

the last one year. Will the hon. Minister assure that whatever the work may be, whether small or big, the normal procedures that should be adopted will be adopted. Even after adopting it, you can get the work done quickly. Will the hon. Minister see that it does not happen hereafter?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, the H.S.C.L. always functions with many sub-contractors. They give a tender and the sub-contractors' rates are less than H.S.C.L.'s own tender. Therefore, there is no question of not tendering or giving them any exorbitant price or having any corruption whatsoever.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: There may be others who are prepared to...

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: H.S.C.L. is the main contractor which tenders. The H.S.C.L. has got the main contract. For expediting the work they must choose the firms on which they have confidence. But neither you nor I can interfere or should interfere because you want the job to be done at tendered price.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Employees working in Bhilai Steel Plant and Posts lying Vacant

*511. **SHRI MOHAN BHAIYA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total number of employees working in Bhilai Steel Plant and Department-wise details thereof and the number of posts lying vacant there at present; and

(b) the action taken so far to absorb in operation the employees working in the Construction Department of Bhilai Steel Plant and the manner in which and the time by which this work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The total number of employees working in Bhilai Steel Plant department-wise as on the 1st February, 1978 is as below:—

S No	Department	Total Number of employees
1.	Work.	29,781
2.	General Administration	3,602
3.	Township	6,122
4.	Mines	9,259
5.	Construction	5,461
		54,225

At present, there are about 1000 posts which would be filled up in due course as and when the need arises.

(b) The process of absorption of construction workers in operation department or making them regular/permanent in construction department itself with all attending benefits as for permanent workers, is a continuous one. Such an absorption is being done regularly depending upon the studies carried out on manning of posts, progress in expansion work and suitability of candidates etc.

The present position is that out of 5461 construction workers, only 114 are temporary/casual.

Use of Hindi in Indian Embassies

*512. **DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the official work of the Indian Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates is proposed to be done in Hindi which is also the Official Language of the Union;