

ernment has received no letter from one or the other of these two companies?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not understand as to why the hon. Member should feel that the only source of information is a letter. There are other ways of knowledge.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know that there are many other sources. That is my fear also. Therefore, I ask which is that particular source from which he got that information?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have nothing to add to what I have already stated. The factual position is already fully stated. I do not think it necessary to disclose the source of that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do I understand that the source is something which cannot be disclosed on the floor of this House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the present, apparently.

EXPANSION PROGRAMME OF TATA IRON AND STEEL CO. LTD.

*207. **DR. RAGHUBIR SINH:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the expansion programme proposed to be effected by the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. in the near future;

(b) on what terms this expansion scheme has been agreed to by Government;

(c) what is the approximate total cost of the machinery and equipment that will have to be imported for this expansion programme; and

(d) by what time the expected increase in the production of steel by this concern will have been effected?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No special terms have been stipulated.

(c) About Rs. 37 crores.

(d) By June 1958.

STATEMENT

1. The expansion programme of Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. envisages increase in capacity for the following items:—

1. Coke Ovens.
2. Blast Furnaces.
3. Steel Melting Shops.
4. Calcining Plant.
5. New, Blooming Mill.
6. New Sheet Bar and Billet Mill.
7. Rail and Structural Mill.
8. New Medium and Light Structural Mill.
9. Merchant Mill.
10. Skelp Mill.
11. Wheel, Tyre and Axle Plant.
12. Sleeper Plant.
13. Steam and Power.

2. After the expansion, the production capacity will be 1.5 million tons of saleable steel per annum.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: With reference to the statement placed on the Table of the House, I wanted to know what is item No. 5 described as "New Blooming Mill"?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: A mill which produces steel blooms.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, with whom these arrangements for expansion and supply of all this additional machinery have been arrived at by the Tatas?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Tatas will buy their machinery from various sources. The consultants are Kaisers of U.S.A.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has given a

guarantee about that loan of Rs. 37 crores to the Tatas?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: May I know whether it is more economical to finance the expansion of existing iron and steel plants than to start a new one?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: That is a hypothetical question. Anyway we are doing both expansion of existing plants as well as new plants.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: The contention has been that it is more economical to finance the expansion of existing concerns than to incur a huge expenditure on starting new plants.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Up to a point. A plant up to two million ton capacity is economical under present circumstances.

SHRI T. BODRA: May I know, Sir, if more lands will be required for this expansion?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government has given any financial assistance for this expansion? If so, on what terms the assistance has been extended?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: A loan of Rs. 10 crores has been given to the Tata Iron and Steel Company on terms of bearing interest from the date of production.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether before giving this financial assistance to the Tatas, the Government went into their internal finances in order to find out whether the Tatas could get their money from their own sources?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Of course. They find the entire money from internal resources; they get from the market and their internal sources as well.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM SCIENTISTS FOR VISITING U.S.S.R. AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

*208. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government have received any applications for the grant of passport and financial assistance from a group of scientists to visit the Soviet Union and the East European countries?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): No.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Does the Government consider any applications too?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The hon. Member has not indicated the field of activities in which the proposed delegation of scientists will be interested during their visit.

*209. [For answer, vide col. 1203 infra.]

CONFERENCE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

*210. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the Central and State Governments held a Conference in Delhi in connection with the Damodar Valley Corporation, in January, 1956;

(b) if so, what was the agenda of the Conference; and

(c) what decisions were arrived at in the Conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) No, Sir.

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