

that would be saved by setting up these agencies?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid, have not understood the question

Shri Subodh Hansa rose—

Mr. Speaker: Shri Samanta

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether new designs will be adopted in all governmental activities as the designs and standards that are being followed now have become almost obsolete?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The whole question is under examination. There are different types of buildings and the needs are also of a varied type. The whole question is being studied by a team.

Shri R. C. Majhi: May I know whether these agencies have already been established, if so, how many?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no designing agency at present except in the Central PWD where they have their own organisation for making designs.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether the Central Designs Organisation is only meant for designing houses or does the Planning Commission also envisage the setting up of a designs organisation for plants and machinery of any particular industry?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): We are not now dealing with any organisation for considering designs for setting up plant and machinery. That, if I may say so, is outside the purview of the activities of my Ministry. That it is necessary, of course, is not open to question. I would like to say that the question of preparing new designs, going in for new specifications and the examination and utilisation of proper materials in order to economise in construction has been continuously under the examination of this Ministry as also other concerned Ministries including the perspective Division of the Planning Commission. Naturally,

we have intensified our activities, and so far as my Ministry is concerned we have circulated a paper to all the other Ministries which deal with construction of one kind or another, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. We have circulated our views to the various Ministries. We have received replies from all of them and we are in the final stage of being in a position to submit a paper about this subject for the consideration of all the agencies concerned. It is hoped that it will be possible for us to do something more active in this direction. Meanwhile, as I said already, this is a matter which has been continuously under the examination of the Government.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Deputy Minister referred to economy in construction materials—in an answer to an earlier question. I want to know whether Government have any specific schemes for economising cost of timber by the substitution of non-conventional timber for conventional timber in their construction work?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is it?

Mr. Speaker: It cannot be explained now.

Electrolytic Copper

+

*3. { Shri S. C. Samanta.
Shri Subodh Hansa

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) what progress has so far been made to manufacture Electrolytic Copper in the country, and

(b) how much Electrolytic Copper is imported every year?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Electrolytic Copper is not manufactured in the country at present. M/s Indian Copper Corporation Ltd., Ghatsila, are the only manufacturers of copper in the

country. Their product, however, is of the fire-refined variety and their annual capacity is 7,200 tons. This firm was granted a licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 to manufacture electrolytic copper, from out of its production of fire-refined copper, with an installed capacity of 8,400 tons per annum. The firm has not so far finalised the details of the programme for the manufacture of electrolytic copper.

(b) Figures of import of electrolytic copper for 1957 and 1958 (January to October) are as follows:—

Year	Quantity	Value
1957	32,750 tons	Rs. 11,48,79,576
1958 (upto October)	25,511 tons	Rs. 6,61,00,093

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that the import price is very high. May I know whether Government is thinking of manufacturing electrolytic copper in the public sector?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The question is really about blister copper and copper ore. As the House is aware, except in the Ghatsila mines and some prospecting in Khetri mines, we have not been able to locate copper deposits.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Messrs. Indian Copper Co. have asked for any financial help to begin the work?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir; they have asked for the foreign exchange required for this plant; and, as already mentioned in the statement, the matter is under active consideration.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Is it a fact that the Indian Copper Corporation has been granted a licence for manufacturing electrolytic copper? May I know when this licence was granted and whether they have taken any further steps?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All that is included in the statement. Actually,

the Ghatsila people are manufacturing blister copper from copper ores. It is only the electrolytic copper that they have proposed to take up recently. And we hope that within the next few months, their preliminaries would be finalised and they would start also the import of necessary plants for manufacturing electrolytic copper.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the acute shortage of copper and the necessity to import copper, may I know whether the Government has considered the desirability of setting up an electrolytic copper refining plant in Kerala where cheap electricity is available?

Mr. Speaker: This is a suggestion for action.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: May I know what is the requirement of the country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It comes to about 35,000 tons of electrolytic copper and 25,000 tons of blister copper.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement we find that we import as much as Rs 10 crores worth of electrolytic copper. May we know whether steps will be taken for the production of the same as indicated in the statement during the current year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The basic question is the availability of copper ores before any indigenous production of copper could be considered. The present effort is to proceed geologically in as many areas as possible around Khetri and areas in Sikkim. If deposits are located, Government will consider the installation of indigenous capacity for the manufacture of copper.

Shri Goray: Yesterday the Address of the President referred to certain copper mines. Does it refer to existing ones or does it refer to new ones?

Shri Manubhai Shah: One is the Ghatsila mines which is existing and the others are Khetri and Sikkim which are being proceeded with. No. major deposits are estimated.