

SHRI RAM SINGH : May I know, Sir, if a decision has been taken about the selection of a site for joint venture for an alloy steel casting plant or whether it is being established otherwise ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : The location will be decided later on, but the Australian Government did not offer collaboration in setting up an alloy steel plant in India. They are very great experts in this direction and they are prepared to offer their co-operation when it is sought.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : While appreciating the efforts of the Commerce Minister—a dynamic person no doubt he is in the field of commerce—I would like to know what programme he has in view regarding the export of good quality products of the smaller manufacturing units, because they can easily export but they have no means to export. May I know, Sir, what programme he has in view to help them ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : This is a talk between the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and myself on . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it a general idea what you have ?

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : Smaller units want to export and they want help.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Here we are concerned with the talk with the Australian Minister of Commerce.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : This applies to all countries.

LAVING OFF OF WORKERS OF TINPIATE COMPANY IN JAMSHEDPUR

*5.84. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 4,500 workers of the British owned Tinplate Company at Jamshedpur have been laid off since 18th October, 1965 on the plea of non-availability of tin metal and other material; and

(b) the steps taken by Government so far to facilitate restarting of the closed departments of the company ?

I THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Because of dwindling stocks of block tin, 1,068 workers were laid off on the morning of 18th October, 1965, at the Tinplate Company's Works in Golmuri. Another 1651 were expected to be laid off by about the third week of this month.

(b) Block tin, one of the essential raw materials for the production of tinplate, has to be imported from Malaysia or from the U.S.A. Imports of block tin from Malaysia require free foreign exchange and imports from U.S.A. utilise U. S. aid credit. The free foreign exchange that could be made available to the Tinplate Company was very limited because of the current foreign exchange situation. The allocation made under the U. S. aid Non Project Loan has been inoperative because the loan arrangements have not yet been finalised. Till more foreign exchange is effectively available, there is little that can be done immediately to improve the situation.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Sir, in the meanwhile what steps have been taken to give appropriate relief to the employees who have been thrown out of employment ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: With regard to allocation we are trying to help them as much as possible. We are trying to help them by acquiring material under the Scarce Materials Control Order. Also, as soon as the free foreign exchange is negotiated or the U. S. aid is negotiated, we shall try to help them.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that many such engineering industries seem to be threatened with the shortage of raw materials, like tin, cement, zinc, etc., whether any steps are being taken to find out indigenous raw materials which can be utilised by such industries ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : No, Sir, we have not yet been able to find the alternative raw materials, and I do not think that tin plates can be replaced by any other local material for the present. It takes time and more research to achieve good results. About construction workers, my other friend asked how they could be helped to be re-employed. We have this problem

in many of our public sector projects also, not only in steel but in the *Heavy Engineering Corporation*, Ranchi and other undertakings where a number of construction workers are being thrown out of jobs, because conduction work is completed. It will be difficult to find employment even for the public sector people who are going out now. Therefore, I do not think, Sir, that we will be able to undertake to find alternative employment for the people thrown out in the private sector also.

•585. [The questioner (Shri Ramgopal Gupta) was absent. For answer, vide cols 3468-3469 infra].

•431. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols 3469.. infra.]

•586. [The questioner (Shri Jagat Narain) was absent. For answer, vide cols 3469-3470 infra.]

MOVEMENT OF SOFT COKE AND BRICK MAKING COAL

•587. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 803 in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd September, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the Sub-Committee of the Coal Production and Distribution Advisory Committee has submitted its report about the movement of soft coke and brick making coal;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee and reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) if not, when the Sub-Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

<c) The Sub-Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Since the demand for soft coke and brick-burning coal is spread over vast distances in the country, will the Government ensure adequate and a need-based capacity to move these coals?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Sir, that is why, when the position was tight and we realised it, we relaxed the distribution control, and coal started moving in more number of wagons. You would find, Sir, that in the year 1964 the wagons moved were 48,339 while in this year it is 53,419 wagons.

श्री जगन्नाथ प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, इस कोल के मूवमेन्ट के लिए बहुत बड़े और खास तरह के वेगन्स की जरूरत नहीं होती है, आम तौर का वेगन जा सकता है, और देहात में उसकी बड़ी मुश्किल होती है इसलिए देहात तक पहुंचाने की क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं क्योंकि देहात में सप्लाय होती नहीं ?

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : पहले कोशिश यह की थी कि कोल डिपो स्थापित किए जायें लेकिन कोल डिपो स्थापित करने की स्कीम कामयाब नहीं हुई क्योंकि उसमें कठिनाई है, लेकिन फिर भी कोशिश की जा रही है कि अधिक से अधिक कोयला जो मांगा जाय वह दिया जाय और उसमें कोई कठिनाई नहीं है।

OFFICERS IN THE EXPORT PROMOTION CBU.

•588. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the number of officers with their names and designations who have continued for more than three years in the same post in the Export Promotion Cell of the Directorate General of Technical Development?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : Two Development Officers, Sarvashril C. Rajagopalan and A. K. Bose, had continued to work for more than three years in the Export Promotion Cell in the Directorate General of Technical Development. Shri A. K. Bose has been relieved of his duties in the Export Promotion Cell since August, 1964, and—I may add—he is doing some other work.

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL : What are the special reasons for their being kept in these posts for more than three years, Sir?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : It is very normal and very desirable too that in a technical post like this, people with