

Grow More Food Campaign was being pursued by this Government ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : We did not send many.

SHRI B. RATH : How many mechanical engineers were sent for training ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : If they were sent from the Agriculture Ministry under the G.M.F. scheme, I have no information about the number.

SHRI B. RATH : Is it a fact that the engineers who were sent for training under the G.M.F. schemes were sent specially to learn about the repair of tractors and water pumps and such other machinery used in agriculture ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : I would require notice.

SHRI B. RATH : Is it not a fact that two of the mechanical engineers were sent from Orissa for this training ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants notice, he says.

SHRI B. RATH : Is it a fact that these two engineers who came after their training were not utilised in the Hirakud Dam project ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : As I submitted, if they were sent out by the Agriculture Ministry, I have no information and I would require notice.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : The question seems to be that if these engineers are there specially trained on Government expense in regard to irrigation and power, why they were not employed on this project.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : The engineers who were available in Orissa will have been employed. If they were specially trained for any purpose, they must have been employed in that job.

INDO-SWISS SYNTHETIC STONE FACTORY

*137. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the plans to set up an Indo-Swiss Synthetic Stone Factory in South India ;

(b) if so, which are the firms involved in this venture and what are the terms of their agreement ;

(c) what are the total authorised and issued capitals of this firm ;

(d) what are their production plans ;

(e) whether this agreement was entered into with the help of the Government of India ; and

(f) what facilities have been provided by the Government of India or the State Government concerned to set up this factory ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Messrs. Coromandel Produce Corporation, Madras, have collaborated with Mr. J. F. Hoffer and his colleagues in the Swiss company—Messrs. Sarusa, S. A. Bodio. A statement containing the main terms of collaboration is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Rupees thirty-five lakhs.

(d) Manufacture of rough and finished synthetic stones.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Consent for the issue of a capital of Rs. 35 lakhs required for the project has been given. A licence for the import of capital goods of the value of Rs. 28,50,000 has also been granted. Details of assistance which the Government of Madras might have given in the form of building materials, land, electricity, etc. are not known.

STATEMENT

- (i) All the plant and machinery now installed in the Swiss factory will be transferred to India along with some key experts.
- (ii) The Swiss partners will hold 49 per cent. of the shares of the new company and the balance of 51 per cent. shares will be subscribed in India. The total issued capital will be Rs. 35 lakhs.
- (iii) The estimated cost of erecting the factory in production order is Rs. 35 lakhs. The contribution of the Swiss partners, i.e., Rs. 17,15,000 will be adjusted in the value of the plant and the balance of Rs. 17,85,000 to be subscribed locally will be transferred to Switzerland in convenient instalments beginning with the first instalment of Rs. 6.75 lakhs in order to enable Mr. Hoffer to release the Swiss firm from all its obligations there.
- (iv) The Swiss technicians will be responsible for the successful working of the factory. Indian technicians will also be trained, in due course.
- (v) Mr. Hoffer will accept all just and reasonable terms and conditions regarding percentage of profits transferable to Switzerland etc. as may be agreed upon by the Government.
- (vi) Marketing will be done by the Swiss partners who will have the advantage of established connections. No commission is to be paid to them on this account.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether there is any definite agreement here as regards the training of Indian technicians ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, the usual ones.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it any special kind of stone which will be produced by this synthetic stone factory ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, it will be synthetic stone.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Would it be possible to build, say a mountain with stones from this factory ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : As regards building a mountain, I require notice.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Is this stone meant for export purposes or to meet our internal requirements ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : At present it is for meeting internal requirements, but if we produce more than is needed for our internal use, then naturally we will export the products.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : May I know whether we have so much run short of natural stones that we should now go in for synthetic stones ?

(No answer.)

MANUFACTURE OF DIESEL ENGINES

*138. DR. R. B. GOUR (on behalf of SHRI V. K. DHAGE) : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Indian company proposes to start the manufacture of diesel engines in India ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what is the name of the company, when will it start production, and what will be its total capacity ?

(c) Is it an Indian venture, and, if not, what is the percentage of foreign capital invested in it ?

(d) What other help is the concern getting from foreign sources, and on what terms ?

(e) What was the value of diesel engines imported into India during the past three years ?

(f) To what extent will Indian manufacturers save foreign currency reserves when production of diesel engines starts in India ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) :