

is increasing and I am not in a position to give the details of it just now.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the Government is aware that the ferro-manganese manufacturers have entered into sales agreement with another corporation in America for the sale of ferro manganese in the United States?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Some of these firms have entered into an agreement for the sale of ferro-manganese to America. Actually every effort is being made to increase our export of ferro-manganese not only to the United States—most of it of course goes to America—but to other countries also.

Alloy and Tool Steel Plant

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*396. { **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shrimati Masida Ahmed
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 2287 on the 7th May, 1959 and state

(a) the details of Indian talent and resources to be utilised in the setting up of the Alloy and Tool Steel Plant,

(b) who are the foreigners entrusted with the job, and

(c) whether any Indian consultants and technicians have been associated with this job?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c) The possibility of entrusting the preparation of the detailed project report and subsequent detailed designing of the plant—services generally provided by the Consulting Engineers—to an Indian Firm is being explored and it is hoped that a decision would be taken shortly.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the reason that there has been such

a long delay? This matter has come up so many times.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Initially we were thinking of engaging a foreign firm, but some Indian firms also showed interest and we had to examine their credentials and their capacity before we could take a final decision.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know within what time the project will be sanctioned, and at what stage it is?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think after this matter is settled the preparation of the project report might take anywhere from 7 to 8 months, after which the erection will take another 2½ to 3 years.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The whole thing is under discussion now. I would like to know when the project is going to be sanctioned.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If that satisfies the hon lady Member, she can presume that there is a sanction, because after that sanction we are at the next stage of engaging a firm who will prepare the project report.

Shri Morarka: May I know which are the foreign firms that are competing for this job, and whether in any one of them some of the directors of the Hindustan Steel Private Limited are interested?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as foreign firms are concerned, they are from U.K., France, Poland and one or two others. I am not aware if any director of the Hindustan Steel is interested in any firm. If the hon Member has got that information he might pass that on to me even if he does not want to say that on the floor of the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Book on Museums in India

*388 **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and