

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Monday, August 4, 1986/Sravana 13,
1908 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the notices of Calling Attention etc. that we give, are required to be submitted before 10.00 A.M., but the gatekeeper does not allow our man to enter and as such our work comes to a standstill. I want that box to be placed outside the gate.

MR. SPEAKER : You may come to me and discuss.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You have got all opportunities to come and talk over. That is not to be talked here in Parliament.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please arrange to place one box each at our residences.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, it is your property; do as you please.

Shri Manik Reddy.

Shri Raghuma Reddy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Modernisation of Non-Ferrous Metal
Industries

*244 SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY† :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND
MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to modernise non-ferrous metal industries in the country;

(b) if so, the names of industries likely to be modernised under this programme; and

(c) how much foreign exchange is likely to be saved as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI
RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). A
Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Hindustan Copper Limited has two schemes of debottlenecking/modernisation of the smelters and refinery at Khetri Copper Complex (Rajasthan) and of Indian Copper Complex (Ghatshila, Bihar) to stabilise production. Hindustan Zinc Limited has two schemes of modernisation at the Lead Refineries at Tundoo and Vizag and the Zinc Smelter at Vizag. Cominco Binani Zinc Limited in the private sector are proposing to modernise their Zinc Plant at Binanipuram.

(c) The implementation of the above modernisation schemes would raise the current levels of production of copper by about 9,300 tonnes per annum which would otherwise have been toll smelted abroad. In the case of zinc and lead, the estimated

increase in production would be 2,300 tonnes and 4,400 tonnes respectively per annum.

At the ruling international prices, the value of the above anticipated incremental production would be Rs. 20 58 crores.

SHRI M RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the total expenditure incurred on the modernisation programme referred to in (a) and (b) of my Question under public and private sector ? When do they hope to complete the modernisation ? Is there any time-frame fixed ? Has any provision been made in the Budget and in the 7th Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K C. PANT) : Sir, of these projects, some of these are in the conceptual stage and some are under implementation. Now, I have the figures for consultancy fees. In the K.C.C. Smelter of the HCL, it is Rs. 25 lakhs; KCC refinery, it is Rs. 21 lakhs; ICC smelter, it is Rs. 25 lakhs; and ICC refinery, it is Rs. 45 lakhs.

These are the figures I have. I do not have the figures for the total projects. I do not have the figures for the private sector.

So far as the schedule dates of completion are concerned, KCC Smelter June, 1988; KCC Refinery June, 1988; ICC Smelter September, 1988 and ICC Refinery, September, 1988; ICC Concentrator and Tailing Disposal, August, 1988; and Precious Metal Recovery Plant at ICC August, 1988.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : The gap between the consumption and the production is very wide.

With regard to copper, during 1984-85, the demand is 1,09,000 tonnes; production is 52,000 tonnes and the import is 56,000 tonnes.

With regard to zinc, the demand is 1,31,000 tonnes; production is 79,000 tonnes and import is 51,000 tonnes.

Lead also, the demand is 61,000 tonnes, production is 46,000 tonnes and import is 35,000 tonnes.

When is the Government going to be self-sufficient with regard to production of

non-ferrous metals, how much time will they require, what is the total cost of import and what is the cost to the exchequer ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : As far as I can see, we may not be entirely self-sufficient either in copper or zinc or lead in the foreseeable future. Part of the reason is that our copper ore is of very low grade and it is a point for consideration whether we should exploit it at very high cost or import relatively cheaper copper because other countries, some of them, are exploiting much richer ores. At what cost to exploit our own ore or at what stage is a matter on which a perspective view ought to be taken.

So far as zinc is concerned, we have come across very good deposits of zinc and lead. We are today exploiting about 5% ore zinc—this is almost 14-15%. That is a much better ore and, therefore, we will be able to go in for cost effective production of zinc. It will be cheaper than what it is today. That is a project for which only recently Government has decided to go in for a full project report on the basis of which the project can be implemented. That is a decision taken very recently and after that, we will be very much nearer to the point of self-reliance in zinc. Even at that stage, I cannot say we will be 100% self-sufficient.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What about lead and aluminium ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : So far as lead is concerned, lead comes along with zinc and, therefore, when we have zinc smelter, we shall see how much lead we get. It depends on the ore body. Therefore, I will not be able to pinpoint precisely when we will be able to reach self-sufficiency in lead. But my suspicion is that even in lead we will not be self-sufficient.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What about aluminium ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The position is that after NALCO goes into production, we ought to have surplus of aluminium in the country. That is by 1988-89, we should be surplus both in alumina and aluminium and we will have to find markets for our alumina and aluminium.