

matter of giving financial aid, the Government will advance money to those corrupt parties also and, if so, will they do it with security or without security?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, on the first part, loans are given and all are returned except in one case of a mill in Kanpur where they have slightly defaulted and that case is under examination.

Regarding the second part, no new loans are being provided because we are short of funds but all loans are bearing interest and there is no question of no interest.

About the third part, I think the hon. Member's generalisation is too vague. Under-invoicing of a very minor character, if it takes place, is fully detected. There is what is called the Contracts Registration Committee presided by the Customs Officers and consisting of the Jute Commissioner and various other experts. They register every contract and see that the evaluation is fair.

#### **Zrwc SMELTER AT VISHAKHAPATNAM**

•366. SHRI Y. A. REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding construction of a Zinc smelter at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, when was the decision taken; and

(c) what is the progress so far made in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND METALS (SHRI SYED AHMED MEHDI): (a) and (b) Government had taken a decision, in 1964, to establish a Zinc smelter in the Fourth Five Year Plan at Visakhapatnam based on imported tin concentrates and with Polish technical and financial assistance.

(c) After settling the necessary basic data, work on the preparation of 124 RS—2.

a detailed project report for the project was undertaken by the Polish organisation, CENTROZAP. The work on the preparation of the project report was, however, stopped in September, 1966 consequent to the non-inclusion of the project in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: May I know why it was dropped from the Fourth Plan.

SHRI SYED AHMAD MEHDI: The main cause is the foreign exchange position. It was not only a question of putting up the smelter but we would also have to import zinc concentrates.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: Does not the Government think that zinc concentrates require a high priority to be given in the matter of imports?

SHRI SYED AHMAD MEHDI: We have given a high priority to zinc but it is a question of having the necessary foreign exchange for the imports.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know the amount of money that has been spent on this project from its inception up to the point when it was given up?

SHRI SYED AHMAD MEHDI: So far about Rs. 59,000 was paid in March 1966.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Has it been given up or do you expect to take it up later?

SHRI S. K. DEY: The work was stopped pending availability of resources.

#### **RAILWAY QUARTERS FOR ASMS**

•367. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assistant Station Masters who are classified as essential, but not provided with Railway quarters in each Division of the Indian Railways; and