

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to grant advance increments at certain stages to the Section Officers in their grade; and

(b) if so, what is the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) and (b) A representation has been received from one of the associations representing the Section Officers' Grade of the Central Secretariat Service for providing a substantial increase in pay in the 7th year in the revised scale of pay prescribed for that grade and the matter is under consideration. No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know by what time a decision is likely to be taken on their representations?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: We shall take a decision as early as possible.

BREAKDOWNS IN ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

*400. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the number of breakdowns that occurred in the Rourkela Steel Plant since it was started in February, 1959?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): There were in all about twenty-six breakdowns, most of them of a minor character.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It is said that the breakdowns were not of a minor character. Is it a fact?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Most of them were of a minor character.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Many of them were of a major character. That is the inference I could make from the answer of the Minister. May I know the causes for such break-

downs? And it is also reported that a special committee from Germany came to investigate into the causes of this breakdown and the report has been submitted. If so, will the Minister be pleased to give the salient features of the report and what action is being taken on it?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The report has not yet been submitted. I hope it will be submitted at an early date.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: By what percentage has there been a shortfall in the production of steel?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As a matter of fact, we tried to assess the shortfall but it has not been possible to do so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to give a chance to people who do not ask questions on everything.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then the Government escapes.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: May I know whether Dr. Robert Bintrop, the German expert, has tendered his resignation through the German Embassy due to such breakdowns through the negligence of the Indian experts engaged in the factory?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am not aware of it.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I want to know whether Indian experts were also associated with the Committee or whether the Government is going to rely entirely on the report of the German Committee in view of the fact that a certain experiment at the cost of the Hindustan Steel Company was said to have been conducted by the Germans in India and which has cost us a great deal.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Before the visit of the German delegation to look into the working of this plant, there were two committees to go into

the breakdown. One was headed by Mr. Hayath and the other was by Mr. Isaac. Therefore, the hon. Member may be assured that Indian experts also have had a look into it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the General Superintendent of Rourkela Steel Works has tendered his resignation?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am not aware of it.

BHILAI STEEL WORKS

***401. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that slowing down of rolling mills in the Bhilai Steel Works has recently been ordered owing to lack of wagon allotment to move the stocks out of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): During the first fortnight of April, 1962, one of the mills at Bhilai slowed down rolling on account of congestion in the stockyard. The situation has since improved with the assistance of the Railways.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know what is the production capacity of this plant and how much stocks were held up on account of the non-movement of these stocks out of the factory?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The capacity is 1 million tons of ingot steel, but if the hon. Member is interested in the stock position with regard to the various items, I can give it but I can assure the hon. Member that there has been considerable improvement now and there is no congestion.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH: May I know whether huge quantities of rejected rails are lying in the steel yard and if so, how the Government proposes to dispose of them?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I would like to have notice.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :

जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बतलाया कि रेलवेज से कोआर्डिनेशन करके हमने अब स्थिति को ठीक कर लिया है ता कया यह कोआर्डिनेशन पहले नहीं किया जा सकता था ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There was a certain delay in moving these articles because of certain other activities to which the Railways had to give priority particularly during the Goa action. That is why there were some congestions. There is continuous co-ordination—attempted co-ordination anyhow—between the Railways and the Bhilai Steel Works.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: May I have an assurance from the Minister that in no case will there be a slowing down of production and that the Railways have promised to give the necessary wagons?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is not a question of the Railways or the Railway Minister giving a promise. Sometimes a situation arises where in spite of ourselves there is slowing down of the movement and I cannot give a positive assurance that on no account would such a situation arise.

SHRI A. D. MANI: I would like to ask the Minister whether any officer of the Bhilai Steel Works is associated with the railway set-up in respect of advice about wagon allotments?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is a Movement Officer but in spite of that, as I already stated, there was a difficult period when the Railways could not cope up with the production in the Bhilai Steel Plant and sufficient numbers of wagons were not available but now the situation has considerably improved.

***402. [The questioner (Shri A. C. Gilbert) was absent. For answer vide cols. 2774-75 infra.]**