

of them by importing machinery and so on? Was there any deal between them or understanding between them and the World Bank authorities?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: There was no such deal to our knowledge between them and the Bank authorities. Actually, as I have stated, the difficulty has arisen due to a slackening of the demand for coal.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Under the Plan, the targets are fixed and financial allocations including foreign exchange allocations are made and I assume that they have been adhered to. If not, why did not the Government take early steps in order to settle this matter because it has been pending at least for more than a year or so? We have been asking questions and raising this matter in other ways also. Has there been any investigation as to why the private sector colliery industry people did not avail of the sanctioned loans from the World Bank and why they waited for the Government of India to underwrite them?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, actually they had to produce matching rupee funds and they had difficulty in having that. Therefore the Government came forward to give this guarantee to the Bank. Sir, the total allocation out of this loan is about Rs. 16.67 crores against which orders placed till now come to about Rs. 14.77 crores or so. As a matter of fact, it is only a small amount of the total amount of the loan that has not been utilised.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not a question of orders being placed. It was stipulated that the loans would be utilised much earlier. Now we are told that orders placed would come to that amount mentioned by the hon. Minister. May I know exactly how much money has been actually utilised by way of import of machinery and so on instead of being given this figure of the orders placed?

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SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, as I have stated already, the licences issued come to much more. They come to about Rs. 20.48 crores but the amount for which orders have been placed comes to Rs. 14.77 crores. The date for replacement and renovation of machinery was 1963 but later on it was extended to 1965. Yet the actual amount claimed out of this is Rs. 6.70 crores and orders placed come to Rs. 14.77 crores.

FOURTH STEEL PLANT AT BOKARO

*220. { SHRI BABUBHAI M.
CHINAI;
SHRI U. S. DUGAL;†
SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in regard to financial and technical collaboration with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the establishment of the Fourth Steel Plant at Bokaro;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian team of experts has been isolated in building up the steel plant at Bokaro and entire reliance is placed on Russians in this matter; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A project assignment for the preparation of a detailed project report by the U.S.S.R. design organisation has been signed. An Indo-U.S.S.R. Agreement specifying the terms of financial and technical collaboration to be given by the U.S.S.R. for the Fourth Steel Plant at Bokaro is expected to be concluded shortly.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri U. S. Dugal.

(b) and (c). No Sir, Indian engineering and technical know-how will be associated to the extent possible. The extent of such association can be determined only after the detailed project report is ready.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know when the work will actually start and secondly, on account of the change in the Soviet leadership, is there going to be any change in the agreement that has been entered into?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, many times the Minister had made it clear that there would be no change in the policy of the U.S.S.R. Government as far as Bokaro is concerned. With regard to the actual work being taken in hand, after the project report comes and the Government approves of it, work would be started.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Have the Government made any tentative assessment regarding the total amount of expenditure on this project?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: There are the calculations made by Dastur & Co. but the exact amount would be known only after the project report is received.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the fact that the Russian agency will be in sole charge of this plant, what is the utility of associating Dastur & Co. and giving them an amount of Rs. 3½ crores for consultation? Does not the Government think that after the Russians have assumed full responsibility of guiding the whole plant, there is not much utility in having another agency costing Rs. 3½ crores?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: We have not taken a decision as to who should be totally responsible for this Bokaro steel plant. Now the Russians themselves are doing the project report. It is only when we get it in our hands, we will be able to divide the work. If possible we intend to associate the Indian technical men to the extent possi-

ble. That is a point which will have to be negotiated and it takes naturally time and it can be done after the project report is received. Till then we cannot say.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया:

श्रीमान् ने अभी यह बतलाया कि रिपोर्ट शर्टली आने वाली है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में कोई टेन्टेटिव समय बतलायेंगे कि एक साल में या ६ महीने में यह रिपोर्ट अपेक्षित है ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: The project report will take at least nine more months. My friend here said that an agreement may be signed shortly. We expect the agreement would be signed some time in December. The project report will take about nine months after that.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if in the negotiations with the Soviet experts the Government have reached a stage in which it is clear as to what part the Indian technicians will play in the building of this plant?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: That is exactly what I said. It is only after the project report is ready, we will be able to discuss more clearly what percentage will be given to the Indian engineers.

SHRI A. D. MANI: According to information available, the Russians have proposed built-in facilities for structural fabrication at Bokaro and these structural fabrications will eliminate serious delays due to the general shortage of fabricating capacity. I would like to ask the Minister whether on this proposal at least the Indian consultants were called into consultation or the Russians wanted to work out the proposals themselves? An ancillary question I would like to ask, and that is, the Minister said that as far as possible, Indian technicians would be associated. What is the question of "as far as possible?" Indian technicians have been trained in our steel plants. What is the difficulty that the

Russians expect if they had Indian collaboration in this project?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Sir, Indian technicians will be used but whether our consultants should be Indians completely or Russians, who should be held responsible for the working and also efficiency, all these we cannot fix up now and we cannot say at this stage what percentage of the consultancy would be given either to Dastur & Co. or to them.

PROF. B. N. PRASAD: In view of the fact that so many projects are undertaken in our country, is it not the policy of the Ministries concerned to develop adequately consulting engineering in our own country, realizing fully that unless and until our Indian technicians are given reasonable facilities to develop this power of consulting engineering we shall always have to spend a lot of money on foreign technicians? I would like to know from the Minister what progress is being made in this direction.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Yes; for instance, for the expansion programmes of the existing steel plants, our consultants have taken the responsibility. We are acquiring knowledge and we are certainly using it also. Our Central Design and Engineering unit has to be expanded and we are taking steps in the Fourth Plan so that our consultancy and technical know-how would be developed.

SHRI G. M. MIR: Is it a fact that the Indian experts have complained that they are not given opportunity to work in some of the major projects and they have also said that they would have done the work more efficiently and at a less cost?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: There is a slight difference here. The question is whether the total responsibility is to be taken by the Indians or the Russians. A large number of Indians would be associated with the work but the question is one of total responsibility.

SHRI G. M. MIR: My question is whether they have complained or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be very extraordinary if they did not complain.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: There seem to be two stages. The first stage is coming into being very shortly and that is the signing of the agreement. I would like to know whether this is not the proper stage to fix what portion of the job has to be given to Indian consultancy and what portion should be entrusted to Russian consultancy. If that is not done now, later on after the project report is prepared, probably some difficulties may arise. I would like to know whether this aspect of the question has been given sufficient attention, and if so, definite conclusions have been arrived at.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: This was discussed at length by our team when they went to Moscow. It is difficult for them to allocate the work before the project report is written. The project report naturally will give more details and therefore it would be easier to divide the work when the project report is ready.

CONVERSION OF METRE GAUGE RAILWAY LINE TO BROAD GAUGE IN KERALA

*221. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand from the people of Kerala has been received for converting the metre gauge railways there into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) A request for conversion of the Ernakulam-Trivandrum M. G. section to B.G. was received.

(b) A preliminary traffic appraisal on this proposal was got done by the Southern Railway, and this report is