

movement out of the watch factory. This question deals with the HMT watch factory. There is no brain drain in this watch factory. This question of brain drain could be raised with and addressed to the appropriate Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the last question please. Mr. Muniswamy.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : May I know, Sir, whether there is any truth in the complaint that in the beginning these HMT watches were far superior in their performance to the HMT watches nowadays being made and sold? Why this difference in its performance between what it was in earlier years and what it has been at the present time? The second question is whether it is a fact that the same watches sold in foreign countries, say, in America and Italy, are sold much cheaper than is the case here. The same watches are being exported to these foreign countries and they are selling there at cheaper rates. I would like to know the reason behind such cheap rates at which they are being sold abroad. I do not know whether it is due to their subsidising the watch, or not, and selling it at subsidised rates. The third question is this. Is it purposely being sold here at a higher rate—comparatively speaking—with a view to facilitate the bringing in of watches from other countries and also to let this back-log to continue so that smuggled watches might have larger circulation in this country?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The hon. Member must be thinking of the watches which were being originally manufactured here with the superior components imported from Japan then. But that is not the case now, Sir. Even though the indigenous component has increase to 84%, still the performance of the HMT watches is as good as any imported watch. As far as the price is concerned, I do not think the hon. Member is right in what he said. There may be some price reduction in order to increase their production, etc. in foreign countries but the prices at which they are sold here are comparatively cheaper when compared with the prices of other watches.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

COMMISSIONING OF BOKARO STEEL PROJECT

*123. **SHRI A. G. KULARNI :**†

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :

SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress in regard to the commissioning of the Bokaro Steel Project and the percentage-wise deliveries of the material and drawings actually received from USSR against its commitment; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi is also lagging behind in its deliveries; if so, to what extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid down on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Although some delay and shortfalls have occurred in certain areas in the phased programme of construction, the general tempo of work at Bokaro has been improving fast enough to make up for these delays and complete the construction of the plant in accordance with the existing schedule. The percentage of materials and drawings received from USSR as on 30th September, 1970, is as follows :

Contract No. 7622-OC

Equipment—83 per cent.

Steel Structures—92.5 per cent.

Refractories—62.8 per cent.

Pipes & other materials—100 per cent.

Contract No. 7527

Pipes and Equipment—81 per cent.

Refractories—79 per cent.

Steel Structures including rolled steel products—100 per cent.

All technical documentation for the equipment to be manufactured in India and all the construction drawings have been received from USSR.

(b) There is backlog mainly in the supply of mechanical equipment to Bokaro

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

by Heavy Engineering Corporation in relation to delivery schedule as per Agreement dated 9th April, 1969 between Bokaro Steel Limited and Heavy Engineering Corporation. Against scheduled supplies of 41,290 tonnes by end of September, 1970, actual supplies of mechanical equipment amounted to 18,770 tonnes. In respect of steel structures for the same period, actual supplies have been 23,744 tonnes against a scheduled target of 27,210 tonnes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the supplies of materials, equipment and steel structures from the USSR and from indigenous sources are being delayed and that is why the setting up of the Bokaro steel plant is being delayed to a date beyond 1973? If so, may I know what is the position of indigenous supplies, because the position, as far as USSR supplies are concerned, as given in the reply, is fairly good? So, about the indigenous supplies, what is the position? because, as far as I know, about 64,000 tonnes of equipment, mechanical and electrical, have to come from the private sector out of which only about 4,000 tonnes have come? Similarly from the public sector, about 70,000 tonnes have to be received but only 14,000 tonnes have come. Is it a fact? If so, what remedial measures do Government want to take in this connection? Another point I want to know is whether the Government have taken into consideration the sixty-eighth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings and their remarks about bad planning rejecting the advice of the indigenous technologist. What has the Government done about the sixty-eighth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The total tonnage of equipment to be supplied by the HEC is about 72,234 tonnes, out of which 41,290 tonnes should have been delivered according to schedule. There has been some setback in the supply of the equipment that has to be delivered, and against these 18,770 tonnes they delivered 3,470 tonnes were out of schedule. The shortfall in the supplies from the HEC till September 1970 was of the order of 25,993 tonnes. Sir, we are trying to improve the position now by seeing that the production at the HEC increases and the deliveries are made, according to schedule

and according to the specifications, i.e. Bokaro to complete its first stage. With regard to supplies from private sources, certain works have been fanned out to some private sector people and the deliveries from that sector also are not according to schedule.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What is the extent?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Sir, supplies from private sector industries also are generally behind. Against the target of 27,962 tonnes only 10,413 tonnes have been supplied up to September 1970 by the private sector suppliers. They have given certain reason for that, the principal reason being shortage of steel and we are trying to see that the steel required for fabricating this type of equipment is given to the private sector so that they are in a position to make deliveries in time.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What about the 68th Report?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : That Report is under the consideration of Government.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : That Report is under consideration.

AN HON. MEMBER : Under active consideration.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Yes, under active consideration but is the Government aware of the entire mess in Bokaro as has been high-lighted by the Public Undertakings Committee and that they have to be very alert in taking decisions on that Report very early? Apart from that what is the specific target date—you can take six months here or there—by which the 1.7 million tonnes capacity will be achieved and commissioned at Bokaro? Secondly, there is knowledgeable criticism about the very high cost of Bokaro. Is the Government aware of this and what steps do they propose to take to bring down the cost; otherwise the technology imported from Russia will be at a disadvantage to this country.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : As I have already stated the Report is under consideration. Recently the Members of the Public Undertakings Committee visited Bokaro and I have seen a remark in the Visitors' Book by the Members that they

have seen excellent progress being made at Bokaro. So this is a compliment to the Bokaro authorities for their good work. Hon. Members also can go and see that the skyline is coming up and the whole atmosphere is getting changed.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : We want steel to come up, not skyline to come up.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : If the chimneys do not go up, if the blast furnaces do not come up, if the coke ovens do not come up, how can we produce steel? We will have to change the skyline

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I have asked him three questions. The second was about the specific date by which Bokaro will reach its full capacity and the third point was about the high capital cost. Sir, it is ridiculous that . . .

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : I will deal with the ridicule portion later on, but now I will deal with the point about the completion of the first stage. Sir the first phase of the Blast furnace complex will be completed by 1972.

(Interruptions)

Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the first phase of the Bokaro plant and when the 1.7 million tonnes capacity will be achieved and in reply I say that first phase of Blast furnace complex will be completed by the middle of 1972.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What about the capital cost; sir, he has not replied to that point. I asked him a very particular question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you wish to add anything?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I have stated already but I will state again. The capital cost after reaching 1.7 million tonnes capacity is said to be about Rs. 4,000 and with 4 million tonnes capacity it is stated to Rs. 2,325 per tonne. I want to know whether this is not a very heavy capital cost and whether it is due to Russian technology or anything else.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : It is not due to Russian technology, Sir.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Sir, in reply to the main question the hon. Deputy Minister has said that the supplies from HEC have fallen short by 25,000

tonnes. I want to know why HEC has failed to make the full supplies. Is it due to the fact that in HEC there has been all along continuous labour trouble? Is it also due to the in-flight in the management itself between the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman and they have been all the time busy in their own fight? They have failed to produce the required targeted supplies necessary for Bokaro which is going to delay the work of Bokaro. May I know Sir, what has been done now to settle the dispute inside the management? Will the incompetent people who have merely their personal interest be ousted from the HEC?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The machinery and equipment, many of which are very sophisticated, are being produced for the first time in our country and it is dependent on a large number of factors, particularly the supply of design documentation, availability of steel plates and other raw materials and the supply of imported components. These are some of the reasons why there has been some delay on the part of HEC in supplying equipment in time and according to schedule. Efforts are being made to supply machinery and equipment as per the delivery scheduled. There have been certain delays which are being followed up. With regard to the set-up in HEC it is true that there has been a reshuffle at the top and this reshuffle has been brought about simply to see that efficiency in the working of HEC gears up and that we are in a position to see that supplies from HEC to Bokaro are made in time, so that the Bokaro steel complex does not suffer.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : I wanted to know about the dispute that is going on in the management, whether it has been settled and how it has been settled. Is it a fact that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already said it.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : I want to explain it. Is it a fact that in the dispute between the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the Chairman had to go and the Deputy Chairman has remained? I want to know how it has been settled.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This change has nothing to do with the dispute between the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman.

Actually I am not aware of any such dispute. The point is that HEC is a very complex plant...

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Should I bring the dispute on the floor of the House ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : If the Minister is not aware of it, we have to bring it out here...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can write to him.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is not a fact. That is what I am saying and it has nothing to do with it...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Let us go on.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This is part of a well-studied plan to build up the senior cadre is HEC, so that the technical people are able to man it completely. Technically competent people will run it. It is one of the changes we are going to make. For this we have to induct a number of competent technical people into the various plants so that...

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Retired technical people are going to be brought in.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The point is that because of the delay in supplies. The commissioning of Bokaro has been threatened. It is, at the moment, 12 to 16 months or even 18 months behind schedule. We are so much behind. We have asked the Board to work it out so that the date should be still kept up. For that it is necessary to see that the supply of HEC equipment should be raised to four times. We have to keep it up for the next twelve or fourteen months. It is a challenge and to meet that challenge I have drawn up a plan for the reorganisation of HEC, so that the Bokaro plant comes up in time. A day saved is a great day for the country.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Sir, retired people are being brought...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. No further question.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : फिर लिस्ट एग्जास्ट होने से पहले ए० पी० शर्मा कहा से आ गए थे ?

श्री सभापति : हम देखना भूल गए थे।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : श्रीमान आपका अधिकार मे कम नही करना चाहता। इस उत्तर मे आपने दिया है 'बेलित इस्पात उत्पादन 100 प्रतिशत'। मै यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह सरकार के नोटिस में आया कि जब बेलट्स का निर्माण 100 परसेंट के हिसाब से इसमें बताया है तो बेलट्स की सप्लाई का सवाल जहां खड़ा होता है...

श्री बी० आर० भगत : बेलट्स क्या ?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : 'बेलित इस्पात उत्पादन 100 परसेंट' यह आपके जवाब मे है।

श्री बी० आर० भगत : कौन जवाब में ?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : आप अपने जवाब में देखिए।

श्री बी० आर० भगत : पढ़िए न।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : ठेका सं० 7527 के अन्तर्गत यहां पर उत्तर दे रखा है, हिन्दी में मेरे पास कागज है।

श्री ना० कृ० शेजबलकर : आपके पास हिन्दी का है या नही ?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मेरा सीधा सवाल है, उसे आप जाने दीजिए। मैं एक सवाल पूछ रहा हूं कि जब बिलेट्स का प्रोडक्शन 100 परसेंट का है तो क्या आपके नोटिस में यह आया है कि जब बिलेट्स सप्लाई की जाती है तो बिलेट्स के बजाय स्क्वायर्स सप्लाई किए जाते हैं और एक्वायर्स उनके ऊपर थोपे जाते हैं कि बिलेट्स नहीं हैं तुमको स्क्वायर्स लेने पड़ेंगे, परन्तु एक्चुअल डिलीवरी बिलेट्स

की होती है और इस तरह 169 रुपए, प्रति टन का अन्तर पड़ता है ? क्या हिन्दुस्तान स्टील के घाटे को पूरा करने के लिए यह तरीका आपने काम में ली है । बिलेट्स के टुकड़ों का जहां सवाल है, 6-6 फीट के टुकड़े..

श्री बी० आर० भगत : मैं सफाई दे दूँ, बेलित इसमें लिखा है रोलड प्रोडक्ट के लिए, अंग्रेजी का देख ले, आप उसका अर्थ गलत निकाल रहे हैं ।

श्री सभापति : इसी में वक्त निकल जायगा ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : बिलेट्स के सम्बन्ध में मेरा प्रश्न है ।

श्री बी० आर० भगत : बिलेट्स बिल्कुल अलग चीज है ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : वह मैं जानता हूँ । मेरा यह कहना है कि बिलेट्स...

श्री बी० आर० भगत : बेलित शब्द है, अंग्रेजी में लिखा है रोलड स्टील प्रोडक्ट, हिन्दी में लिखा हुआ है बेलित इस्पात का उत्पादन ।

श्री नीरेन घोष : हिन्दी में गड़बड़-सड़बड़ होता है ।

SHRI N. G. GORAY : This is the fourth steel plant that is being set up in the public sector. I would like to ask the Minister whether, in spite of the experience that we had at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur, why it was not possible to eliminate all these delays so far as Bokaro was concerned. Why is it that again and again we are failing to reach our targets in time?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : There is a fundamental difference between Bhilai and Bokaro. Although they are based on the Russian collaboration, Bhilai was a turn-key job undertaken by the Russian technicians and with their collaboration we did it. Bokaro is with their help, but it is

done by us, not only by our own know-how, but our own people are working on it. The bulk of the supply is from indigenous sources. As the House has learnt, the HEC, the private sector and others are supplying. One of the reasons for the higher cost is that the bulk of the supply is from indigenous sources and therefore their cost is more. Secondly, this is the first plant that we are building ourselves. And also, Bokaro is not an ordinary steel plant. It is four million tonnes as against Bhilai which was in the beginning 1.0 million tonnes, then it was being expanded to 2.5 million and then to 4 million tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

मतदाताओं की न्यूनतम आयु का घटाया जाना

* 124. श्री लाल अडवाणी :

श्री निरंजन वर्मा :

श्री ना० कृ० शंजवलकर :

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :

क्या विधि तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने 15 सितम्बर, 1970 को केरल विश्व-विद्यालय की यूनिन के एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल के सम्मुख मतदाताओं की न्यूनतम आयु को घटाकर 18 वर्ष किए जाने की उपयोगिता के बारे में अपना सन्देह व्यक्त किया था ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि कुछ प्रमुख राजनैतिक दलों ने भी यह मांग की है कि मतदाताओं की न्यूनतम आयु 21 वर्ष से घटा कर 18 वर्ष कर दी जाये ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;