125. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : SHRI KALYAN ROY: SHRI SALIL KUMAR GAN-GULI:

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that last year the Central Government approved of a proposal to set up an Alloy Steel Plant in Purulia District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in regard to the implementation of that proposal; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shyamlal Gupta.

(c) whether it will be in private sector; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. An application for an industrial licence to set up an Alloy Steel Plant in Purulia is under consideration. The application envisages a Joint Sector undertaking in which the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation will have a shareholding of 26%.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: May I know from the hon. Minister how much of employment potential this proposal involves, what is the investment pattern, and what are the allied or ancillary industries which are likely to be supported by this project? Has any study been made as to what its impact will be on the industrial development of West Bengal, particularly against the background of the need for further industrialisation there?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The proposal actually is for 25,000 tonnes a year of steel billets, strips and wire-rods. It is a comparatively small steel plant; it is not of very major significance. Directly the possible employment, I think, would not be more than 1,000 persons or so. But it is claimed—I would not like to say more than that—that when fully completed, the potential of employment will increase to 10,000 as a result of the setting up of this plant. That is the present position.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: As the hon. Minister has stated that this will be a joint venture, can we get an assurance from the hon. Minister that he will see that a competent and experienced technical person will be placed in charge of the plant and not a person from the IAS or the ICS cadre?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: A joint sector project of this character is one in which only the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation will be participating. Neither the

Central Government nor any of its agencies in the sense of Hindustan Steel or any steel organisation will be a participant in that. Very likely the arrangement between the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation and the private parties who are promoting the setting up of this plant will leave the management in the hands of the private party. And I have no reason to believe that they will not take adequate steps to put competent technical personnel in charge of the plant.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now the these new ideas of joint sector have come from the public sector to the joint sector. May I know whether, before coming to the conclusion that it must be in the so-called joint sector, the Government explored the possibility of starting it wholly in the public sector? If not, why not? And who are the private parties who are being involved in it? May I also know whether it is not a part of the agreement that the so-called managerial talent should be mobilised with a view to giving the management over to the private elements that will enter?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The honourable Member, I am sure, will be interested to know that the proposal for grant of licence to this alloy steel plant in Purulia has been supported by members of all parties including his own party. I have been receiving very strong recommendations in its favour. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I did not write.

SHR S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: You will be interested to know. Therefore, I do not think that there is any doubt about the *bona fides* of the individuals who came forward with applications in collaboration with the State Government through the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. So far as the Central Government is concerned, we have not investigated the possibility of setting it up purely in the public sector, because we did

not want to spread ourselves too much into what is a comparatively smaller area, and we felt that particularly where the State Government has sponsored it through a joint sector undertaking in which they are going to have a share, it would be wrong for us to stand in their way. From the information which we have, that is about the sponsors of this particular organisation, we have every reason to believe, as I said earlier, that competent technical personnel will be running the plant.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Hitherto the policy of the Government of India has been to take such steel plants into the public sector straightway. Now it has been stated by the honourable Minister that this is a joint venture. It is a welcome thing. But may I know from the honourable Minister what are the reasons for setting up this plant in the joint sector? The honourable Minister may kindly explain the advantages of setting up this plant in the joint sector.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : I am not quite clear of what the point in his question is. But I will try to answer it to the best of my ability. These units are comparatively much smaller units. For an integrated steel plant in the public sector the minimum size now is somewhere in the region of 2 million ton. The size of this plant, as I mentioned earlier, is 25000 tons. So, one can see that the scale is enormously different, some thing like 80:1. And the management of a large number of small units of this character if they are to be monopolised by the Government, naturally the Government will not be able to devote that amount of attention as small units of this character really need. Particularly when the joint sector concept is being brought in this manner and the State Governments, not only in Bengal, but in other States also, have taken the initiative to come forward with proposals like this, we think it would be beneficial to the economy as a whole and particularly to the

steel production if we encourage such proposals.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: May I know from the Government what the production of this plant will be as different from the Durga-pur Steel Plant and the proposed Salem plant, and whether this plant will help in reducing the necessity of importing a number of types of steel which we do now for purposes of armament production and in this automobile industry?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARMANGA-LAM: The present product mix for the 25000 tons per annum of steel billets, strips and wire rods are as follows: —

- (i) Hot rolled and cold rolled steel strips up to 250 mm width:
 - (a) high speed steel;
 - (b) cobalt high speed steel;
 - (c) tool steel;
 - (d) vanadium steel;
 - (e) 1% to 2% tungsten steel.
- (ii) Hardened, tempered and polished strips, carbon steel.
- (iii) Hot rolled, cold drawn and centreless ground wire rods:
 - (a) carbon steel;
 - (b) various other alloy steels having limited consumption.

All these items are not covered either by Salem or Durgapur. In fact, the sponsor of the project approached the Department with a different proposal. In the course of the discussions with him we had suggested that it might be modified in this way so that it would fit in with Salem and Durgapur, not cutting into their production and not producing unnecessary competition in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Yogen-dra Sharma.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Sir, I want to put one question. May I know from the honourable Minister what will be the employment potential of this project? This is my question.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, this was answered by me earlier, namely, we expect that in the initial stages it would be about 1,000 persons and probably when it is fully completed it would be about 10,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Patil.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, is it not a fact that according to the Industrial Policy Resolution of the Government of India adopted in 1956, steel production is earmarked for the public sector in India and, in view of that, may I know whether there is any departure from that and whether that policy which has been pursued so far is being modified now?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: We do not look upon this as a departure from the Industrial Policy Resolution. The Industrial Policy Resolution, as we understand it, has emphasised that iron and steel, in the sense of integrated steel plants, should be in the public sector and we are not departing from that. But, so far as the small plants, which are really electric furnaces with continuous casting probably, are concerned, we do not think that they fall in the same category and there have been many units of this character, Mahendra Ugire or one or two others which do not come to my mind immediately, which are in the private sector and which have been permitted during the course of the last fifteen years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Next question.

NATIONALISATION OF COAL MINES

*126. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the colliery workers and their trade unions and the democratic

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Yogendra Sharma.

and progressive opinion of the country have been demanding for the nationalisation of coal mines ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India to this demand for nationalisation of coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken over the management of 214 coking coal mines with effect from 17-10-1971 and a Bill to effect nationalisation of these taken over mines, is before the Parliament. At present Government is not considering any proposal for the nationalisation of the non-coking coal mines in the country.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: Sir, is the Government aware of the fact that the West Bengal Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution in favour of nationalising the non-coking coal mines and the Chief Minister of Bihar had publicly stated that the non-coking coal mines should also be nationalised? Sir, in between Bengal and Bihar, an overwhelming majority of the coal mines are there and so, these two State Governments who are mostly concerned with the coal mines are in favour of it. I would like to know from the honourable Minister what the considerations are which are preventing the Central Government to say that at the moment they are not contemplating to nationalise them. What are those specific factors in spite of the fact that the two State Governments and the two Assemblies are for it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You have already said that.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The Government is aware of the fact that the West Bengal Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution suggesting that non-coking coal mines be nationalised. The Government is also aware of the statement