

the proposal for erecting two refineries was put at all?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I could not follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether the proposal for building two refineries was put to this firm of consultants?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: This along with other questions was before them for consideration.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: May I know who runs this refinery?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The refinery is not there in existence now.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: But it will come into existence. Let us know who is going to run it.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Government will run the refinery.

*282. [The questioner (Shri S. Panigrahi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1541-1542 infra.]

*283. [The questioner (Shri Maheswar Naik) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1542 infra.]

EME OFFICER TO U.K. FOR TRAINING IN REPAIR AND UPKEEP OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

*284. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an officer of the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers has been sent to the United Kingdom for training in the repair and upkeep of artificial limbs; and

(b) whether a course for training Army personnel in the repair and upkeep of artificial limbs has been started at the Artificial Limb Centre, Poona?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Limb-maker courses, which include courses for the repair and upkeep of artificial limbs, have been started at the Artificial Limb Centre, Poona, for Army personnel of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps, with effect from 1st April 1958.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, what is the annual purchase of artificial limbs in India by the Defence Ministry?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The capacity of the Centre is 150 limbs per month. I am afraid I have not got the figures for the purchase, but I believe this is very nearly fully utilised.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether ~~the period for which the~~ artificial limbs are training will be given in India at the Poona Institute?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: There are two courses run at the Centre. One is limb-maker, metal and wood; capacity is 10; duration is twenty-eight weeks. The other is limb-maker, leather and fabric; capacity is 5; duration is twenty-six weeks.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether artificial limbs are manufactured in India or are imported from outside?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: These are manufactured in India, Sir.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I ask whether the Artificial Limb Centre at Poona is exclusively for the use of army personnel or can civilians also take advantage of the facilities?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: It is primarily meant for the army personnel, but as and when there is surplus capacity there, civilians also are taken in. I would like to add that, not only that but, people from Burma and Ceylon also have sometimes taken the benefits from this Centre.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I also ask whether, in view of the excellent

work that is being done in the Artificial Limb Centre at Poona, the Defence Ministry would consider the establishment of similar centres in other parts of the country?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: That is a suggestion which we shall consider.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether any co-ordination is there between this Centre and the other orthopaedic centres that are being run by the civilian hospitals in Bombay?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: This is the only Centre of this type in India; as a matter of fact—I might say—in the whole of South-East Asia this is the only one of this type; the others are orthopaedic centres which are not concerned with this.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, whether the finances provided to run this institute are enough for its needs?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: That is what the Ministry thinks.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: I have visited this institute twice and I have seen its working, which is very nice. But they are handicapped for want of sufficient finance. Is that so?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Well, Sir, I too have visited the Centre and I am going to visit this Centre, I think, in October, and if anything of that type is found, I shall certainly look into it.

PROGRESS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE THREE STEEL PLANTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

*285. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state the progress so far made in the construction of the three steel plants in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Recapitulation.—In the First Five Year Plan were included expansion and modernisation of the then existing works in Jamshedpur and Burnpur, to raise the production of saleable steel from a little over one million tons to 1.63 million tons and a completely new integrated iron and steel works in the public sector with a capacity of half a million tons of ingot steel. Halfway through the Plan it was realised that earlier estimates of requirements of steel would be considerably exceeded. A very rapid survey in 1954 suggested that the country would require 4.5 million tons of finished steel, equivalent to six million tons of ingot steel, by 1960. TISCO and IISCO came forward with proposals for further extension of their works. These were accepted. There was still a gap of approximately three million tons to be bridged. For this it was decided that the first steel plant (Rourkela) in the public sector should have, even initially, a capacity of one million tons. Two other works each with a capacity of a million tons were also to be set up. Difficult as it then was to get foreign collaboration, an agreement was signed with two German firms, Krupp and Demag, in December 1953 for technical assistance in putting up the plant in Rourkela. A detailed project report was received in November 1955 and orders placed for coke ovens and blast furnaces by April 1956. Orders for the other sections of the plant were placed six months later.

Making use of the data which had been prepared in the investigations for the first steel plant and from the experience of negotiations, a somewhat different arrangement was entered into for Bhilai and Durgapur. In Bhilai almost the entire plant and equipment is to be supplied by the U.S.S.R. which will also provide drawings and technical men for supervision of construction. In Durgapur