

MEMORANDUM FROM SKILLED TECHNICIANS OF ROURKELA

*490. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any memorandum during November/ December, 1958 from the skilled technicians of the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited, at Rourkela; and

(b) if so, what are the main points raised in that memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum was received from the skilled technicians on the 8th December, 1958.

(b) The main points raised in that Memorandum were the delay in the fixation of scales of pay and individual salaries in the scales, finalisation of terms and conditions of their service and non-availability of suitable accommodation for married and unmarried persons.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know what the Government has done in that respect?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is not a matter for the Government. It is a matter between the Steel Corporation and the employees.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Does the Government propose to refer the matter to the Steel Corporation?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They are already seized of it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government is aware that in the Rourkela area, in the matter of technical 'know how', certain discriminatory policies are being pursued as against the Indian personnel?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir. That is not correct.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of certain grievances in this regard being expressed by any section of the Indian employees and whether they are also being reported in certain documents by the semi-official bodies?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, this was a question about the trainees. If the hon. Member could specify any particular demand for any particular section of workers, I could certainly collect the information.

1-JUNGLE CLEARANCE IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

*410. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure per acre incurred by the Forest Department, Andaman Islands on jungle clearance for colonisation purposes in Middle and North Andamans for each of the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58;

(b) the cost of clearance per acre at which a contract has been given to M/s. S. Govindarajulu & Sons for clearing 400 acres; and

(c) the reason for the large disparity and increase in the Department's cost year after year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know what the target of general clearance is during the Second Five Year Plan and the acreage of land which has been cleared already? If the hon. Minister has got this information, I shall be obliged.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: This does not arise out of this question.

-(•Transferred from the 3rd March, 1959.