

activities, and not to indulge or take part in any political activity in our country. It is illegal and we will never permit it. After getting the full facts, we will certainly look into it.

DR. V. B. SINGH : Is the Government aware that being conscious of unpopularity, the CIA and the FBI are using West German experts, specially in University and academic institutions ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Could you make your question more clear ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You kindly put your question. Do not make a version or a statement.

DR. V. B. SINGH : I am putting the question. The Minister wants that I should make it more clear. My question is : Is the Government aware that being conscious of its increasing unpopularity in the country, the FBI and its sister organizations are now using West German experts, especially in Universities and academic institutions, for their nefarious activities ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : We have no such information.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : You did not allow me to put question...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your turn has gone.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : But what about my question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Next question.

DELAY IN COMMISSIONING OF THE BOKARO STEEL PLANT

*587. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated delay in the commissioning of the Bokaro Steel Plant is likely to be further delayed;

(b) if so, how many times its completion schedule was revised;

(c) what was the target fixed for its completion according to last revised schedule; and

(d) the reasons for further delay in its commissioning, and the additional expenditure, if any, likely to be incurred as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Original commissioning schedule for the 1st stage of Bokaro Steel Plant has been revised three times, due to reasons beyond the control of Bokaro Steel Limited.

(c) According to the present schedule, the erection of the 1st stage of the plant is to be completed by March, 1973, and the commissioning will take another 3-6 months. However the First Blast Furnace complex is to be commissioned from 3 to 6 months after the completion of erection by the end of December, 1971.

(d) does not arise.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, the answer to part (d) of my question is really indicating. Three times the completion schedule has been revised and now the latest date fixed for commissioning of the first stage of the project is March, 1973 and 3 to 6 months thereafter. It will be commissioned. Even then the hon. Minister says that the question of reasons for further delay in its commissioning does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is for further delays.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, it has already been delayed three times. The reasons for the latest delays should be known to the House. I would like to ask the hon. Minister specifically whether it is not a fact that the latest delay in completion of this project is due to non-receipt or non supply of minor equipment. If so, what is the reason that the Government did not institute any action against the suppliers for delay in the supply of this equipment, particularly in view of the fact that an amount of Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores has already been

invested and the interest charges along amount to Rs. 10 lakhs a day ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : The question put by the hon. Member is about the reasons for further delay in its commissioning. I do not think there is going to be any further delay and that is why the answer given under part (d) of the question is "does not arise". 'Further' means further delay beyond what has already occurred.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : What is the answer to my supplementary ? I asked whether the delay has been occasioned by non-supply of some minor equipment by the suppliers and whether the Government has instituted any action against the suppliers for delaying the supply of the same.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : Evidently, if he uses the English language, then he should be accurate in its use. It is the past delay and not further delay. So far as the past delays are concerned, there are a number of reasons. In fact, the delays occurred mainly in 1957, 1968 and 1969. The final revised schedule; that is to say, after the third revision, was made in June 1969 and we are expecting to keep up to the schedule that we fixed in June 1969. Of course, there have been delays in the procurement of equipment, but by and large we have been able to get over those delays and they have not further postponed or compelled a further revision of the schedule. So I do not think the question of inquiry of that character arises. Even in any instruction underlining there are bound to be certain difficulties, some contractors may not keep up to the terms they have accepted it in contractual violation and damages may be provided for under the penalty clauses of the contract. But I do not think that for every violation of a particular contract or to carry out a particular contract or of a particular equipment manufacturer to provide particular equipment by particular date calls for an enquiry. It calls for whatever legal action that is available under the law.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, you have already asked two questions.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, I have put one question.

MR. CHIRMAN : No, no.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, I have put one question only. All right, what is my second question ? The Minister took two times to answer my first question; that is true.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ah right.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, the hon. Minister has been a very leading lawyer. I do not claim to be master of the English language but I would like to submit, Sir, that in part (d) of my question I had asked specifically the reasons for the delay in commissioning and the additional expenditure likely to be incurred as a result thereof. May I ask the hon. Minister specifically once again : What was the original estimate for the Bokaro Steel Plant, how many times the estimate was changed, what is the latest estimate and what is the quantum of additional expenditure involved due to the delay ?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARA-

MANGALAM : I do not like to go on crossing swords with my friend on the particular language that he used but I have carefully listened to the language he used just now and in reading out what he alleges to be the question he put to me, he neatly omitted the word 'further'. Had he said, 'the reasons for the delay' I would have given him the reasons but he has not asked for the reasons.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have so many other questioners.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM ! If he wants to know as to what are the reasons for the delay and what is the additional expenditure which was involved as a result of the delay that has taken place in 1967, not the delay in the future, then the question has already been replied on an earlier occasion but I am speaking from memory I think it is somewhere like Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 crores that is the additional expenditure, mainly due to escalation of cost of indigenous manufactures here.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I hope he will agree that one of the reason i for the delay was the failure of the private sector to supply the fine bricks at the proper time and it was reported that there was a fire burning many amounting to several crores. May I know whether cause of the fire has been investigated and whether the people responsible for that fire have been brought to books ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : Part of the reason for the delay is due to the failure of refractories to supply bricks according to the schedule.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I asked a simple question. The fire bricks amounting to several crores was burnt down. Were investigations made and, if so, who are responsible for it ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: There has been no delay as a result of the fire.

श्री ओमप्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मिनिस्टर महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि वहाँ के मजदूरों की यूनियन्स ने गो-स्लो स्ट्राइक किया हुआ है अपनी कुछ मांगों के कारण, और उस स्ट्राइक के कारण जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित हुए हैं वोकारों प्लांट के उस में देरी होने की सम्भावना है ? यदि यह सच है तो मजदूरों की मांगें क्या हैं और उनकी पूर्ति के लिए सरकार क्या प्रयत्न कर रही है ताकि निर्धारित लक्ष्य पर कार्य शुरू किया जा सके ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : No doubt some delay is being caused even now due to the demand put forward by certain section of the workers particularly in the refractory area of the blast furnace and coke over zone. Their demands are in relation to past non-payment according to their allegation, by their former employers, namely, the Bhilai Construction Company, whose contract has been terminated by Bokaro Steel, the work having been handed over to the H.S.C. Ltd. They have been opposing also the recruit-

ment of new hands on the ground that they should be given preference in certain higher jobs. They have also been asking for refixation of their designations and rates. We are taking whatever action is open to us both in terms of disciplinary action and also in terms of getting the assistance of the Labour Conciliation Authorities to solve this problem.

इस्पात का आयात

*588. डा० भाई महावीर :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

श्री दत्तोवंत ठेंगड़ी :

श्री लाल आडवाणी :

श्री ना० कु० शेजवलकर :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड और मिनरल्स एण्ड पेट्रल्स ट्रैडिंग कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड द्वारा बड़े पैमाने पर इस्पात का आयात करने की कोई योजना है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इतने बड़े पैमाने पर इस्पात का आयात किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं और तत्सम्बन्धी व्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस आयात किये गये इस्पात के वितरण के लिए किस कसौटी से काम लिया जायेगा ?

IMPORT OF STEEL

*588. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR : SHRI D.
THENGARI : SHRI LAL K,
ADVANI : SHRI N. K.
SHEJWALKAR : SHRI PREM
MANOHAR : SHRI J.P. YADAV

Will the Minister of STEEL AND

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir. ft]
English translation.