

(a) whether Government have decided to establish small units of steel plants in the States in the South; and

(b) if so, what are their details?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, licences have been given to three applicants to put up small low shaft furnaces for the production of pig iron.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What will be the capacity of these plants and where are they to be located?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Government have decided that small plants for producing pig iron up to a maximum of 15,000 tons per annum may be permitted to be put up in the private sector. Licence has been granted to one firm, Messrs. Textool, Coimbatore, for the setting up of a small plant using low-grade coal. Applications of two other firms, Messrs. Kalinga Industries and Messrs. Sundararajan Co., Ltd., for setting up low shaft furnaces in the South, both at Salem, have also been approved. Three applications for setting up small units in the South are under consideration—(1) Messrs. Harischandra Prasad Tunku, Andhra Pradesh; (2) Messrs. Ramakrishna Industrial Private Ltd., Salem and (3) Mr. M. Kuppaswamy Naicker, Bangalore.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether any representation has been made by the Andhra Pradesh Government to locate especially these steely plants near and around Kistna, Khammam and Warangal Districts where iron ore is found in abundance?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not remember, Sir, having seen any such representation or suggestion from the Andhra Pradesh Government.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Can the Minister state the capacity of production of these small units that are to

be started in these various places and whether they will be enough to meet the requirements in our country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I did give an indication of the maximum permissible limit of production of pig iron by these small furnaces in the private sector as 15,000 tons per annum. As to whether the pig iron that is pre-duced in all these will be enough to meet the requirements of that area is doubtful because metallurgical coal is not available in that locality and the big, integrated unit of the type that is being put up in the coal-iron ore belt of the Eastern part of India cannot be economic unless science "advances.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: In the case of the two permits that have been given for Salem District, may I know whether any condition has been attached that they must get foreign collaboration for investment and machinery?

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

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know if it is not a fact that recently high-grade metallurgical coal was found by a survey of the Andhra University students in and around Bhadrachallum area and whether it is not a fact that Machkund electricity could be used for the production of steel?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Whether any metallurgical coal has been discovered by students of the Andhra University or not, I do not know. But I would be very pleasantly surprised if they have, and I would like to congratulate them if that turns out to be correct, if it is found somewhere either round about Singareni or anywhere in the South. So far, the indications are that metallurgical coal is not available in that locality.

INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF STORES FOR THE ARMY

*107. SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the paragraph

under the heading "Investigation for Establishing Indigenous manufacture of Imported Stores" on page 24 of the Brief Statement of Activities of the Ministry of Defence during 1957-58 and state:

(a) whether any further steps for increasing indigenous production of items of stores and equipment for the Army are under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, which existing units are being expanded or utilised for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) There is a continuous effort on the part of Government to step up indigenous production of defence stores with a view to attaining self-sufficiency. A Defence Production Planning Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Defence Minister to study *inter-alia* the whole field of defence production and to prepare a phased plan for the establishment of indigenous manufacture of vital items of Defence stores with a view to achieving self-sufficiency as early as possible. The Committee has already submitted its preliminary report, and the recommendations are under implementation.

(b) Besides the above the Government have already sanctioned a number of proposals for modernisation expansion of the Ordnance factories which would result in increased production. Certain other proposals are now in an advanced stage of finalisation.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether the Defence Production Planning Committee has submitted its report and if so, what are the details of the report and how much time will it take for them to put those recommendations into actual practice?

13 RSD—2

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: It has already been stated in the statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha that the Planning Committee has already submitted a preliminary report and that the report is being implemented to the extent it is capable of implementation.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What are the main recommendations of that Committee and which part of them is going to be implemented?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: In so far as the report deals with shortages, I do not think it will be in the public interest to disclose it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know whether the manufacture of indigenous stores is on the increase or . . .

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: I do not quite follow the question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know whether the manufacture of indigenous military stores is on the increase or the conditions are static?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Definitely on the increase, Sir.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Sir, during the war, several plants were installed in our ordnance factories for the manufacture of items like acetone and sulphuric acid. May I know, Sir, if the full installed capacity of these plants is being utilised at present?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: I would require notice in regard to any particular factory.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, to what extent we shall become self-sufficient as far as our stores are concerned, by implementing these recommendations? Is that also secret?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, the object is to attain self-sufficiency. And it will be appreciated that in a matter like this it will also depend

much on the general and overall industrial development of the country.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: To what extent are we going to be self-sufficient?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: As much as possible. Sir, it is very difficult to say whether it is going to be cent, per cent, or 90 per cent, or 80 per cent, or any other specific percentage.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Will this House be enlightened as to what is meant by 'indigenous stores'?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Stores which are manufactured in this country.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Sir, several thousands of employees in these ordnance factories were thrown out of employment owing to curtailment of production in this country. May I know whether in view of our expansion programmes these men are being taken in again?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Our policy has been wherever possible not to order any retrenchment, but to see how far they can be absorbed in the expanding scheme of things.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: May I know, Sir, how much of foreign exchange has been saved by this indigenous production?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Well, Sir, it would be rash for me to state any figures, but I would say that we are endeavouring to save a lot of it.

VISIT OF A CANADIAN DEFENCE COLLEGE GROUP TO INDIA

*108. SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Canadian Defence College Group is visiting India; and

(b) if so, what is the purpose of the visit of the Group and at whose invitation it is visiting the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) Yes. A party of sixteen officers from the National Defence College, Canada, visited India during the period 15th April to 21st April 1958.

(b) Tours to foreign countries are arranged for the students of the National Defence College as a part of the course. The visit to this country was agreed to at the request of the Government of Canada who made all the arrangements for the tour.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: May I know whether any students from India were sent to Canada also in exchange of these people?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I would require notice for that question. This was in regard to the visit of the Canadian Defence College students to India.

DR. R. B. GOUR: What are the facilities that the Government of India provided to these gentlemen, and what was it that they were shown in this country?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: They visited Raj ghat, Alipur Community Project, Agra, Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Akbar's Tomb. And besides that, they were given some lectures. One was delivered by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, one by Shri S. K. Dey, the Minister of Community Development, and one by the Defence Minister.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Am I to understand that they were not shown round any of our defence installations and they came here only for that visit?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: As I said, Sir, visiting foreign countries is a part of their course, and they visited India as a part of that programme, and the programme was arranged at the