

**OFFER FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO SET UP
SUGAR REFINERIES IN INDIA**

*141. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Czechoslovakia has offered to set up three sugar refineries in India;

(b) if so, what are the terms of that offer; and

(c) whether the location of these refineries has been decided upon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether there is any proposal to put up refineries in India?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The question was considered in 1954 when we wanted to raise our target from 15 to 20 lakhs and further to 25 lakh tons but afterwards applications were pouring in for the establishment of additional sugar factories and we think that with the additional licences that have been granted, we will be able to reach the target.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any other country has offered to establish refineries in India?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No country has offered.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the present number of refineries we have in India?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There is no sugar refinery in India.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not possible to change over these factories into refineries with slight modifications?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We don't want and the State Governments have strongly opposed it.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not possible?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is not necessary.

**PROCUREMENT OF RAILWAY MATERIALS
FROM ABROAD**

*142. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that members of the Railway Board visited some foreign countries to expedite the procurement of railway materials required for the Indian railway development programme;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the visit; and

(c) what is the nature, volume and value of railway materials for which negotiations are being made?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) A Mission has been deputed abroad in connection with the procurement of steel for the railways.

(b) and (c). The negotiations are in progress and have not been completed.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know for what materials exactly the Mission has gone abroad? May I know whether the indigenous material is not sufficient for our development?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The actual position regarding steel in the Railways is as follows: For the Second Plan we require about 24 lakh tons of steel out of which 70 per cent has to be imported. Our requirements during the first year of the Plan, that is 1956/57, fell short by 50 per cent. In spite of the best efforts of the Ministry concerned to procure steel, they were able to secure only 50 per cent. of our requirements. The situation became very serious and the Railway Ministry took over the responsibility for procuring steel themselves and that is why we had to send this mission abroad.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Why is it that the normal trade channel was not utilized for the procurement of the material instead of sending Members of the Board direct?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The normal procedure for making procurement was through the Controller of Iron and Steel. He belongs to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuels. He has to do a lot of procurement for other Ministries also and since our requirements were of a very urgent nature, that would have had effect on the success of the Second Plan, therefore, in view of the urgency of the situation, we were asked by the Ministry to take over the procurement ourselves. That is the situation.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know the number of persons included in this Mission and the cost likely to be incurred on this mission?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The number of persons is not very large. I think they were about 5 persons. The Head of the Mission is Mr. Mushran and he is accompanied by 3 or 4 people. The total cost will not exceed Rs. 90,000 at the very outside.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that Japan has offered very large quantities of steel at very competitive prices and that more can be supplied by them?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: One of our Members is also visiting Japan. They are contacting all manufacturers of steel and of course all of them will meet together, and compare tenders. It will be more or less like global tenders and we will accept the lowest tender.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि ये लोग कौन कौन से देशों में गए हुए थे ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : वे तमाम देश जिनसे हम लोहा, स्टील खरीदते हैं, मसलन, फ्रांस, इंग्लैंड, हॉलैंड और उबर से वैस्ट जर्मनी, यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स । शायद एक आध मॅबर जापान भी जायेंगे ।

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether this sum of Rs. 90,000 includes the salaries of the members who have been sent abroad?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It does not, Sir.

SHRI TRILOCHAN DUTTA: Is the purchase to be on a deferred payment basis or on the basis of downright cash payment?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Negotiations are still going on. As the hon. Member knows, recently an agreement has been signed in our Mission abroad to secure about 90 million dollars as loan; it may be that we have to pay out of this loan. But nothing is definite yet.

वस्तुओं की क्षति और उनके गुम होने के सम्बन्ध में रेलवे प्रशासन के विरुद्ध दावे

*१४३. **श्री किशोरी राम :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५५-५६ में वस्तुओं की क्षति पहुंचने और उनके गुम होने के सम्बन्ध में प्रत्येक रेलवे प्रशासन के विरुद्ध कितने मूल्य के कितने दावे हुए ; और

(ख) अब तक कितने दावे निपटाये जा चुके हैं ?

†[CLAIMS AGAINST RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR DAMAGE AND LOSS OF ARTICLES

*143. **SHRI KISHORI RAM:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and value of claims regarding damage or loss of articles made against each Railway Administration in the year 1955-56; and