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SOURCE Kazakhstanskaya Pravda.

KAZAKH SSR INCREASES METALLURGICAL PRODUCTION;
 LEAD AND COPPER INDUSTRIES LAGGING

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The metallurgical industry of the Kazakh SSR fulfilled the postwar Five-Year Plan as follows: blister copper, 100.5 percent; zinc, 113.2 percent; ferroalloys, 109.2 percent; steel, 108.2 percent; nonferrous rolled products, 100.7 percent; rolled steel products, 106.5 percent; copper ore mining, 102.1 percent; nickel ore, 104.1 percent; chromite ore, 113.9 percent; manganese ore, 111.2 percent; tin concentrates, 117 percent; procurement of ferrous metal scrap, 100.8 percent. Production of nonferrous and rare metals considerably exceeded the prewar level. However, the Kazakh metallurgical industry as a whole, and especially the lead and copper industries, are seriously lagging behind the demands of national economy, mainly because of the delay in starting new enterprises and the inadequate utilization of production capacities in existing enterprises.

During 11 months of 1951, the republic completed only 87.3 percent of the plan for copper smelting. Not a single enterprise of the copper industry (with the exception of the Irtysh Plant and the Uspenskiy Mine) was able to fulfill the plan.

The over-all production plan for lead smelting was not fulfilled by the republic during 1949 - 1950. During 11 months of 1951, the plan for lead smelting was fulfilled 100.3 percent by the Chimkent Lead Plant and 84.3 percent by the Leninogorsk Lead Plant.

Despite the equipment of mines with modern machinery, mechanization of labor, especially of underground mining operations, is still on a low level and efficient mining methods are not used sufficiently. Concentration plants in enterprises of the lead industry are permitting great losses of metal in the concentration of ores.

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Enterprises of the rare-metals industry fulfilled the Five-Year Plan successfully, but lowered the level of their work during 1951.

Ferrous metallurgy enterprises are continuing to speed up production of steel, rolled steel, ferroalloys, chromite and manganese ore; many of these enterprises, including the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant, the Aktyubinsk Ferroalloys Plant, and the Donskoye and Dzhezdy mine administrations, are meeting their production quotas.(1)

The Aktyubinsk Ferroalloys Plant began to operate during World War II. The plant has made considerable progress during 1951 and has by now reached or even exceeded the production level of the Chelyabinsk Ferroalloys Plant. However, much still remains to be done to utilize all production reserves of the plant. Ferrochrome produced by the Aktyubinsk Plant is much more expensive than that produced by the Chelyabinsk Plant. This is due to the fact that coal, limestone, and quartzite for the Aktyubinsk Plant have to be hauled from a long distance. It is urgently necessary to exploit the local deposits of brown coal and limestone. Ferrochrome produced in Kazakhstan should be the cheapest in the USSR.(2)

The further development of nonferrous metallurgy to a point where it would satisfy all the growing demands of national economy is one of the most important tasks of the Kazakh SSR's party organization. The first step would be to eliminate in as short a time as possible the lag in the lead and copper industries and to guarantee fulfillment of production plans for the mining and processing of ore and for smelting of lead and copper. In the copper and lead industries, construction of new enterprises must be speeded up, existing production capacities must be completely utilized, production techniques must be regulated, and losses of metal must be eliminated. The mines must meet their production quotas with regard to copper content of the ore. By complete mechanization of mining operations and introduction of more efficient labor methods, labor productivity in mines, concentration plants, and metallurgical plants must be increased considerably. The large turnover of workers in the copper and lead industry should be eliminated.

The lead industry must create a raw-material base, so that it would be unnecessary in the future to ship lead ore from other republics.

As regards to ferrous metallurgy in the Kazakh SSR, steel smelting and production of rolled steel and ferroalloys in existing plants must be further increased.

Capital construction in the Kazakh metallurgical industry is far from meeting current demands. The Fourth Five-Year Plan and the 1951 plan for capital construction were not fulfilled. The "Altaysvinetsstroy" (Altay Lead Mine Construction) Trust improved its operation slightly; however, the "Leninogorsk-svinetsstroy" (Leninogorsk Lead Mine Construction), "Zyryanovskstroy" (Zyryanovsk Mine Construction) and "Mirgalimsaysvinetsstroy" (Mirgalimsay Lead Mine Construction) trusts are lagging considerably.(1)

SOURCES

1. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 16 Dec 51
2. Ibid., 19 Dec 51

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