

(c) and (d) The recurring and nonrecurring expenditure during the Third Plan period is estimated to be Rs. 53.75 lakhs and Rs. 71.75 lakhs respectively. An allocation of \$8,50,000 is expected from United Nations Special Fund. About 5 million Swiss Francs are being provided by the Swiss Foundation for Technical Assistance. Most of the expenditure in foreign exchange is covered by these two foreign assistance projects.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the organization is also responsible for the manufacture of scientific instruments?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The organization is not itself going to take up the manufacture of scientific instruments, but, as I have already said in my original reply, these were the four objectives with which this organisation is being set up,

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What will be the co-ordinating factor between this organization and the Industry Ministry who are actually in charge of the manufacture of such instruments?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: This is an organisation which is being set up by the C.S.I.R. Now we will provide facilities to the industries so far as designs and development are concerned.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any technical know-how is being imported from outside the country?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Yes, an agreement has been made with the Swiss Foundation for technical assistance who will send 8 experts for 5 years to help us in this matter. Negotiation is also going on with the U.N. Special Fund for helping us in this matter.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What will be the remuneration payable for the technical know-how?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: So far as the Swiss experts are concerned, their salaries and other emoluments will be paid by the Swiss Foundation. Negotiation is going on with the U.N. Special Fund and it is not yet completed.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: The training of technical personnel is one of the objectives but unless an establishment is maintained under this organisation, how are they going to train? The industry can manufacture but how are they going to arrange for the training?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: For the development and design, it is proposed that units will be established in some selected industries themselves. The Government, through the C.S.I.R., will provide the experts and equipment as well as other tools which are necessary and the industry in which these units will be located will also help by providing accommodation, electricity, water, etc

*364 to *366. [The questioner (Shri, P. N. Rajabhoj) was absent For answers, vide cols. 1716-17 infra.]

PARTICIPATION OF M. P. GOVERNMENT IN THE SCHEME OF "LEGAL AID TO THE POOR"

*367. SHRI V. V. SARWATE: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has agreed to participate in the scheme of "Legal aid to the poor"; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons given by that Government for not participating in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI A. K. SEN): (a) At present there is no common Scheme of "Legal Aid to the poor" in which the Government of Madhya Pradesh can participate. Legal Aid to the poor is primarily the responsibility of State Governments

and it is understood that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is already providing such aid to Adivasi Tribals.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. V. SARWATE: May I know whether the statement appearing in the press of which a cutting I had sent along with the question, has been contradicted by the Government to this effect?

SHRI A. K. SEN: There is no question of contradicting it. The question was about Madhya Pradesh. That scheme was framed as a model scheme for implementation by the State Governments. So far as the subject is concerned, it is to be implemented by the State Governments concerned. The Law Ministers' Conference held last year did consider that scheme and they themselves said that they would report from time to time as to how far they have been implemented in their areas. Many State Governments have gone ahead and others have lagged behind.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Law Commission made a recommendation for such legal aid arrangement to the poor people and also the Law Minister had made more than one statement expressing support of this arrangement in the interests of the poor litigants. May I know in that case, what steps the Government have taken in order to get the States to undertake this programme or whether they themselves have initiated anything or whether they have asked the States or do I take it that the Law Minister will require another term in Parliament before proceeding in the matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI A. K. SEN: That scheme which was placed before the State Governments was, I think, placed on the Table of the House, I do not know if it was placed on the Table of this House. If it is the desire of the House that it should be considered, I shall have it circulated. Hon. Members will certainly appreciate that it is for the State 794 RS—2.

Governments to implement this scheme. We cannot implement it in their respective areas. We can only implement it in the Union territories.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether you have taken any steps.

SHRI A. K. SEN: So far as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, the Government of India already bears 50 per cent, of the total expenses involved by the State Government in the matter of legal aid to the poor. So far as the Union territories are concerned, the scheme of help to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is in operation already.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is not the point.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know which of the States have implemented this scheme?

SHRI A. K. SEN: That scheme has not been implemented by the States. But there are rules framed for legal aid by the Bombay Government, the Kerala Government and some other State Governments.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: It may be the duty of the State Government to implement such a scheme but has the Central Government in view the introduction of any Free Legal Aid Bill for this purpose so that the State Governments can later on take advantage of it?

SHRI A. K. SEN: It is not for the Central Government to pass any Bill for the entire country. Hon. Members will appreciate that it is a Federal Government that we have and the subject is specifically assigned to the States.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I take it from the hon. Minister that the Government of India have transformed the scheme for aid to the poor into aid for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Some of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes people may be rich people.

SHRI A. K. SEN: No, and a perusal of the scheme will negative such a suggestion.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: The hon. Minister's reply is not all satisfactory because the Union Government undertakes a good deal of legislation which is first applied to the Union territories and which is brought in as a model legislation for the States to follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is merely stating her views.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: The reply should come . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 368

DAMAGE TO BLAST FURNACE OF ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

•368. SHRI SUDHIR GHOSH: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that No. 1 blast furnace of the Rourkela Steel Plant was recently shut down due to certain damage to the blast furnace;

(b) if so, what was the nature and the probable cause of the damage and for how long the said blast furnace remained shut down; and

(c) what is the estimated loss in production because of this shut down?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In the morning of the 10th September, 1960, hot metal and slag started coming out through the shell on the left side of the tap-hole of the first blast furnace at Rourkela. The hot metal flowed down the shell of the furnace and through the runner. It continued to flow for nearly an hour. The furnace was immediately shut down and repair work was started.

The repair work was completed on the 15th September, 1960 and the furnace was put on wind the same day.

The break-out was possibly due to an air gap in the lining through which air might have penetrated and burnt part of the carbon block. Another reason might be that the furnace was not fully dry after tapping. The loss in production on account of the shutdown is estimated at about 4,500 tons.

SHRI SUDHIR GHOSH: Does the Minister realise that while the production loss or financial loss in such a case is rather insignificant, as this is a big job, the real damage is the reduction in the life of the blast furnace? A blast furnace, once it is lighted, goes on burning for 7, 8 or 9 years. It is very unusual for it to be shut down in this manner and if that happens, its life can be reduced to half its normal life. I want to know if the Minister realises it and, if so, what steps has he taken to ensure that this sort of thing does not happen in the future?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am not a technical man. I will pass on his comments to the local people. He himself had been the Senior Deputy General Manager in the same plant.

SHRI SUDHIR GHOSH: If I was there at that time, certainly, I would not have allowed this to happen. My purpose is not to apportion blame but to avoid the recurrence of this in the future. Was it or was it not a fact that this happened because the blast furnace was not really ready to be fired and all the auxiliary services were not ready and has the Minister taken steps to ensure that in the future no plant Manager is permitted to commission any unit of a steel plant, for the sake of kudos or publicity, unless it is really ready to be commissioned and thus avoid damage to national property?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, the first part is denied and the second part is a suggestion for action.