

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: This relates to a separate sector altogether. If the hon'ble Member can put a separate question, I will try to answer.

SHRI A. D. MANI: There is heavy passenger traffic between Madras and Tirupathi. May I know, Sir, if it is proposed to run a through train when this broad gauge is open, or will there at least be some carriages to enable passengers to go from Madras to Tirupathi direct without getting down at Renigunta?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: It is true that there is very heavy passenger traffic in the sector. The arrangement of train timings and running through trains would be kept in view when the new time-table is drawn up.

STEEL BILLET PLANT AT MADRAS

*175. **SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed steel billet plant to be set up at Arkonam, Madras State with Soviet collaboration will be in the private or public sector;

(b) what will be its capacity of production;

(c) when will it be commissioned; and

(d) what are the terms of collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY): (a) to (c) The project, which will have an ultimate annual capacity of 100,000 tonnes, will be implemented by the Madras State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.—a Government of Madras undertaking. It is expected to be commissioned in about 18 months.

(d) The State Government has informed that collaboration teams include preparation of technical

documentation, supply of equipment not available in the country, technical assistance during erection and providing the guaranteed outputs and performance and training the Indian technicians in the USSR; these are the items of work to be done by the Russian agency. Supply of equipment will be on deferred payment terms under the Trade Agreement between India and USSR.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: May I know, Sir, what would be the estimated employment potential of that plant at the end?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: Sir, actual figures are not available. But it would be of the order of about 2,000 subject to assessment.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS

*176. **SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of import licences given for import of raw materials since devaluation; and

(b) what are the important items for which import licences were given?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Statistics relating to import of raw materials are not maintained separately. The total value of Actual Users licences issued from 6-6-1966 to 31-1-1967 for raw material, spares and components was of the order of Rs. 925 crores.

(b) Some of the more important items of raw materials licensed are:—

- (1) Non-Ferrous Metals.
- (2) Copra.
- (3) Crude Rubber including Synthetic Rubber.
- (4) Paper, Pulp and Newsprint.
- (5) Textile Fibres.