

हैं। मैंने उस मिनिस्टर से भी बात की और उन्होंने मुझे बताया कि वे कभी भी वीमार नहीं हुए हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय हमें बतायें कि आया इस रिपोर्ट के ऊपर वह इस सेशन में या अगले सेशन में इसकेशन करवायेंगे और अगर इस सेशन में वह नहीं करवा सकते हैं तो क्या वह ऐसी कोई एम्प्लॉयर्स दे सकते हैं कि अगले सेशन में उम पर विचार होगा ?

श्री शिव नारायण (वासी) : गवर्नमेंट हर साल जब सेशन बन्द होने का होता है यह एम्प्लॉयर्स देती है कि इसको जरूर अगले सेशन में लिया जाएगा। जब आप स्पेशल सेशन करने जा रहे हैं तो क्या आप उस सेशन में हरिजन रिपोर्ट पेश करेंगे ?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : बिना मिनिस्टर से पूछे मैं कुछ जवाब नहीं दे सकता।

श्री कपूर सिंह : वीमार है या नहीं ?

12.32 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: BOKARO STEEL PROJECT

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the Bokaro Steel Project.

The House has been showing great concern which I also share about the financing of the Bokaro Steel Plant, particularly with reference to assistance from foreign countries towards the cost of equipment to be imported.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are all talking. I do not find that they are interested in listening to it. He may lay it on the Table of the House.

Some Hon. Members: No, no, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Nobody is listening. They should also listen to it. It is

such an important matter but they are talking among themselves without listening to the statement.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Now at least they may listen.

As the House is aware, after we had withdrawn the request for assistance for this project from the United States of America, we had planned to float global tenders on the basis of specifications drawn up by our consultants. Our intention was that on the basis of the successful tenders, we should negotiate credit from various countries. Steel plant manufacturers in various countries had shown considerable interest to participate in the tenders. We were also exploring the possibility of securing collaboration from U.S.S.R., who have extended large scale assistance to us in a number of Heavy Engineering, Electrical and Steel projects.

I have great pleasure in announcing for the information of this House and the country that the Government of the U.S.S.R. have now expressed their willingness to assist India in the building of the integrated Bokaro Steel Plant. The first stage of the project is intended to produce 1.5 million tonnes of ingots and will have a built-in provision for expansion to produce 4 million tonnes ultimately. The assistance which U.S.S.R. has now offered will be for building the first stage of Bokaro upto 1.5 million tonnes of ingots. Credit will be provided on the same terms as has been provided for building the Steel Plant at Bhilai.

Further technical details have to be worked out and a contract entered into. For this purpose a team of Soviet experts will be coming over here soon.

I take this occasion to express our thanks to the Government of the U.S.S.R. for having so readily come forward to assist us in building this national project which is of such vital importance to the growth of our country's economy. U.S.S.R. has been

[Shri C. Subramaniam].

of great assistance to our country in the planning and building up of basic industries. I am confident that in many more such projects to come, we can count on their friendly assistance.

I take this opportunity also of expressing my thanks to the various other countries who have shown keen interest in assisting Bokaro. As a matter of fact, as I mentioned earlier, some tentative proposals have been put forward for our consideration by private steel building interests in U.S.A., U.K., Japan, France, West Germany and Italy. I want to inform these friends abroad that Bokaro is not the only steel project which we propose to build in the immediate future. It is our intention to explore the possibilities of utilising these friendly offers to build other steel plants which are under study at present.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): In view of this statement, we would like to know whether this assistance would be only assistance in terms of credit or it would also mean technical assistance.

Mr. Speaker: These details can be worked out later on.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: This is not a detail; this is a matter of broad approach.

Mr. Speaker: Can the Minister reply to this at this stage?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Technical assistance to the extent necessary will be made available by the USSR.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): By what date the plant would go into production?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Just now they have made the offer of assistance which we have accepted and now other details will be discussed when the Soviet experts come over here.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): May I know if the work on the 5th steel plant will be taken up now?

Shri C. Subramaniam nodded assent.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni): May I know whether the terms offered by the USSR are more favourable in the matter of interest, etc. compared to the offer from other places such as France, USA, etc.

Mr. Speaker: This might be taken up later.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What about my question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He has nodded his head.

12.38 hrs.

COIR INDUSTRY (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Manubhai Shah on the 30th April, 1964, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coir Industry Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

Shri Maniyangadan may continue his speech.

Shri Maniyangadan (Kottayam): Sir, I welcome this Bill. Coir industry is a very old and very important industry in Kerala. It is perhaps an industry which gives employment to the largest number of people there and that is why I congratulate the Minister for bringing this measure to improve its present condition. It is true that there was a slump in this industry for a pretty long time...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Some hon. Members think that this is the Central Hall or the Lobbies. They do not even realise that something is