

Shipyard is about 12,500 tons. That is not a particularly large quantity; it can easily be met by the production at Rourkela and by Tatas.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: At present, Sir, when both Rourkela and Tatas are not producing the required quantity of ship-building steel, where do we get that steel from?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We import it, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: From which country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: For that, Sir, I will require notice because that is a matter of detail.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, how much steel had been imported for this purpose during the year 1959-60?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I require notice for that too, Sir.

*95. [The questioner (Shri M. P. Bhargava) was absent. For answer vide col. 602 infra.]

CURTAILMENT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR TRAVEL

◆96. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently curtailed the amount allowed for foreign travel; and

(b) if so, what is the ceiling fixed now?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) There has not been any reduction in the scales of release of foreign exchange for approved travel purposes. However, due to the difficult foreign exchange position, the scrutiny of applications for various releases has had to be on a stricter basis as to how far the proposed travels would be essential or unavoidable.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: What is the amount of foreign exchange allowed to Indians going abroad at present?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That depends on for what purpose they go. If they go on business, they are allowed a period of one month now instead of the total period of two months, and the scale of daily allowance for dollar countries is Rs. 225 per day and Rs. 150 for the countries on the Continent. For educational and other purposes, we have different scales.

DIWAN CHAM AN LALL: May I ask what are the approved purposes?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We have broad categories like business, official business, pilgrimage, educational, health and miscellaneous and also pleasure but pleasure trip is now on the prohibited list.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: What is the daily allowance allowed to businessmen going abroad?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I gave the figures just now. It is Rs. 225 for the dollar area, Rs. 150 for countries on the Continent and Rs. 100 for the neighbouring countries.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Can the hon. Minister give us an idea whether, in view of the difficult foreign exchange position, there is any substantial reduction in foreign travel and, if so, what is the approximate percentage of reduction?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I can only say that the amount that we release for these various purposes is strictly scrutinised and there has also been a reduction in the total amount released for various purposes. For example, in 1959 the total amount, released under various categories was a little over Rs. 9 crores, and in 1960 up to September, it is about Rs. 7,50,00,000.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Government be able to state whether all

these rules have been strictly adhered to and whether any exceptions have been made on account of special reasons?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: NO, Sir. They are very strictly enforced.

SQUATTING BY DISPLACED PERSONS IN ROURKELA

"97. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ AN-SARI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of displaced persons have been squatting since 6th January, 1961 in front of the Rourkela Steel Project's administrative building; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : About 300 displaced persons squatted before the Administrative Building, Rourkela Steel Plant, from 6th January 1961 to 11th January, 1961 for employment of all displaced persons in the Plant.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ .. ANSARI: May I know whether these people have been absorbed in the Plant or they are still unemployed?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: 'It is not easy to absorb all the people, and I would like to clarify the position. Consequent on the land acquisition for the Rourkela Steel Plant and the township, some people were displaced. The displaced persons were given alternative land and full compensation for the acquired land, and most of them were also offered jobs. In fact over one thousand displaced persons out of a total number of about 1,490 have been employed. According to the Land Acquisition Officer, Rourkela, only 439 displaced persons remain unemployed. It may also be noted that in the initial stages when the construction was in full swing, the displaced persons refused to take up jobs in the Company and preferred to work with the contractors who were paying higher wages. With the completion 1

of the construction work, these people have been thrown out of employment. Hindustan Steel have, therefore, neither any commitment nor any obligation towards these displaced persons, as they refused original offers of employment by the Project and were paid full compensation.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has just said that these people are displaced persons. May I know whether these people have no land whatsoever in their possession for their livelihood?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is difficult for me to categorically confirm or deny that they have no other land. But these persons are those whose lands have been acquired. Full compensation was paid to them and also something was done to rehabilitate them. So there cannot be any further obligation of finding jobs, but of course they are preferred. But to say that if anybody's land is taken, you pay him full compensation, you pay something for his rehabilitation and also find a job for him is too much, I think.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Admitting that there is no obligation on the part of the Government concerning these people, may I know whether it is possible to employ them in casual labour in some work of this Project?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Of course, Sir, all these avenues are open to them.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Am I right in understanding that these men, these displaced persons, were employed by the contractors and not by the Steel Company and as such, the question of the liability of the Steel Company to find employment for them does not arise?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is true that some of them have been employed with the Company and some of them have been employed with