

Necessary steps are being taken to acquire a suitable site for installation of the Receiving Centre.

(b) The transmitter of the Indore Station will be of 20 kilowatt power, medium wave, and will operate on a frequency of 650 kilo-cycles.

(c) We hope to finish the work during the current financial year.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know what will be its service range?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: The primary service range will be within 50 miles radius and satisfactory service will be available at night time within 250 miles radius.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know what are going to be the important features in the local programme of this station?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The usual ones?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: It is too early yet to prepare the programme structure of the station; the work will be taken up a couple of months before the station opens.

ERECTION OF SECOND STEEL PLANT

*563. SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has offered assistance in regard to the second steel plant proposed to be erected by the Government of India;

(b) if so, what are the terms of such assistance;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether any negotiations have been started with any other country in connection with the erection of the proposed second steel plant; and

(d) what is the site selected or proposed for that plant?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) and (b). A few weeks ago the Government of India came to know that the Soviet Government would agree to supply machinery and equipment as well as technical assistance for the setting up of a steel plant and, further in this connection they were willing to send at their own expense a team of experts to make a study of the conditions in India and to examine relevant aspects in the matter of establishing a new steel plant. Subsequently, we had some discussions with the Soviet authorities and in the light of those discussions a decision has been taken to invite a team of specialists from the Soviet Union to visit India in the beginning of November this year for studying the technical and other aspects of the project in collaboration with our specialists.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The discussions which have taken place so far have been only of a preliminary nature and no proposals pertaining to the selection of site have been considered.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister had assured the Madhya Pradesh Government to erect the second steel plant in Madhya Pradesh?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Well, Sir, I gave no such categorical assurance of the kind that the hon. Member is assuming; but naturally the claims of Madhya Pradesh will have to be considered because there are undoubted facilities there for the establishment of a steel plant.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What was the source of the information that the Government got? The hon. Minister said that the Government came to know that there was such a Russian proposal. What was the source of this information? Was it officially sent to the Government of India?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It does not matter from which source the information

came; but the Government came to know about it, and if the hon. Member is curious to know, I may just add that it came from a private source.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I explain and add to what my colleague has said? Originally there were some talks between some Indian industrialists and some representatives of the Soviet trade agencies on this subject. The Indian industrialists informed us of these talks and thereupon we approached the Soviet Ambassador to find out what the exact position was; and subsequently the talks have been with the representatives of our Government.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the reports in the press about the terms and conditions that might have been applied to Russia in the matter of erecting this steel plant? Is there any truth in the reports as published in the press?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Various reports have been published in the various newspapers and I cannot reply definitely as to which of those reports are correct.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But with regard to one or two of the terms and conditions, as for example that the Russian Government would

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But Mr. Ghose, the answer to part (d) of the question is that it is still in a preliminary stage.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But there are the terms and conditions which the Government must be considering now, they must be considering certain proposals which must have come to Government. Do these proposals include these conditions, as for example that the Russian technicians would work here free, that the rate of interest charged will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have no such information at least.

I have been connected with my colleague in this matter and I have no recollection of these percentages and all that. The whole point was that Russian technicians would set up this plant and that a considerable credit would be allowed for repayment and that the rate of interest will be low. These are the broad features of it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The whole thing is in a preliminary stage. Next question.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But has it come to the knowledge of the Government

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I have called the next question.

71 PRODUCTION OF POTASSIUM CHLORATE

*564 **SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms in India producing potassium chlorate and the aggregate installed capacity of those firms, and

(b) the quantity of potassium chlorate produced annually in India?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) There are two factories in India producing potassium chlorate. They appear to have capacity of about 2,300 tons per annum.

(b) Year	Tons
1952	1,872
1953	1,953
1954 (January-June)	662

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask whether the Government have got an estimate of the annual requirement of this material?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The annual requirement of this material is on the increase because I think our production of matches is on