

**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.