

negotiations for the starting of a second iron and steel plant are in progress. May we have any further information?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: We are planning the setting up of a second steel plant. No negotiations have started.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether it is proposed to undertake in this new plant the manufacture of boiler plates more than six feet in width and also of main slab frames of standard size?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is too big a question and I should like to have notice to answer it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has not any suggestion in this matter been submitted to the Government by some engineers engaged in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have no information.

PASSPORTS ISSUED FOR TRAVEL ABROAD

*368. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

a) how many persons were granted passports during the last six months by Government for travel abroad:

(b) the number of persons from each State;

(c) how many Members of Parliament are included in this;

(d) how many applications for passports were rejected; and

(e) how many Members of Parliament were denied passports for travel abroad and why?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a), (b) and (d). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

(c) and (e). As no separate record is kept of passport applications received from Members of Parliament, it is not possible to furnish this information.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: When an application is made by a Member of Parliament surely the Government does come to know and when it is rejected there must be very, special reasons. Government ought to have the information as to in which cases and when and for what reasons such applications have been rejected. May I know the position, Sir?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There are 28 passport issuing authorities in India, apart from every foreign embassy issuing it. Of course, I can trace the fact by enquiry in regard to this number but no records are kept of Members of Parliament as such and each individual case will have to be traced. Possibly in regard to one or two cases one may easily find out the number and remember it. If the House wants to know the exact figures I could not possibly give it without elaborate enquiries.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: The information that I want is whether the State Governments have complete discretion in the matter of issuing passports to Members of Parliament or whether they ask for advice or direction from the Central Government in case they propose to reject any application.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No. The final authority rests with the Government of India, but normally the Government of India accept the State Government's advice or recommendations in the matter, or, to put it differently, the State Government normally functions except when the Government of India overrules them and asks them to function otherwise.

PROF. G. RANGA: May I take it then, Sir, that in very extraordinary circumstances a State Government or the Union Government refuses to give

a passport to a Member of Parliament and if and when a State Government, wishes to refuse to give a passport to a Member of Parliament, will a specific statement be sent up to the Government of India for their final answer?'

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, naturally. I do not quite understand the last part of the question.

PROF. G. RANGA: Will a State Government have the final authority to decide whether or not to give a passport to a Member of Parliament? Then it would become very unfortunate indeed for a Member of Parliament to be at the mercy of the State Government.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The State Government cannot be the final authority because the Government of India can issue the passports straight off, but these things are normally done in a co-operative way by the State Governments and normally the Government of India will accept their views in the matter.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether 'abroad' includes Jammu and Kashmir?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that only very recently two Members of this House have been refused passports; and, if so, why?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I know of one certainly but I do not know whether it was one or two. It is not merely a question of, say, refusing passports 'in the air' but the particular purpose for which they are asked for makes a difference too.

SHRI O. SOBHANI: In case, Sir, a State Government refuses to give a passport to a Member of Parliament is it open to him to appeal to the Government of India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: "Yes.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: The Prime Minister said "that depends upon the purpose for which the passport is applied for". May I know whether passports are allowed for study tours?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: If it is a desirable purpose it should be encouraged.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know then why Shri Imbichibava was denied a passport when the purpose of his tour was to study abroad?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Imbichibava's application for a passport abroad was rejected and he says that it was intended for study, perhaps, your intention was that he should qualify himself better in a foreign language.

(Laughter.)

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have not got the reasons why that particular passport was rejected and so I cannot answer that question. I can find out the reasons for it and what the gentleman asking for the passport had said and what the State Government had said.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What are the purposes which the Government of India do not consider as desirable?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I may say that normally of course passports are issued. The Government of India consider the purpose undesirable when they know definitely that the person wanting to go abroad will make anti-national propaganda to run down his own country in a foreign country. That as number one. The second is that a person, if he is a visitor, can go. But there has been a tendency for a considerable number of people to go at other people's expense, at foreign expense.....

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: At other countries' expense.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, at other countries' expense. We have no objection to that happening