

(b) if so, whether any passports are necessary for such visitors?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) In a statement to the Press on the 29th December 1955, the Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi said that pilgrim parties from India would be free to undertake pilgrimages to Nankana Sahib at all times of the year without having to take prior permission from the Pakistan Government. The High Commissioner also said that there would be no limit on the maximum number of persons who could comprise a pilgrim party but that the minimum number should not be less than 10 to enable the authorities to provide necessary facilities for reception and accommodation.

(b) Pilgrims to Pakistan will require Indian passports and Pakistani visas.

श्री राम दास : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह जो रियायत ननकाना साहब के मुताल्लिक है यह दूसरे धर्मों के जो पूजा स्थान हैं, उनके मुताल्लिक भी है ?

May I know whether this concession is open to the places of worship of other religions also?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : This is only for pilgrimages to Nankana Sahib.

Shri Ram Dass : May I know the special reasons why this concession has been shown only to one place of worship and not to the others?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : I am unable to assign any reason for this particular concession.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : It is not a question of one place ; one place was dealt with, and they gave the concession. It does not mean necessarily that the others have been excluded for the future. Each case may perhaps be taken up when it arises.

CEMENT FACTORY

*668. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether Czechoslovakia has agreed to supply India with complete equipment for a cement factory ;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement ;

(c) the place where the factory will be located ; and

(d) the approximate capital required for that?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) to (d). There has been no such agreement on a Government to Government basis. Government have, however, been informed by Messrs. Assam Cements Ltd., Calcutta, whose scheme for establishment of a cement factory at Cherrapunji has been approved by Government, that they have entered into a purchase contract with a Trade Corporation in Czechoslovakia for purchase of cement making machinery and for assistance in its erection. The cost of capital equipment is estimated at Rs. 1 crore.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know what will be the approximate production capacity of the factory, when it goes into full production?

Shri Kanungo : It will start with a capacity of 200 tons a day, which will be doubled in course of time.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether the agreement arrived at between the two parties concerns only the supply of equipment and machinery, or whether the Czechoslovakian partly will also invest some capital in this factory?

Shri Kanungo : It relates only to supply of machinery.

Shri G. P. Sinha : May I know whether any other European country has also offered such facilities for a cement factory, and whether the Government of India have approached some of the European companies?

Shri Kanungo : We have not approached any country, and no one has made any offers.

Shri K. P. Tripathi : May I know whether the supply of equipment will

be guaranteed by Government, either Central or State?

Shri Kanungo : No, Sir.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether in the matter of the selection of the site, the firm consulted also the Central Government?

Shri Kanungo : The licence is granted by a Licensing Committee which takes into consideration all factors including the location of the site.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav : May I know the propriety of selecting Cherrapunji for the location of this factory?

Shri Kanungo : Cherrapunji is in Assam, where the demand for cement is increasing.

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

*669. **Shri Shree Narayan Das :** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been finalised between the Government of India and a British Company for a steel plant at Durgapur; and

(b) if so, the important features of the agreement?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 8.]

Shri Shree Narayan Das : From the statement it appears that only a broad agreement has been reached. May I know the time by which details of the agreement would be available?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : As soon as the heads of agreement are signed, I expect I shall be able to place the details of the agreement before the House.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : From the statement we find that a syndicate of British banks, and the Government of United Kingdom have agreed to give credits. May I know whether the terms

and conditions of repayment of this loan have been decided upon?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Broadly, in regard to the repayment of the credit extended by British banks, they have been decided upon, but no final agreements have been arranged. So far as the British loan is concerned, the answer is, no.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know whether participation in the capital is contemplated by any British concern in the Durgapur steel plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : No.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty : In view of the very high bank rate prevailing in England now, have Government gone into the entire question as to whether this is the best loan agreement which we should enter into?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : It is expected that by the time we take advantage of it, the bank rate in Britain would come down.

Dr. Rama Rao : What is the exact rate of interest that we are agreeing to pay on this loan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : There are two loans. One is by the bank syndicate and it would be on the basis of the bank rate plus a percentage. So far as the loan that is given by the British Government is concerned, it would be at the rate they borrow plus administrative charges.

Shri Kajrolkar : Is there any material difference between the Rourkela agreement and the Durgapur agreement? If so, what is it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : The Rourkela agreement is a totally different type of agreement and therefore, it must differ in all material aspects from this.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether Government have come to any conclusion regarding the supply of tools and machinery by the British interests? If so, what will be