

LOK SABHA

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*Wednesday, March 5, 1969/  
 Phalguna 14, 1890 (Saka)*  
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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
 of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

भिलाई इस्पात कारखाने में कर्मचारियों की  
 सख्या

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\*271. श्री बलराज मधोक :

श्री रामस्वरूप बिद्यार्थी :

क्या इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरिंग  
 मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1956 में रूस  
 ने भिलाई इस्पात कारखाने की तरह का  
 रूमानिया में भी एक इस्पात कारखाना  
 स्थापित किया था और भिलाई इस्पात  
 कारखाने तथा रूमानिया के कारखाने में  
 कोई अन्तर नहीं है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है  
 कि रूमानिया के इस्पात कारखाने में केवल  
 4800 कर्मचारी हैं जबकि भिलाई इस्पात  
 कारखाने में 30,000 कर्मचारी कार्य कर  
 रहे हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इस बात पर  
 भिलाई इस्पात कारखाने में काम कर रहे  
 रूस के 60 अथवा 70 इंजीनियर चकित हैं ;

(घ) क्या सरकार का विचार भिलाई  
 इस्पात कारखाने के संचालन के लिये केवल  
 4800 कर्मचारियों तथा इंजीनियरों को  
 रखने तथा शेष कर्मचारियों की छुट्टी करने

तथा उन्हें कहीं और नौकरी देने का है ;  
 और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND  
 HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M.  
 POONACHA) (a) and (b) : We have  
 no information of the Steel Plant set up  
 by Russia in Rumania and it is, there-  
 fore, not possible to compare the number  
 of employees. Bhilai Steel Plant, how-  
 ever, have 25,487 employees in the  
 Works.

(c) The number of Russian experts in  
 the Works is 47, as on 31.1.1969.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The number of employees would  
 have to be based on work study, taking  
 into consideration all factors obtaining in  
 India and this study has not been com-  
 pleted.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : The hon.  
 Minister has stated that the works study  
 has not yet been completed. This plant  
 has come into existence fifteen years back  
 and during this period no such study has  
 been made. May I know whether it is a  
 fact that according to international  
 standards, in the plants which have been  
 set up in the last fifteen years of com-  
 parable size, an average of 7,000 employ-  
 ees are engaged for a plant for produc-  
 tion of one million tons of steel whereas  
 for the Bhilai steel plant in India, which  
 has a capacity of 2 million tons,  
 as the hon. Minister has just now  
 stated, we are employing 24,000  
 workers, which mean more than  
 12,000 employees for one million ton  
 capacity? Secondly, is it also not a  
 fact that the inventory and stores spares  
 that we have in Bhilai is double the  
 inventory and spares of comparable size  
 plants in other parts of the world, which  
 means more capital investment and less  
 profit? May I know if anything has  
 been done, or will be done, to bring  
 down the number of employees and stores  
 in Bhilai plant to the level of similar  
 plants elsewhere in the world?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** That is our endeavour. On the face of it, I also feel that the employment of labour is rather on the high side and every possible effort should be made to reduce the manpower engaged there in relation to production. Now we have a programme for expanding the capacity of the Bhilai steel plant. So, the works study will also be related to the future developmental programmes that we have in view. Our idea is to absorb the existing manpower to meet the proposed increased production programme. As regards spares and other things, they have no direct relation to the employment of labour. But I do understand that we have heavy inventory balance with us. That is a separate matter altogether.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** May I know whether it is a fact that recently a study team came from Russia, led by Mr. Skachkov, which expressed great dissatisfaction at the working of the Bhilai plant, saying that it is not working to proper capacity and that it is working very inefficiently? Have they made some suggestions for improving the working of the Bhilai plant? Similarly, Shri Chenna Reddi, the previous Steel Minister, also made some suggestions. May I know what action has been taken on the recommendations made by Shri Chenna Reddi and the Russian team? Then, it has been said that a suggestion has been made by the Russian team that we should write off part of the capital that has been invested in the Bhilai plant so that if there is less capital shown on the books, even if the profits are less the public can be beguiled and deceived by showing a better return on the capital invested. May I know whether any such suggestion has been made by the Russians and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government to that suggestion of the Russian delegation?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** The review of the working of the Bhilai steel plant by the Russian delegation along with our experts was in the matter of technical efficiency, productivity and utilisation of manpower. Discussions were carried out on these specific matters and certain suggestions and recommenda-

tions have been made. We are now examining these suggestions and recommendations of or necessary follow-up action. As regards the reconstruction of the capital structure, it is a separate matter altogether. This point was not made out by the Russian delegation. We ourselves have taken up this issue. It is under examination. But I must say that we have not yet considered it in all its aspects. We will look into this matter as to whether the reconstruction of capital formation is warranted or not.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** What about the Chenna Reddi Commission's report?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** Mr. Chenna Reddi led a delegation to U.K. That is with regard to the Durgapur Steel Plant. This question relates to Bhilai plant.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** It concerns all the Steel Plants.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** He gave suggestions to improve the working of all the steel plants.

**श्री रामस्वरूप विद्यार्थी :** चन्ना रेड्डी साहब का डेलीगेशन ब्रिटेन में स्टील प्लांट्स के बकिंग को स्टडी करने के लिए गया था जिस वकत उन्होंने स्टडी किया, उस वकत उस में भिलाई प्लांट हो या और कोई खास प्लांट हो, वह बात नहीं थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ जाकर उन्होंने क्या स्टडी किया और क्या सैजसज दी ?

क्या यह हकीकत नहीं है कि यहाँ जितने कर्मचारी हैं, उन में सुपरवाइजरी कैपेसिटी में जो काम करते हैं उनकी गिनती बहुत अधिक है और जो हाथ से काम करते हैं ओर जो टैक्नीशियन हैं, उनकी तादाद बहुत कम है ?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** The Chenna Reddi Commission went to U.K. to examine certain problems with regard Durgapur Steel Plant. After Delegation from U.K. came over here, they had joint discussions without officers and they visited the Plant. They have given their suggestions mostly with regard to the improvement of Durgapur Steel Plant.

As regards the number of employed in various steel plants, I must admit again the fact that, on the face of it, the number looks to be rather on the high side.

**SHRI RAM SWARUP VIDYARTHI :** I am, particularly, asking about the supervisory staff. The supervisory staff is more than what is required.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He admitted it.

**श्री रामस्वरूप विद्यार्थी :** असल में बात यह है कि जब यह प्लांट चला तो कुछ अफसर उन्होंने लगाये। उन्होंने अपने रिश्तेदारों को वहां भर लिया। जब रिश्तेदार भर लिये गये तो उनको चपड़ासी भी चाहिए और और लोग भी चाहिए और उनको रख लिया गया। इस स्टील प्लांट में एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव स्टाफ जितना है उतना और किसी में नहीं है। इस वास्ते में पूछ रहा था कि सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ ज्यादा है या नहीं और ज्यादा है तो कितना ज्यादा है ?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** We are now on the question of labour employed in the works. As regards the total number, no doubt, we have the man-power engaged in the works and also labour employed in general administration and the township. We have a big township also. If that is the point the hon. Member wants to know, I have got separate figures as regards the people employed in the general administration of the works and the township.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Supakar.

**SHRI RAM SWARUP VIDYARTHI :** The administration of the Bhilai plant.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** May I know when the works study was streamlined since the Bhilai plant was first undertaken and how long it is in the process of that works study and secondly, may I know whether efforts have been made to set up subsequent steel plants with our own engineers, the fabrication and everything of it, without the help of outsiders and, if so how far that ideal has been achieved during the last 12 years ?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** The H.S.L. has a unit which is now currently doing the research in the engineering development. They are now working out the designing of plant within the country. The Heavy Engineering Corporation is also set up to produce heavy engineering equipments as designed by the H.S.L. unit of Designing and Engineering. This programme is partly being translated into action with reference to Bokaro. For Bokaro, some portion of the equipment would be Indian-made, produced in H.E.C. by our engineering talent and its capacity will progressively be developed with a view to set up complete steel plants in the country in future.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** The first part of my question regarding the process of steamlining the plant has not been answered.

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** I would like to have notice for this. I do not have the information right now.

**श्री महाराज सिंह चारती :** जब भिलाई परियोजना बनाई गई थी, तो उस समय भी यह निर्णय किया गया था कि इस में 25,000 आदमी काम करेंगे। यह बात उस परियोजना का अंग थी। उस परियोजना में यह भी निर्धारित कर दिया गया था कि कितने आदमी किस काम पर लगाये जायेंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 25,000 आदमी-यों का जो लक्ष्य तय किया गया था, वह विकास की अन्तिम सीमा के लिए था, या विकास के वर्तमान चरण के लिए था। यदि उस लक्ष्य के हिसाब से आज वहां पर ज्यादा कर्मचारी हैं, तो उस के लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है और इस बारे में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** These are matters regarding certain detailed working of the steel plant, the overall functioning. That is to say, in certain respects, mechanical handling, loading and unloading and all these things were envisaged on the basis of which the manpower utilisation was worked out at

a lower figure, but later on, when actually we were going ahead in the conditions that prevailing in our country, we had to engage more of manpower in big operations like mining, loading, unloading and other things which resulted in additional number of bodies being employed.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** I would proceed on three presumptions. The first is that steel which enters in the production of all our manufacturing units should sell at the lowest price ; our price is 70 per cent or more above the world price. The second presumption is that idle labour and idle capacity add to the cost of steel. The third presumption is that you must remove the bottlenecks soon as possible first in respect of idle labour and idle capacity. I want to ask two questions. The first question is why Bhilai is not working at more than 50 per cent of its capacity. The second question that I want to ask is whether, in respect of the Bokaro unit which is to be established, you will see that the idle labour in Bhilai and other steel factories is transferred there.

**SHRI C.M. POONACHA :** Bhilai's capacity is being utilised more or less to the expected level of 70 to 76 per cent. We have certain shortfalls because the orders placed on Bhilai's production were not of the order to utilise the full capacity. Now we are catching up and I am sure that the capacity of Bhilai will be sufficiently utilised to the extent possible.

As regards the idle labour or excess labour that we have, this is no doubt a fact as it appears today. We are making every effort to see that the full capacity is utilised and all the excess labour that is employed is employed for production.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** Can he give an assurance that no new labour will be employed in Bokaro and that the idle labour in Bhilai and other steel factories will be transferred there ?

**SHRI C. M. POONACHA :** We have taken a decision not to recruit any additional labour.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWI-  
TEDY :** Is it not a fact that not only

Bhilai but all the steel plants in India, including the private sector plant of Tata have surplus labour which is because of the inherent conditions prevailing here ? I would like to know whether the Government has any plan to phase this programme of development of excess labour in such a manner that there will be no retrenchment and they would be absorbed in expansion and other schemes of the Government.

**SHRI C.M. POONACHA :** That is the view that we have taken. There would not be any retrenchment as such and we would deploy them to other units where there is scope to absorb additional labour.

#### Wagon Industry

\*272. **SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA :**  
**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :**  
**SHRI HIMATSINGKA :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the wagon industry in the country is languishing under the impact of shrinking orders for Railway wagons and whether the orders are expected to touch the low level of 9,000 only during 1969-70 as against 16,000 for the current year ;

(b) the precise idle capacity in this industry during 1967-68 and during 1968-69 so far ;

(c) how for the idle capacity for 1969-70 is likely to increase ; and

(d) the steps which are being taken by Government to ensure maximum use of installed capacity ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
PARIMAL GHOSH) :** The industry have adequate orders commensurate with their actual performance. For 1969-70 also, the orders proposed to be placed will give them adequate load.

(b) The industry could not even complete the orders available on them during the year 1967-68 within the stipulated delivery period although the orders were well within the overall installed