

12.53 hrs.

INDIAN COPPER CORPORATION (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM)

Mr. Speaker : Sir, I move**

"That the Bill provide for the taking over, in the public interest, of the management of the undertaking of the Indian Copper Corporation Limited, pending acquisition of that undertaking, be taken into consideration.

The House is aware that of all the metals in our country today, copper is possibly the most crucial non-ferrous metal with a wide range of industrial and technological uses. The gap between demand and domestic production is around a lakh of tonnes and our present imports of copper put us in the red to the extent of about Rs. 60 crores. It is this that is the most important fact that has to be kept in consideration when we have to think about the future of copper production in our country. It is also a very important fact that the only copper producing unit in our country today is the Indian Copper Corporation with an annual capacity to produce copper of around 10,000 tonnes.

The production of copper in 1971 has been 9,600 tonnes and the target originally, that is to say, prior to the taking over of the Indian Copper Corporation, was 13,500 tonnes or so. Hon. Members are aware that in the public sector for quite some considerable time we have been trying to build up a copper industry. It has run into a number of difficulties in the past but now we are confident that we have put it on to a stable

basis and we shall be able to achieve the targets that we have put before the country.

The present position is that the Khetri project will have ultimately a capacity of 31,000 tonnes. But it will go into production so far as the concentrator is concerned, in early 1973, and so far as the smelter, the production of actual copper metal is concerned, in 1974. Earlier, there were substantial delays in achievement of targets. But during the last 18 months, we have had a much better record and the Government is confident that we will be able to keep up to the level of production that we have put before ourselves.

Now, apart from the Khetri project, we have also got a project at Rakha which is very near the Indian Copper Corporation mining area—it actually adjoins that—and we are aiming at the Rakha project to go upto a production of about 1000 tonnes of ore per day equivalent to about 4000 tonnes of copper metal per year. This is in the first phase of Rakha project and, later, we are going for a much bigger and more ambitious programme for Rakha project, the second phase, which we are planning on the basis of preparation of proper feasibility and project reports.

These are really the three areas where we are now advancing fairly fast in copper production. In addition, there is the area in Andhra Pradesh in Agniqundala. Finally, there is an area which we seek to develop for copper production which is probably the richest area, that is, in Malankhand in Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh.

The Indian Copper Corporation has recently completed the installation of a new modern Flash Smelter with a production capacity of 16,500 tonnes a year. That

* The following Members also recorded their votes :

AYES : Sarvshri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh, M. C. Daga, T. Sohan Lal, Biren Engti and Giridhar Gowango.

NOES : Prof. Madhu Dandavate and Shri M. Muthuswamy.

** Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Smelter has run into some teething troubles during the last few months. But the technologists who are working there are confident that we will be able to get over these difficulties and achieve maximum utilisation of that Smelter.

Apart from this, the Corporation has also got its old Reverberatory Smelter. It is able to produce about 10 000 tonnes of metal a year. This is a part of the background.

Another significant fact which I would like to place before the House before I go on to explain what were the particular considerations that moved us in this area is that the Indian Copper Corporation is mining at present possibly the richest copper ore available in the country. Because they wanted to keep its profits at the highest possible level, quite naturally from the point of view of a private sector organisation, it was maintaining a cut-off grade so far as copper ore is concerned of over 1.8 per cent and an average milling grade of over 2 per cent.

Our objective naturally is to make the maximum of copper reserves. Hence, in the Hindustan Copper project, in Khetri, where we are already mining and where we are collecting all the ore for putting it into the concentrator which comes into production at the beginning of next year, we have an aim to achieve a cut-off grade of something like 0.5 per cent. This underlines the force of comparison of cut-off grade of 1.8 per cent so far as the Indian Copper Corporation is concerned with the cut-off grade of 0.5 per cent which we are aiming at in Hindustan Copper project. There is no doubt that in the Indian Copper Corporation also we have to reduce the cut-off grade to only 0.5 per cent so as to conserve our copper resources. This means we are able to utilise a far larger quantity of ore though the expenditure on mining may be more and, therefore, the cost of copper metal ultimately will be more. But in view of our very limited production of copper and heavy dependence on imports, the amount of money that we have to, as it were, waste on importing copper, there can be no doubt that we should reduce our copper cut-off grade in the Indian Copper Corporation also and bring it ultimately, in stages, somewhere near

the cut-off grade in Hindustan Copper project at Khetri—that is to say, 0.5 per cent cut-off grade that we have got in Hindustan Copper project. That is one aspect which moved us to take over the Indian Copper Corporation.

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The second is that the present mining reserves of the Indian Copper Corporation, that is to say, the reserves of ore within the mining lease of Indian Copper Corporation, will only permit them to mine for 15 years or so. Naturally the company came forward and asked us to give them a mining lease over the adjoining block, i.e., Siddeshwar Block. But the Hindustan Copper which is already mining or rather planning to mine in the Rakha Project in that area had also applied for the same block—that is to say, the release of Siddeshwar Block, because for the future development of Rakha Project, this block was also of substantial importance. The only way by which we could achieve integrated development of the mining of copper in that area was by putting these two together, that is to say by bringing both the Indian Copper Corporation mining on the one hand and the Hindustan Copper mining in the Rakha Project on the other under a single umbrella, and that obviously, could only be done if the Indian Copper Corporation was taken over. It was really in his background that the decision to take over the Indian Copper Corporation was taken. By taking it over, we should be able to integrate the exploitation of copper reserves in the entire Singhbhum area, at present the most valuable area so far as copper ore is concerned bring it under a single authority, and by new and judicious investments of a fairly substantial character which we are still working on after the take-over of the Indian Copper Corporation, we should be able to make much better use of both the Flash Smelter which is installed in the Indian Copper Corporation newly as well as the old Reverberatory Smelter which the Indian Copper Corporation was not even going to use in the coming period of the next five to ten years. I am confident that as a result of the take-over we should be able to push forward copper production at a much faster rate. Our original programme was, in 1972...

MR SPEAKER: Would he like to continue after Lunch?

[Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam]

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : We adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2:00 P. M.

13:03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER—in the Chair)

INDIAN COPPER CORPORATION (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT BILL)—Contd.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I was mentioning before the House rose for lunch, the targets that we have put before ourselves now after the taking over of the Indian Copper Corporation are substantially higher than the targets which were earlier placed before the Copper industry. Our original idea, prior to take over, was that the 1972 target would be the production of 13,500 tonnes of copper metal. Now, after the take over, we have pushed it up from 13,500 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes, expecting to make up another 1500 tonnes by use of the old smelter that at present is not in operation, but bringing it back into operation within the next few months.

Then, in 1973, the original target was again 13,500 tonnes, but we hope to be able to take it up to around 26,000 tonnes, again, mainly by the proper use of the new flash-smelter as well as by the substantial benefit which we will obtain by bringing the

old reverbaratory furnace smelter back into operation.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : These targets you are referring to were only in respect of Khetri.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : No. I am dealing with both.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There were no targets before now for ICC.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : So far as Khetri is concerned, there is no target for the production of copper metal for the year 1972-73. There is a target for the production of concentrates in the year 1973. The production of copper involves two processes. First of all, from the original copper ore we produce concentrates raising the copper content to 20 or 21 per cent. Then from that, by the use of this smelter, we raise it right up to 99.7 per cent or something of that character and these are the two processes. But, now, what I am talking about is the production of copper metal. I am not dealing with the question of concentrates...

Now, the 1974 production which we originally planned was somewhere in the region of 31,500 tonnes, that is, 15,000 tonnes in Khetri and 16,500 tonnes in Ghatsila, that is in the Indian Copper Corporation smelter etc. Now, we hope to take it to over to 41,000 tonnes which again will be 15,000 tonnes in Khetri and 26,000 tonnes in Ghatsila, the same figure for Ghatsila as in 1973.

Now, I do not propose to go into the figures after that because after the take over we are now engaged in making proper projections over the period after 1974.

But, I have no doubt, we should be able to get up somewhere to the region of 70 to 80 per cent, towards the end of the decade, in respect of our copper production that is necessary for our industries, which is a far cry, I should say, from the present position where we are producing somewhere in the

region of 10 per cent of our needs and perhaps even less.

Now, Sir, so far as concentrates are concerned, we expect that in 1972 we may have to import about 2,000 tonnes of concentrates, but in 1973, as a result of the production of the concentrates in Khetri, we should be able to do without imports of concentrates completely. Then, in 1974, again, we would probably have to import something like 8,500 tonnes of concentrates because the concentrates that are being produced in Khetri will then be used in the Khetri smelter, that is to say, in 1973, the Khetri concentrates will be used in the Ghatsila sector, thereby enabling us to push up the Ghatsila production up to 26,000 tonnes without any import of concentrates. But in 1974, we shall have to import 8,500 tonnes of concentrates which will be used in the Ghatsila smelter while Khetri concentrates will be used in the Khetri smelter. I am giving these figures so that hon. Members will be able to appreciate that the take-over does enable us to push forward copper production pretty fast and certainly substantially faster than was the position prior to the take-over.

So, if I might sum up the objects of the take-over, they are really, firstly, to step up production on a priority basis using the existing industries, having the Indian Copper Corporation as the foundation for that stepping up, secondly the integrated development of the mineral resources as well as metal output by avoiding the artificial lines of demarcation that today exist between or rather that existed before the take-over between the private and the public sectors, particularly in the Rakha area, and then thirdly—this is of great importance—the optimum utilisation of the available managerial and technical expertise for the development of all these copper units in the country, that is to say, the very experienced technologists, Indian technologists who have grown up with the Indian Copper Corporation over the last 25 years will now be available also for developing our copper deposits in the other areas, particularly, I would say, in the new areas like Malanjkhand in Madhya Pradesh and Agnigundala in Andhra Pradesh. Now, the programme, therefore, that we have put before ourselves involves the utilisation of all these persons to the maximum benefit both of the individuals as well as of the

country. Then, we have a mobilisation of economic surplus, and copper production in our country has been rendering much for producing substantial economic surpluses for the benefit of the community as a whole. Finally, there is the ending of the monopolistic control. For, it is not merely the size of the undertaking but the fact that the control of copper production in our country was in the hands of this single company which has been having monopolistic control over raw materials which are of very great strategic importance, both from the point of view of the country's defence and also from the point of view of the development of the country's economy. Here also, we are ensuring that it ends as a result of this take-over. We believe that we should be able to push forward our production very fast now on this basis.

There is another area where I think we shall be able to utilise our existing resources, because there is the silver refinery in Calcutta which is no longer of any great value or use so far as the production of silver is concerned, and we are planning now to be able to take that over and make it into a copper refinery with a capacity of about 6800 tonnes of copper. The cost of converting it, I do not think, would be anything very much more than Rs. 60 lakhs, and we hope that we shall be able to make use of this.

So, I would like the hon. Members to appreciate that this take-over of the Indian Copper Corporation is not just an attempt to take over as it were a very successfully working concern into the public sector but is a crucial part of a plan for the development of the entire copper resources in our country in the interests of the people as a whole.

There is no doubt that while the main concentration for copper production is going to be in Khetri on the one hand and in Ghatsila and Rakha on the other, there are two other places where copper production is being planned, and I would like just to mention them before I finally sit down. The first is in Agnigundala in Andhra Pradesh. There, we have got reserves of over 10.3 million tonnes of lead and 8 million tonnes of copper ore. We hope that we shall be able to start copper production around 1975, producing about 1000 tonnes of lead concentrates per year and about 500 tonnes of copper. This is

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a small project. Then, we have what will possibly be the most valuable copper deposit in our country, that is, in Malanjkhand in Balaga district of Madhya Pradesh. Here also, identified reserves amount to something like 21 million tonnes with an average metal content of 1.16 per cent, which have been proved over a strike length of 800 metres up to a depth of somewhere around 100 metres. We expect that we shall be able to do this, that is, to produce or mine in this area by the open cast method which is cheaper, which we hope also will enable us to start mining much more swiftly than in the more complicated underground mines that we have both in Ghatsila as well as in Khetri where the copper deposits are in smaller strike lengths and rather small in volume also. The reserves already justify the putting up of a concentrator and we are optimistic that further investigations will lead us to the conclusion that a smelter itself can be put in this area.

We hope that with the full co-operation of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, we shall be able to finalise our decisions in this matter within the next six months, and it should not take us longer.

Now, finally, I would say a word about the financial position of the Indian Copper Corporation. The corporation started its life with a paid-up capital of about £2,25,000 in 1924. It was a sterling company when it was born in 1924; it remains a sterling company even today. The invested capital or the subscribed capital rose to £13,00,000 in 1956. And then through the issue of bonus shares, in 1963 and 1967, it now stands, that is to say, the share capital or subscribed capital stands at £25,00,000, or to be exact, at £25,71,888 or somewhere in the region of Rs. 4.60 crores.

The major shareholder in this corporation is the Life Insurance Corporation and other financial institutions who possess about 18 per cent of the shares. Foreign shareholding is only about 2.5 per cent of the equity. We have not yet decided the compensation that is to be paid. In fact, the entire question of the principles that should be followed in determining the payment of compensation, whether it should be in relation to the take-

over of the Indian Copper or the general insurance companies or coking coal is still under discussion, and we shall probably come to a conclusion about that very soon.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Or something new. A new basis can also be found out.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I do not think that I have mentioned that it would be an old basis, I was saying that we were discussing the bases, new or old. The object of the take over ultimately to nationalise the undertaking because we have stated so in the statement of objects and reasons itself. But as hon. members are aware, cl 5 (2) provides for the payment of 75,000 a month as compensation for deprivation of the right of management. Government have been advised that with the Constitution as it stands at present, the right to management is also right to property and therefore, when the right to management is taken away from any individual, in terms of art. 31 of the Constitution, he is entitled to compensation. The accounts of the company show that annually an amount of around Rs. 15 lakhs has been paid as managing agency commission to the managing agents of the Corporation. Since the company is a sterling company, it was open to it to continue the managing agency, and the managing agency has continued upto date. We have, therefore, taken into account the fact that this was managing agency commission paid over all these years running to around, let us say, Rs. 1,25,000 per month, and have come to the conclusion that Rs. 75,000 a month is a reasonable amount in this light.

The main reason for taking over is the speediest and integrated development of the most valuable copper area in our country today, the Singhbhum copper belt, as well as the utilisation of the modern equipment which is there which, together with the investment Government are planning, would enable us to push up copper production fast. I do not want at present to make any commitment about the actual investment we are planning because the takeover has been very recent. But I have no doubt even from the preliminary examination we have made of

circumstances of the Corporation that the resources at the command of Government that can be utilised for the development of copper production are far greater than what a private corporation, the Indian Copper Corporation itself could command, and judicious use of those resources properly invested will undoubtedly lead to a swifter increase in production than originally planned.

Before I sit down, I would just like to mention one point which my hon. friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta, brought to my notice, and that is what he felt to be a somewhat cryptic statement in the explanation placed before the House about the circumstances which had necessitated the promulgation of the Ordinance. In the last paragraph but one, what has been mentioned is :

'The matter has assumed immediate importance in the context of the arrangements to be made by the Hindustan Copper Corporation regarding consultancy for their production programme at Rakha Phase II.'

The reason for us to refer to this was that the Indian Copper Corporation had requested that they be permitted to appoint Powell Duffryn, a British firm, as their mining consultants, for the further improvement and extension of their mining and smelting activities in that area. The Hindustan Copper Corporation however recommended a different consultant for the mining activities in Rakha Phase II which actually is closely adjoining to the I. C. C. area. We did not want to have a number of consultants, one here and one there, and have come to the conclusion that if there is one consultancy agency, it would make for better operation.

As for the question of urgency, as hon. members are aware, matters like taking over a corporation of this character always do assume urgency and we always do have to take them over in this manner because unless we do it this way, it is impossible, quickly to get together all the resources that we have for pushing forward our economic programme in this area.

I move.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the taking over, in the public interest, of the management of the undertaking of the Indian Copper Corporation Limited, pending acquisition of that undertaking, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this measure in so far as this is step towards nationalisation of a monopoly business controlled by foreign capital. Our demand has always been that we should get rid of the stranglehold of the foreign capitalists and of the monopolists over the economy of this country. We feel that such measures should have been brought long ago, not just on the eve of the election which appears to be a vote-catching move.

Sir, the ordinance which was promulgated on the 10th March and the Bill which seeks to replace the ordinance only takes over the management of the concern. We are against legislation by ordinance especially just before Parliament was going to meet. It is not a healthy practice; it is not a healthy Parliamentary convention. If an ordinance was necessary, it could be passed and we could even have welcomed it if it was for outright nationalisation and not a piecemeal provision for a legislation like this which only takes over the management and provides for the payment of large sums of money to the concern for doing nothing in the future.

It is inexplicable why this monopoly concern has not been outright nationalised, and what is the good of taking over this management only, and providing for the payment of huge amounts when the management will cease to manage. We hear that on the basis of their remuneration or whatever the managing agents were earning to the extent of about Rs. 1,25,000 or Rs. 1,50,000 per month, Rs. 75,000 per month has been calculated as a sort of equal or reasonable compensation to be given to the management. But what has this management to do in future. They will have no more function; nothing is to be done by them but only for taking over the management the Government are spending.

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ding money from the public exchequer to the extent of Rs. 75,000 a month.

We have been repeated saying, as we said during the discussion we had when general insurance was taken over, when the collieries were taken over, that the Constitution does not require any such payment to be made. I am saying that under article 31A—the hon. Minister knows it very well—sub-clause (i) (b), it is provided that if an undertaking or a concern is taken over for a limited purpose, it cannot be challenged for violation of article 13, 14, 19, or 31 of the Constitution. We do not understand, if it is necessary to take over the management, why it is not taken over for a limited period then. Why should we take it over when our ultimate object is to nationalise it without mentioning a definite period, and then in supposed compliance with the Constitutional provision, why should we go on making payments which this concern does not deserve? There is no reason at all for making any provision for payment of compensation under Article 31 A (1) and (b) of the Constitution. Therefore, we feel that such a provision as is made in this Bill is meant only for the purpose of surrendering to those vested interests. Probably that is the *quid pro quo* for some benefits received by the ruling party from this monopolistic concern. Our submission is that this is not necessary. The Constitution does not require that such payment should be made and it is wholly improper that the public exchequer should be utilised for the purpose of making payment to these persons whose contribution has now come to be nil.

The hon. Minister himself admitted that huge profits have been made by this concern in the past. Have they been utilised for the improvement of the copper industry in India in the past? Therefore, if the Government have now felt that the concern should not continue to remain in the management, why should the public exchequer bear the payment of Rs. 75,000 a month, which means Rs. 9 lakhs a year, to this concern? The concern has nothing to do with the management any longer.

Since the present Bill is only for taking over the management, we want a categorical

assurance from the Government that a Bill for nationalisation will be brought soon and when the Government will acquire this undertaking.

There is no dearth of power, because the Constitution itself enables the Government to take over an undertaking, completely nationalise it and to provide such payment as Parliament decides, and it is no longer justiciable in court. It will not be open to judicial scrutiny. Therefore, we can provide for an amount to be paid outright, and not go on making recurring payments at the cost of the public exchequer by fleecing the ordinary people of the country.

Further, clause 5 says that Rs. 75,000 a month is to be paid. I submit that there is no economic basis also. There is no basis behind it. Because they were getting Rs. 1,25,000 a month, the managing agent is to get Rs. 75,000 per month? What is the rationale behind it? How is this amount decided? What is the objective standard? Nothing has been said. Huge amounts are being paid. In the general insurance case Rs. 34 or Rs. 36 lakhs are being paid every month; similarly Rs. 36 lakhs to the collieries. Now provision is made to pay Rs. 75,000 to the foreign capitalists. Our contention is that such a provision should not have been made and hence proper amendments should be moved by the hon. Minister for fixing the amount on a reasonable basis and certainly not Rs. 75,000.

The management of this concern is now given to Hindustan Copper Limited which is a Government company. From their annual reports, it appears that their working has been dismal. The Khetri Copper project started in 1962 by the HCL has not yet been completed. The target date had been postponed from time to time. It was estimated initially to cost Rs. 94 crores; it has now risen to Rs. 150 crores—I speak subject to correction. In their annual report for 1969-70 they say that it was hoped earlier that production would start in July 1972 and that date, I find from the Minister's statement, has been revised to late 1973 or early 1974. It is only on that date that they are expected to go into production. The target date is

postponed; the costs are increasing and we seem nowhere near the target.

Criticisms have also been made in various quarters that all this is due to laxity in financial control, and disproportionate increase in the managerial strength. It appears that the officers of this concern are more keen on going on foreign tours, as one of the newspapers has commented, than doing their jobs.

There is another important aspect and the hon. Minister did not make any reference to it. I refer to the shortage of experienced and trained personnel in this country in the field of copper mining and metallurgy. I am quoting from the annual report of the HCL for 1969-70. They say that their expansion programmes ran into difficulties due to shortage of trained technical personnel. It has to be tackled on a proper perspective. If necessary, foreign know-how should be obtained. But in the long run we should develop in our own country sufficient technical personnel to look after such undertakings which are of technological importance. The hon. Minister should tell us what is being done by this Government in respect of this matter. Taking over a company cannot be an end in itself. We want proper and efficient management of these undertakings. For that purpose, Government must develop a proper cadre of technical personnel and we should get rid of stereo-typed bureaucratic attitude and red-tapism. Otherwise it will upset the equilibrium resulting in imbalances and consequent detriment to our economy.

The Indian Copper Corporation, whatever it might have been, has been considered to be one of the efficient concerns; it did not get into the difficulties of the kind into which the HCL had got. A really integrated approach is needed to have better co-ordination between the two branches so that some benefit could be achieved to this country by higher production and better distribution.

There are two further aspects to which I wish to refer. One is about labour relations. From the annual report of 1969-70 of the HCL we find that labour relations have not been very happy. There was a notice given to go on strike, but some sort of adjustment was made and arbitration was arranged for,

and probably an award has been given. But we must see that the Government really take up an attitude towards labour in ICC which will not follow the footsteps of the old management, namely making more and more profits at the expense of the legitimate demands of the workers.

I have a fundamental objection to clause 13. It reads :

“If the Custodian is of the opinion that any contract of employment entered into by the company or the managing agents of the company, in relation to the undertaking of the company, at any time before the appointed day, is unduly onerous, it may, by giving to the employees one month's notice in writing or the salary or wages for one month in lieu thereof, terminate such contract of employment.”

It is applicable to anyone indiscriminately. Even a workman who is entitled to the benefits of the Industrial Disputes Act or other beneficial legislative provision will be now completely at the mercy of the Custodian who has been given arbitrary power to decide which contract of employment is to be treated as being unduly onerous and which is not. No guidelines are laid down in the Clause, and it is left entirely to the subjective satisfaction of the Custodian. Clause 13 should be restricted only to officers who are getting a salary over a particular amount, and it should exclude workmen within the meaning of the Industrial Disputes Act. Otherwise, under the wide powers given here, the Custodian can get rid of anybody saying that his contract of employment is unduly onerous. I submit such wide powers should not be given to the Custodian.

My last point is with regard to the question of evolving a proper and equitable policy of distribution of the copper that is produced. We have found in the past a peculiar policy of distribution adopted by the Government. I have got the figures for the period 1956-61. Subsequent figures are not available with me, the hon. Minister may kindly supply them. Gujarat got an allocation of 70 per cent of its requirements and Maharashtra 28 per cent of its requirements, while my State of West Bengal got only 10 per cent of its requirements. What is

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this policy of distribution ? How does the Government allot this very important raw material among the different States ? How are the priorities determined ? Why has West Bengal received only ten per cent ? What is the rationale behind it ? Who decides the priorities ? I, therefore, submit that a proper distribution policy should be evolved, so that there is fair distribution among all the States, and in no State, industry is stifled. It is our charge that industry has been stifled in West Bengal for lack of raw materials and incentives given to the State's industries. Therefore, we should not only see that there is greater production, but also that there is equitable distribution among the States.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI (Jamshedpur) : Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Steel and Mines on bringing this Bill for taking over the Indian Copper Corporation's management. It is a very good step. This falls in my constituency in Jamshedpur and the Government has taken a very wise step, because they were using only high grade copper ore and wasting the low grade ore below the grade of 1 per cent. There are also kyanite mines of the Indian Copper Corporation which should also be taken over immediately.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The kyanite mines of the Indian Copper Corporation have been taken over.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : That is also a good step. While terminating the contracts, no amount should be paid. There should be no arbitration and no work should be carried out through the contractors, even in mining. The Custodian appointed by Government should be an expert on copper metal and no officer of the ICC should be put in charge of the plant as Custodian or even as General Manager. If possible a man from Bihar should be appointed.

There is no indication as to how much lump sum amount we are going to pay to the ICC for the taking over. I think Rs. 75,000 per month should not be paid. Also, if any money is paid to the ICC management, it should not be allowed to go out of India. Also, contracts entered into

more than a year ago may be even cancelled, if they have been entered into in bad faith. No arbitration should be allowed for payment of any amount and officers found guilty should be dismissed forthwith.

Any of the aggrieved parties who may like to go to higher courts should be banned from obtaining any sort of injunction against the Hindustan Copper Limited to avoid further complications and for smooth running of the plant.

I support clause 13 that one month's notice should be given for terminating any of contract of employment. I think this is in regard to officers who are employed on contract basis and this does not apply to labour. I would like the Minister to clarify this point.

The existing plant and machinery of ICC is quite old though expended recently. The latest furnaces and equipment should be installed and further expanded to meet the copper requirements of the country. Conditions of workers should be improved and labour should not be retrenched. The water scarcity in the town and labour quarters should be removed and other arrangements should be made for the welfare of the labour.

I also suggest that English and foreign companies including tea gardens owned by foreigners in India should be acquired immediately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is a larger question. Please confine your remarks within the scope of the Bill.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : Government should take over all such companies or managements immediately and without any loss of time, without any payment, to end their monopoly. They have already reaped much more than their investment long ago.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It appears you have re-written the Bill !

SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : Sir, on behalf of our group, I welcome this Bill. We consider that this measure of nationalisation of a foreign-owned sterling company, which was enjoying a monopoly position is long overdue. The time is short and I want to put a few questions to the Minister. Will he explain whether this is going to be the accepted policy and procedure of the Government that whenever nationalisation is contemplated, it must be done in two phases, the first phase being restricted to the taking over of the management and then after an indefinite interval which is not specified, in future, there will be taking over of the ownership? This should be made clear. I do not see any justification for this kind of method, which causes a lot of loss to the country, as pointed out quite ably by Mr. Chatterjee. I do not want to labour on this point. We have to go on paying Rs. 9 lakhs a year as compensation for the management. Whether it is legally obligatory or not, I leave that to Mr. Kumaramangalam and Mr. Chatterjee, both eminent lawyers, to find out. But the fact remains that Rs. 9 lakhs a year have to be handed over simply for taking over the management, while the ownership remains with the original shareholders and at some unspecified date in future, the ownership is going to be taken over. Is this the new Congress method of nationalisation? What is standing in the way of carrying out wholesale nationalisation from the very beginning?

I am against compensation being paid for taking over the management. Later on, at the time of total nationalisation, the question of compensation will come up again. I want to point out one or two facts, which the Government should bear in mind in respect of this company when the question of determining the compensation comes up. The minister has been very polite in his remarks about the profitability of this company. He said, after all, it is natural for the private sector to make as much money as it can and so on. It is not merely that this company was enjoying a monopoly position. If you see the figures in their balance sheet, you will seldom come across any industrial concern in the country which has had it so good. Not only their profits after taxation have been mounting to Rs. 1½ crores, but they have also built up the share capital by freely issuing bonus shares. They have built up a

huge reserve fund of Rs 1½ crores. On the top of all these, they have been given such liberal loans from the public sector financial agencies. The United Bank of India has given Rs. 14.25 lakhs. The State Bank of India has given Rs. 91.30 lakhs. The ICICI has given Rs. 49.90 lakhs. The IDBI has given Rs. 1½ crores. LIC, of course, as pointed out by him, owns 18 per cent of the shares. This company has been enjoying an unrivalled monopoly position with its huge reserves, huge profits and huge share capital and on the top of all these, it has been pampered in this way by the public sector financial institutions, who do not come forward to give assistance to other more needy people so readily as they do here. These things should be borne in mind when ultimately the quantum of final compensation is decided. Personally, I think this is a good case, a test case, where we should tell them eventually that nothing but a purely token compensation is what they deserve. Why should they be given compensation? For what?

Then, you will find a very interesting thing. I find that nearly 26,000 units of shares or stock are held between five or six individuals, all of whom are well known names and people connected with the biggest business houses of this country. Shri G. B. Kothari who, everybody knows, is a nominee of the Birlas holds 5,000 units of the stock; Sir Biren Mookherjee holds 5,625 units; your ex-Finance Minister, Shri Sachin Chaudhuri, owns 2,000 units of stock and in his wife's name there are 281 units; Shri Bangur, Mr. Johnson and Kanwar Prem Lai—all these people together, directly or indirectly, are holding nearly 26,000 units of shares in this company. These people are now expecting. I suppose, that they will be given very handsome compensation. This is the point I wished to raise.

There are many other points but I do not wish to repeat what Shri Chatterjee has raised. But of the two other points that I have, one is about alternative sources of supply of this metal. Since, I believe, the total requirements of copper in our country are about 1,28,000 tonnes, obviously there is a big gap between our production and the requirements and we shall have, therefore, to go on for some time for looking for foreign sources of supply, although this

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

is a very expensive metal. With the stoppage of non-project United States aid, which covers non-ferrous metals, I would like the Minister to tell us what alternative sources we are exploring and with what effect. What about the USSR or Yugoslavia or Africa or the Latin American countries which are producing copper? What have we done since the United States cut off our aid to try and explore these alternative sources and what do we expect out of that?

I would also like to know whether it is a fact or not that the estimated copper resources in our country amount to about 345 million tonnes according to geologists and scientists; if so, what has happened to the National Mineral Development Corporation's plan for a major development of the copper industry? Is that in view; is it contemplated or not or are we content with Ghatsila and Khetri? Khetri is a total mess. I do not know why he is so optimistic about Khetri. What has suddenly happened to give him this confidence? Khetri is a blot on our landscape. What are the bottlenecks that are holding it up? It is absolutely one of the biggest scandals. The reports of the Estimates Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee are there and you can go through them. What is it on which he bases his optimism about Khetri? I will be very glad if really that is the case. But Khetri and Ghatsila taken together are still not going to come anywhere near the requirements of this country for which we will continue to spend huge amounts of foreign exchange. So, what are we going to do about an all round plan of development for it? What happened to Operation Hard Rock, which was carried out at considerable expense with the help of foreign technicians and engineers to locate new sources of copper deposit?

I am glad to hear that the old silver refinery at Calcutta is at last going to be converted into a copper refinery. Shri Ganesh is sitting there and he knows that we plagued him for two years about whether the silver refinery could be converted into a copper refinery so that the surplus employees there would not lose their jobs. We were continuously told that no such thing would be done. To save the jobs at least of some of those employees, they had to be transferred to

the Alipore Mint. We are told that this silver refinery is finally going to be made into a copper refinery. That is very good news and I am glad about it. I hope, all those employees of the old silver refinery will have their job security ensured at the new copper refinery also.

Finally, I would like to say one or two words about the labour position. Other friends may speak about it later. The workers of the ICC copper project at Maubhandar, that is, Ghatsila, have a brilliant and proud record of trade union struggles in the past against this company. They have fought, struggled and sacrificed for winning their rights and demands. Until the Central Wage Board for the Engineering Industry appeared on the scene a few years ago, these workers were among the worst exploited in this country. I hope, with nationalisation they will at least have something to look forward to. Their housing conditions, I am told, are still abominable. I hope, the new Corporation will do something about that immediately.

I would like the Minister to tell us whether the job security and employment conditions of the existing workmen and employees are going to be protected or not. My hon. friend, Shri Sokhey, wanted that there should be no retrenchment; at the same time, he supported clause 13 which gives omnibus powers to the Custodian to get rid of anybody he wants to. It is there. We have had some experience with these Custodians. We do not have much faith in them. I want to know whether the job security...

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: May I ask a simple question? Can you give me a single example of such a power being used, to send workers out of service in any nationalised organisation?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If you try to do that, there will be trouble. If you want the trouble, that is a different matter. If the matter is so simple, as the Minister makes out, let him give an assurance here that the job security and employment conditions of the existing workmen of the I. C. C. will not be disturbed in any way and will be protected.

Lastly, I think, it has been brought to the notice of the Minister by the employees themselves who are working at the head-office in Calcutta, numbering 59 only...

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. But the fact is that it has never happened till now. You cry, wolf, wolf, when actually there is no wolf.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The wolf I am referring to in this particular case is Mr. Dhavan who has been appointed as the Custodian and who has already said that the staff of 59 who are employed in the head-office at Calcutta and who have been doing only Copper Corporation work in the office of the managing agents are not going to be retained. I think, the Minister has already been approached by the staff on this point. Mr. Dhavan has decided to take 25 employees out of these 59 employees and to leave the remaining 24 employees at the mercy of share-holders, that is to say, they will not be taken over by the nationalised undertaking. Here is such a vast undertaking with crores of rupees capital and reserves and huge plants of development that when the new Custodian comes, he says that even 59 employees who have been working for years together in the head-office at Calcutta and doing the work of Copper Corporation will not be required. Am I talking about an imaginary wolf or there is a real wolf? His name is Mr. Dhavan. I do not know who he is.

I would press upon the Minister, and it is very important for the whole image of nationalisation in this country also, that it should make a good start, that it should enthuse the employees and not begin to demoralise them. Therefore, I would request him to look into this matter personally. These are only 59 employees working in the head-office at Calcutta. All of them should be retained. There will be plenty of work for them. If the development project to which he referred is really going to be taken up, what is the need of getting rid of these 24 employees. I would like to have some assurance on this point.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,

I rise to welcome this measure though it is really late. It is better late than never. This is a very good Bill. It is to take over the Indian Copper Corporation.

As has been pointed out my hon. friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta, with the stoppage of non-project aid by the U. S. Government which includes non-ferrous metals also, really, it is very urgent, so far as we are concerned, to see that whatever copper is available in the country is properly exploited and utilised.

The Indian Copper Corporation is a private company which was incorporated in London in 1924. It had a mining lease area of 26 sq. miles. But you will be surprised to know that by 1970, when I had an occasion to visit the mines some years ago, only 6 sq. miles area had been developed. From this, we can understand how much of copper we are importing. A tonne of copper comes to about Rs. 14,000 in Value. We are importing copper all these years even though they had a mining lease area of 26 sq. miles. As against that, they had developed only 6 sq. miles within a period of 48 years. This is how they were getting the maximum profit out of it. The hon. Minister was a little modest about mentioning the rate of return; after coming to the Treasury Benches, he is trying to be a little modest in his approach to problems. I had the occasion, as Chairman of the Committee on Taxation (Amendment) Bill, to visit this mine. When we looked into the accounts and what their rate of return was—we wanted to calculate how they were trying to have tax concessions—we come to know that the rate of return was 45 per cent on the capital invested. This is the highest in the world, not to speak of this country! No foreign private company in India has such a rate of return! Even ESSO, Lever Brothers, etc., go only upto 22 per cent. And here this private foreign company has a net rate of return of 45 per cent on the capital invested. Therefore, it was urgent and necessary that it should be taken over.

The hon. Minister was placing before us some targets. Of course, those targets have been worked out by some officers there and he must just have put the targets before us

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here. But we knew how the targets are fixed and how they are realised. From the Mid-Term Appraisal which is before us and which is coming up for discussion today or tomorrow, you will find that whatever targets were fixed, we have remained far behind them and nothing has been realised during the last two years of the Fourth Plan. Let us try to utilise the resources that we have and let us try to see how we can conserve our resources. It is good that this Bill has come, and we welcome that.

The demand for copper by 1973-74 is going to be 1,28,000 tonnes. The calculations that the hon. Minister has given—Khetri and Ghatsila combined together—would come to 41,000 tonnes. I am quite sure that this target is not going to be achieved, but taking for granted that it is going to be achieved, i.e., 41,000 tonnes—I am quite sure he is not going to achieve it; it is not he who is going to produce; there are so many factors over which he has no control—it will fall short of the demand. When the non-project aid is stopped from U. S. aid, we have to try and see how best we can utilise and explore whatever deposits of copper are there in this country. As has been pointed out by the Geological Survey of India, there are about 340 million tonnes of copper deposits in the country, and I hope that the Government, the Ministry, would try in all possible ways of exploring these deposits, because it is one of the most important non-ferrous metals and it is very necessary for the industrial development of this country. We are spending Rs. 50 to 60 crores on import of copper. I hope that, within a period of ten years, we shall be able to at least reduce that kind of dependence on foreign sources.

I had the occasion to meet some of the workers who had worked in this company for 20 to 30 years, and they told me in confidence that there were gold deposits in this mine. I have tried to verify from these old workers in this mine, and I have no doubt—I have nothing to disbelieve—that this company kept it as a secret. I am sure, they must have utilised these reserves in whichever way possible; they must have extracted those reserves. The old

workers who had worked there four years together, in this company, have told me that gold deposits were there and they have been extracted by this company without the knowledge of the Government. Therefore, taking into consideration all the exploitation that the company has done during the last 30 or 40 years, I would ask this question of the hon. Minister—he had once quoted the case of Chile where the President had said that they had, for so many years, exploited the resources. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Minister that instead of fixing and trying to have Rs. 75,000 per month as compensation for management and again fixing another rate of compensation for the entire acquisition of the property, may I repeat what he has told us in this House and which we all appreciated and we clapped in this House? May I again ask the question? Whenever you take into consideration the complete nationalisation of this undertaking—I don't know why it is delayed—will he put the same question to them—"Gentlemen, you have exploited our resources for so many years. Would you please pay us something for that?" On the whole, this is a right measure and we support it.

15 hrs.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): At least after more than two decades wisdom had dawned on this Government and now they are coming forward with a Bill to take over the management of the Indian Copper Corporation. At the same time, I am sorry that it is a very half-hearted measure. As was pointed out, this nationalisation should not only be confined to taking over the management but the entire industry in the private sector should be nationalised.

The object of the nationalisation of the management is to have better co-ordination and develop the scarce copper resources in our country. At present, our annual copper production is only 9600 tonnes. It is far behind the consumption and as well as the demand of our country. According to the Fourth Five year Plan, we envisage that the 9600 tonnes of copper would increase to

47,000 tonnes. But, according to reports it is said that we may not reach the target and even if you reach the target, it will be only about 50 to 60% of the target fixed. I don't know whether this Government has got the knack of missing all the targets except the election targets... (Interruptions) According to reports of estimates, the country's demand for copper in 1973-74 would be 1,28,000 tonnes. What are we going to do about this? If you are going to take over the undertaking, you must find enough men and we must fully utilise our resources, even if it is required, our foreign personnel also, to augment the resources in the country. Already, the two speakers about the compensation we may have to pay. I think the compensation is bound to be very heavy in this case if the normal standards are going to be used, because, according to the reports of the ICC, in 1970 their assets were about Rs. 28 crores. I think the Minister should give consideration when giving compensation that only the original investment of the company should be taken into consideration.

In the Bill, as it has been appointed out already, Clause 13, I feel, gives very sweeping powers to the Custodian and I think the Minister must curtail these powers.

Again, when we talk about the management of these undertakings, especially public sector undertakings, we, in our country, are investing heavy amounts and I am told that by the end of the Fourth Plan it will be Rs. 6400 crores in the public sector. Normally, whenever anything is nationalised, efficiency goes down, cost of production goes up and red-tapism gets the upper hand. I am not here to discredit the public undertakings, but, as the Prime Minister once said, the public sector must justify itself by its efficiency. Nationalisation should not be for the sake of nationalisation, to create another Department in the Ministry or to expand the present Department. The unutilised capacity or the idle capacity is there in all the sectors of public undertakings. For example, I would like to point out that in the Hindustan Photo Films...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why go away from the subject under discussion?

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: ...and the

Surgical Instruments, the idle capacity is over 90%. In the same Ministry, to which the hon. Minister is attached, there is more than 40 per cent of idle capacity in the Steel Plants. There is more than 30 per cent idle capacity in the heavy equipments machinery. These are all admitted by the Government already. It is more than 20 per cent in respect of the mining and fertiliser units. I agree with the Minister when he says that the autonomy of the public undertakings should be respected at all costs. Sir, even though he is allergic to State autonomy, I am really glad, he wants to keep the autonomy of the public undertakings intact.

I wish to point out that enough powers should be given to the Chairman and the Managing Directors of the public undertakings. There should be no interference in the day-to-day administration of our public Sector. The Ministers in the Central Cabinet should not expect the chairman of the Managing Directors of public undertakings to rush to Delhi every week just like the Congress Chief Ministers to come here for clarification or confirmation etc. etc.

Now, regarding appointments, I just want to have a word before I sit down. I wish to point this out to the hon. Minister that really efficient and honest persons should be appointed as Chairmen or Managing Directors. I request the hon. Minister that he should see that technical persons should be given preference over the IAS and ICS officers. Above all, appointment of Chairman or Managing Director should go to persons who really believe in public undertakings. Only they should be given charge, because, it is only then we will prove before the public that after all nationalisation is not for the sake of any other thing, but only for the good of the public.

SHRI P. K. GHOSH (Ranchi): Sir, I welcome this measure. This is another step towards self-reliance in respect of copper production in the country and less dependence upon the imports.

As the hon. Minister pointed out, our production in the country is very low in comparison to our requirements in this regard. Certainly I do believe that this measure will help us in producing more of

[Shri P. K. Ghosh]

our requirements. As the hon. Minister said, there is certainly lack of technical expertise and managerial personnel in this field in our country today. But in respect of this ICC, this being an old undertaking, we hope we may have some efficient managerial personnel and technical experts who gained some experience through long years of working. I hope that their experience and expertise would be utilised for exploring other copper mines in the country.

I do not agree with Mr. Chatterji when he said that there was no necessity to bring in an ordinance on the 10th of March when the House was going to meet on the 13th. Whenever the Government wants to take over any undertaking—especially if it is a private undertaking,—it is very essential that such taking over should be undertaken only by an ordinance. I will tell you the reason. If a Bill is brought before Parliament, as you know, it is a long drawn out process. It gives lot of scope to gain time on their part. It gives them scope to manipulate their accounts and take away valuable equipments and to remove them elsewhere. Therefore, I do believe that it is only by ordinance that we can take over anything immediately, without at the same time, giving any scope to them to manipulate things.

We have seen the position in respect of the coking coal industry. This information was leaked out. Many valuable machinery were taken away out of the collieries. So, I support this stand, of taking over by issuing an ordinance. If a Bill had been brought forward in Parliament and passed, it would have taken about a fortnight to have it passed, and the management of the concern would have got fifteen days to manipulate thing. Therefore, I fully support the hon. Minister's action in taking over this concern through an ordinance first and then coming forward before this House with a Bill for replacing it.

We are always in support of nationalisation. I do not know why, but for reasons best known to the hon. Minister, they have taken over the management, but I hope that within a very short time, this industry will be nationalised completely.

Regarding payment of compensation, as my hon. friends have said, they have earned a lot during all these years, and, therefore, there is no necessity whatsoever to pay any compensation to them, and I fully agree with those hon. Members who have said that no compensation should be paid because they have earned a lot during all these years.

As the hon. Minister has pointed out, there is great shortage of copper in this country. This undertaking did not have any national interest in mind but only the interest of making profits, and, therefore, they were utilising only the high-grade copper ore and not the under cuts. Now, since Government are going to take over the management, I hope the under-cuts will also be utilised properly, and I hope that the targets set by the hon. Minister would be fulfilled.

For this purpose, we must see that the management is efficient unlike that of the Hindustan Copper Corporation at Khetri. In regard to the Khetri project, it is very unfortunate that although a target had been fixed, and the project was scheduled to achieve this target of production by 1973, we have come to know that it is going to be delayed, and the reason is that among the top executives in this undertaking, some of the top managerial personnel are quarrelling among themselves, and as a result the work has suffered. This is a very sorry state of affairs. I understand that one executive has been removed from there and has been brought to Delhi and appointed as a special officer.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : The hon. Member is wrong.

SHRI P. K. GHOSH : That was the newspaper report.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : They are wrong reports. Let him not believe all the newspapers all the time.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : But only Government hand-outs.

SHRI P. K. GHOSH : But in any case, we want that the management should be

efficient, and we do not want that there should be and interference. But if the managerial personnel fail to deliver the goods, they should be summarily dismissed. But this has not been happening. From my experience in other projects also, I may say that where any managerial personnel have failed in one project, they have actually been promoted and sent to another project or if not promoted, they have been shifted in the same capacity to other projects. Once it is found that some managerial person has failed, he should be punished instead of being transferred or promoted.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the undertakings which Government take over are efficiently managed, and if the managers fail, they should be removed immediately in a summary manner.

As there is great shortage of copper in the country, I would suggest that the other copper mines which have been recently discovered in Malanjkhand in Balaga district of Madhya Pradesh may be started as quickly as possible, and similarly, the Agnigundala project in Andhra Pradesh also should be started very quickly.

I am glad to learn that the silver refinery in Calcutta is also going to be converted into a copper refinery.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय (मंदसौर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यदि सरकार किसी संस्थान के प्रबन्ध को लोकहित में लेकर उसको सुव्यवस्थित ढंग से चला सके और इस प्रकार जनता की भलाई कर सके, तो किसी को भी इस आशय के आर्डिनेंस या विधेयक से विरोध नहीं हो सकता है। इस दृष्टि से अध्यादेश का स्थान ग्रहण करने के लिए जो विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया है, उस पर भी मुझे कोई विरोध नहीं है। लेकिन अब तक सरकार की जो कार्य-प्रणाली और नीति तथा भावना रही है, उसको देखते हुए इस बारे में संदेह पैदा होता है। इसके कुछ कारण भी हैं। खेती में ताँबे का विकास-कार्य हिन्दुस्तान कापर लिमिटेड के हाथ में है, लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि खेती प्रोजेक्ट के कार्य

में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है। वहाँ पर मैनेजमेंट के कुप्रबन्ध के कारण सामान लापाता हो गया है और प्रबन्धकों तथा मजदूरों के बीच में झगड़े रहे हैं। इस कारण वहाँ पर उत्पादन का लक्ष्य पूरा नहीं हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय ने भी यह स्वीकार किया है कि वहाँ पर उत्पादन में विलम्ब हुआ है और संभवतः 1973 में 31,000 टन के लक्ष्य की पूर्ति की आशा नहीं है।

मैं यहाँ पर प्राइवेट सैक्टर का अनुमोदन करने के लिए खड़ा नहीं हुआ हूँ। लेकिन पब्लिक सैक्टर के अन्य संस्थानों की स्थिति को देखते हुए ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार की कार्य-पद्धति में बहुत शिथिलता है। अन्यथा इस देश में ताँबे के काफी बड़े भंडार हैं और यदि उन को एक्सप्लॉयट किया जाता, तो हमें विदेशों से ताँबे का आयात न करना पड़ता। जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है, हमें प्रतिवर्ष ताँबे का आयात करने के लिए 60 करोड़ रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च करनी पड़ती है। जब तक हमारे देश में ताँबे की कमी पूरी नहीं हो जाती है, तब तक हमको ताँबे का आयात जारी रखना पड़ेगा।

मंत्री महोदय ने इस विधेयक के उद्देश्यों और कारणों में बताया है : "पब्लिक सैक्टर में हिन्दुस्तान ताँबा लिमिटेड ने राजस्थान के खेती इलाके में तथा बिहार के राखा क्षेत्र में ताँबे के विकास का कार्य अपने हाथ में लिया है। भारतीय ताँबा निगम के फुलैरा स्मैल्टर लगा कर विस्तार का एक कार्यक्रम अभी हाल ही में पूरा किया है और धातु की इस बड़ी क्षमता को लाते समय ऐसा विचार हुआ कि राखा की प्रथम अवस्था में जो सान्द्र मिले, उनका प्रसंस्करण निगम के स्मैल्टर में ही किया जाये।" मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे पब्लिक सैक्टर में इस प्रकार की स्थिति क्यों नहीं पैदा की जा सकती है। हमारे यहाँ जितना ताँबा निक्षेप प्राप्त होता है, उसका ठीक उपयोग क्यों नहीं किया गया है ?

मध्य प्रदेश में महाकौशल, बालाघाट क्षेत्र

[श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय]

में ताँबा निक्षेप की बहुत बड़ी खान है, जो मीलों लम्बी और काफी गहरी है। यहाँ पर करोड़ों टन ताँबा प्राप्त हो सकता है। आज तक केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया है। अगर उसके विकास की तरफ ध्यान किया जाता, तो अकेले मध्य प्रदेश से इतना ताँबा प्राप्त हो सकता था, जो देश की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति कर सकता था। जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है, मध्य प्रदेश में प्राप्त होने वाला ताँबा निक्षेप बिहार और आंध्र प्रदेश आदि दूसरे स्थानों में प्राप्त होने वाले ताँबा निक्षेप से काफी अच्छा है और उसका परसेंटेज दूसरे स्थानों के ताँबा निक्षेप से काफी अच्छा है।

इस अवसर पर मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ सरकार ने भारतीय ताँबा निगम के प्रबन्ध को ग्रहण किया है, वहाँ देश की ताँबे की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए और देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को ऊँचा उठाने के लिए देश में, विशेष रूप से मध्य प्रदेश में, स्थित ताँबे की खानों का ठीक ढंग से विकास किया जाये। यह ठीक है कि राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से आग्रह किया है और वह इसमें सहयोगी होगी। लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार को अपना दायित्व समझ कर देश में इस खनिज की कमी को पूरा करने की दृष्टि से आगे बढ़ कर इसका पूरा विकास करना चाहिए।

जैसा कि मैंने कहा है, खेत्ती की दशा बड़ी विचित्र है। देश के अन्य ताँबे के रिसोर्सिज के बारे में सरकार ने ठीक से ध्यान नहीं दिया है। केवल अभी तो प्रबन्ध हाथ में लिया है और जैसा कि मानीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं, सरकार ने प्रबन्ध हाथ में लेकर के शायद बड़े-बड़े पूँजीपतियों की उपकृत करने का, उपकार करने का प्रयत्न किया है जैसा कि धारा 5 में है कि सरकार 75 हजार रुपया प्रतिमास उनको देती रहेगी। इसमें यह भी

निश्चित नहीं है कि कितने समय बाद सरकार उपक्रम को पूरा-पूरा अपने हाथ में ले लेगी जिस से कि यह लम्बी राशि अधिक लम्बे समय तक उनको देनी पड़े। हमें ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार बहुत लम्बे समय तक उनको लाखों रुपये का लाभ देकर उन पर उपकार करना चाहती है। फिर मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि भारतीय ताँबा निगम का केवल प्रबन्ध मात्र हाथ में लेने से उसका प्रबन्ध ठीक हो जायेगा, इसके बारे में जो आशंका सभी के मन है उसको भी दूर करने का प्रयत्न मंत्री महोदय करें और यह स्पष्ट करें कि खेत्ती के प्रोजेक्ट में उसके टागेंट में विलम्ब क्यों हुआ? वहाँ मैनजमेंट और आपस के झगड़े के कारण जो मशीनरी खराब पड़ी है, जो गड़बड़ी हुई है और गोलमाल हुआ है, उसने कर्ट करोड़ रुपये की सम्पत्ति का लाभ हुआ है। उसका उत्तरदायी कौन है और ऐसे व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है? हमारे मध्य प्रदेश के अंदर जो रिसोर्सिज है, उनको ठीक-ठीक उपयोग में लाने में जो विलम्ब हुआ है उस विलम्ब के कारण क्या है और क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह भी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या हमारे पास ऐसे ताँबे और वैज्ञानिक मौजूद है जो ठीक तरह से ताँबे के भंडारों का और भी पता लगा सकें और पता लगाकर के देश आर्थिक विकास की दृष्टि से उनका ठीक ठीक उपयोग कर सकें? जहाँ तक मेरा अनुमान है जो चर्चा है कि हमारे पास ऐसे ताँबे या वैज्ञानिक नहीं हैं जो ताँबे के बारे में ठीक से जानकारी रखते हों और जानकारी रख कर उसका उपयोग कर सकते हों। इसलिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हमारे पास ऐसे वैज्ञानिक और ऐसे टेक्नोलॉजिस्ट उपलब्ध हों जो इसके बारे में पूरी पूरी जानकारी रखते हों और अपने ज्ञान का ठीक तरह से उपयोग कर सकें। साथ ही घाटे में चलने वाले अन्य सरकारी उपक्रमों की भाँति यह उपक्रम भी घाटा बढ़ाने वाला सिद्ध न हो। मेरी अपेक्षा है कि सरकारी उपक्रमों में घाटा कम हो, उत्पादन की लागत

कीमत घटे, सभी ऐसे उपक्रम देश के अर्थतंत्र में लाभदायक सिद्ध होंगे।

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill that has been brought before the House by the Government is very much welcome, in that it is a step forward towards the reconstruction of our country. In fact I personally believe that everything should be nationalised including human beings.

Why I am saying this is that we must...

श्री हुकम चंद कल्लुबाय (मुरेना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी व्यवस्था चाहता हूँ, मदन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The bell is being rung... Now, there is quorum. The hon Member can continue.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Sir, this Bill, for taking over the Indian Copper Corporation, that has been brought by the Government is very welcome; it is a very welcome move, and in fact, the Government deserves our congratulations for this. We have been taking over many things; we are nationalising many things. I would really like to say that mere nationalisation does not serve the purpose. There are a lot of things which have been experienced by us. We have taken over so many things; so many public undertakings have come up. From them, we should learn a lesson and try to improve upon it while we are taking over this concern.

I personally think that everything Indian should be nationalised. While I say this I mean, we should be very sensitive of being Indians. Unless in this public sector the people are very sensitive of being Indians, unless they want to project something new, perhaps newer than what has been done before, we are not going to bring about anything revolutionary by bringing about this nationalisation.

I do not want to go into technicalities. I do not know what this compensation is for. For land? For Copper ores? For equipment? The land belongs to us; the copper ores belong to us. For equipment you can

give compensation after depreciation. Has the Government prepared an inventory and decided what it is all worth? Merely saying Rs. 75,000 does not make any sense. In that case we should have given the British Government compensation for an indefinite period for taking over the Indian Government and having this democratic system. This sort of vague ideas should be discontinued. We should take it over straightaway and there should be no question of compensation. Whatever is due, must be given. Why should we go on paying Rs. 75,000. Whatever work that is done there, only ten per cent of that should be given, if at all necessary, I think they might have worked it out; I do not know. I entirely agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Indrajit Gupta when he says that the question of compensation does not arise.

Men are more important than money, material or machines, or everything else. So, there should be more emphasis on men. Those persons who are going to handle this job should be men of character—I mean those who are at the helm of affairs—They should be men above provincialism, nepotism, favouritism and casteism. Otherwise we are not going to bring about any substantial change. We must be clear about what we are going to do. Men at the top should be capable of developing a team spirit and loyalty to the organisation. Men who indulge in favouritism and nepotism should be punished. Unless we bring about a change in the approach to the solution of such problems, things will not improve. People in the country are mistfully looking forward to what our Government can offer. Our administration should be such that it must be able to show to the people in the street what changes we have brought about or going to bring about.

My hon. friend, Mr. Swaminathan has said that technical personnel should be made to man the projects. I entirely agree with him. In a country which needs quick industrial development and also metallurgical improvement, let us not put too much emphasis on administration alone. Mining engineers and technocrats can prove to be good administrators of such projects; they could be trained to be expert administrators. But an administrator cannot become an engineer or technocrat. Therefore, this has got to be taken note of, and let us not

[Shri Kartik Oraon]

try to appoint Chairmen and Custodians on political considerations. They should be on merit. That is why I have always said that the Government of India needs a Public Sector Services Commission and that people should be selected by them alone and sent to different enterprises because I know that each Chairman has his own way of recruitment. That sort of thing should be stopped. I am not opposed to anybody coming from any part of the country, but the best men in the country should be selected and sent to the right place. We should have the right man at the right place. We do not question who he is, where he comes from, but he should be capable enough. That is why I say that we should go by the maxim "who knows what" and forget the maxim "who knows whom". If a man is a failure in the Food Corporation, he is sent to the Steel Corporation because he knows somebody. These things must be stopped. Once a failure at one place, he should be considered a failure at every place.

This is not the only problem we have been facing in our area. For instance, there were some questions of the employees of the Indian Copper Corporation, and it was stated that they should be retained. I can understand that. It is a very good thing, but so far as the Rakha Mines are concerned, the tribals give the lands for mining the ore, but get nowhere. If even after the Government takes over, it does not make any difference to them, then it does not mean anything whether you nationalise or not. Therefore, the local people must get the first chance, and I would like to insist on this. If you do not do that, there will be heart-burning and resentment everywhere and we will be creating Bangla Desh everywhere. I would like to request the Minister that he should insist that for jobs carrying upto Rs. 500 local people should be taken.

SHRI K N TIWARY (Betla) . If they are not competent ?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : You may be under that impression. I do not accept that. They must be competent, but even when people are available, people from outside are imported. That procedure should be stopped.

I support the Bill whole-heartedly subject to what I have already explained.

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा (दोमा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्तुत विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। प्रस्तुत विधेयक एक ऐसा विधेयक है जिसको बहुत समय पहले मदन में आ जाना चाहिये था। हमारे देश में कापर की कमी है, बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में कापर बाहर में आता है, लेकिन उसके बावजूद भी यह खेद का विषय रहा है कि सरकार ने इस दिशा में कोई कारगर कदम नहीं उठाया। दुर्भाग्य से हिन्दुस्तान कापर लि० ने खेनडी में जिस आशा से काम शुरू किया था और उससे जो उम्मीद थी, वह उम्मीद पूरी नहीं हुई। यदि खेनडी का प्राजेक्ट समय के अनुसार काम करता, यदि वहाँ का मैनेजमेन्ट ठीक होता तो पब्लिक सेक्टर अण्डरटेकिंग के बारे में देश में जो आलोचना होती है, वह आलोचना तो होती ही नहीं, साथ में देश को जो बहुत बड़ी हानि हो रही है, वह भी नहीं होती। खेनडी प्राजेक्ट यदि एस्टीमेट के अनुसार, समय के अनुसार काम करता तो देश को जितने कापर की जरूरत है, उसका करीब एक-चौथाई यानी 31 हजार टन कापर अकेले खेनडी प्राजेक्ट से मिल जाता और देश को जो 16 लाख रुपये ग्रेज का फारेन-एक्सचेंज का घाटा हो रहा है, वह घाटा भी नहीं भुगतान पड़ता।

1962 से यह प्राजेक्ट सरकार के विचार-धीन रहा, कई तब्दीलियाँ आईं और 24 करोड़ रुपये की लागत के इस प्रोजेक्ट की कीमत आज 115 करोड़ रुपये पर पहुँच गई—इतना बड़ा घाटा इस देश को हुआ। यह ठीक है कि मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि अब खेनडी प्राजेक्ट की हालत सुधर रही है। मैं भी इस बात को मानता हूँ। इसके भूतपूर्व मंत्री श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी और इन्होंने भी खेनडी प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में वहाँ जाकर उसकी हालत को सुधारने के लिये जो प्रयत्न किये हैं, उसके लिये हम सब

आभारी हूँ। लेकिन खाली इतना कह देने से काम नहीं चलेगा। मंत्री महोदय को आज बताना चाहिये कि किन कारणों से खेतड़ी प्राजेक्ट समय पर पूरा नहीं हुआ, उसके लिये कौन दोषी है और उन दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय यह एक अहम सवाल है खाली आप ऐसा व्यक्त कर दें कि आइन्दा के लिये ठीक हो जायेगा, अब अवश्य सुधार हो रहा है, इसमें काम नहीं चलेगा। आखिर हर पैसे का जो खर्चा होना है, उमका एकाउन्ट देने की जिम्मेदारी आप की है, इसलिये आप इस दायित्व से मुक्त नहीं हो सकते कि इतनी बड़ी रकम की जो बर्गलिंग हुई है, उसके बारे में किम की जिम्मेदारी है और उसके लिये आपने क्या कदम उठाये हैं। आपको देश की जनता को इस बारे में विश्वास में लेना चाहिये। मैं यहाँ पर इसी सन्दर्भ में यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह सही है कि इस प्राजेक्ट ने अब कुछ प्रगति की है, काम शुरू हुआ है, स्पीड-अप भी हुआ है, लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से एक आश्वासन भी चाहता हूँ कि जा टारगेट डेट आपने फिक्स की है, उसके मुताबिक खेतड़ी प्राजेक्ट का काम शुरू हो जाय।

मैं उनसे यह भी निवेदन करूँगा कि राजस्थान में खेतड़ी में सिर्फ कापर ही नहीं मिलता है, बल्कि यूरेनियम जैसी बहुमूल्य धातु के मिलने की भी आशा है, इसलिये खेतड़ी प्राजेक्ट अपने आप में एक बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट प्राजेक्ट है, इसको नेग्लेक्ट मत कीजिये। मैं यह भी निवेदन करूँगा कि राजस्थान के दरीबा क्षेत्र में जो अलवर जिले में है, वहाँ भी ताम्बा मिलने की बहुत बड़ी सम्भावना है। इस लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूँगा कि वे दरीबा माइन्ज को भी एक्सप्लोयट कराये। कुछ काम वहाँ पर हो रहा है, लेकिन उसको तेज करे, ताकि देश की जो कापर की जरूरत है, वह पूरी हो सके।

इसी सन्दर्भ में मैं दो बातें और कहना

चाहता हूँ। अभी श्री कार्तिक ओराओ कह रहे थे कि पब्लिक सैक्टर अण्डरटेकिंग के मैनेजमेंट के लिये एक कमीशन होना चाहिये। लेकिन मैं एक दूसरी बात कहना चाहता हूँ—पब्लिक सैक्टर अण्डरटेकिंग को बढ़ाने की नीति आप की है, देश की नीति है, इसलिये इसके रेगुलेशन के बारे में भी आपकी कोई नीति होनी चाहिये। किसी भी रिटायर्ड मिलिट्री परसोनल को या किसी आई० सी० एम० अधिकारी को रख देने से काम नहीं हो सकता। इसके लिये एक आल इण्डिया सर्विस कायम की जाय, जिन को पब्लिक सैक्टर अण्डरटेकिंग में विश्वास हो। जो कमिटेड हैं इस बारे में ऐसे लोगों को जब आप मैनेजीरियल जगहों पर रखेंगे तभी इसमें मफलता मिलेगी।

खेतड़ी के बारे में मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि वहाँ के लोगों को शिकायत है कि इसमें जो लोगो को एम्प्लायमेंट दिया गया है वह बाहर से लोगो को लाकर बिठा दिया गया है। मैं चाहूँगा कि एम्प्लायमेंट देने समय इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाना चाहिए कि राजस्थान और स्थानीय लोगों को ही ज्यादातर नौकरियाँ मिलें ताकि उस प्राजेक्ट का एक फायदा है, उस प्रदेश के पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने का, वह पूरा हो सके।

इस विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। जहाँ श्री इंद्रजीत गुप्त और श्री चटर्जी ने कहा है कि कम्पेनसेशन न दिया जाये वहाँ मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि अब तो संविधान में संशोधन करके हमने कम्पेनसेशन से छुटकारा पा लिया है। अब तो हमने जो शब्द लिखा है वह एमाउन्ट है और वह भी जस्टिशिऐबल नहीं है। इस कम्पनी ने काफी मुनाफा कमाया है, ऐसा ऐसा आप खुद कहते हैं, इसलिए मेहरबानी करके नामिनल एमाउन्ट दीजिएगा और इस कम्पनी को जल्द टेकओवर कीजिएगा। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूँ।

श्री शिव चंडिका (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री कुमारमंगलम जी ने जो इंडियन

[श्री शिव चंडिका]

कापर कारपोरेशन (टैकिंग ओवर आफ मैनेजमेंट) बिल सदन में पेश किया है उसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ और मंत्री जी को इसके लिए बधाई देता हूँ। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आज मऊभंडार कारखाने और मोसावनी खदान के मजदूर हमारी प्रधान मंत्री, श्रीमती इन्दिरा गाँधी का आभार मान रहे होंगे। इंडियन कापर कारपोरेशन, मऊ भंडार और मोसावनी को वर्षों से अंग्रेज चला रहे हैं और यह उनका मोनोपली बिजनेस रहा है। अंग्रेजों का कारखाना रहने के कारण जो जोर-जुलम मजदूरों पर हुआ करते थे, वह बहुत ज्यादा था।

15-43 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARI in the Chair]

एक मजदूर सेवक के नाने उस क्षेत्र से मग संबंध 1947 से रहा है। मैं जानता हूँ कि जिस समय अंग्रेज आजादी की लड़ाई के चलते हम लोगों पर जोर-जुलम कर रहे थे, और नेता जी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस जमशेदपुर बेल्ट में मजदूर आन्दोलन को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कोशिश कर रहे थे, उस समय ये जो जमशेदपुर में 10, 15 या 20 मील दूरी पर रहने वाले मजदूर लोग थे उनको कोई भी राहत या रास्ता दिखाने वाला नहीं था। उस समय प्रो० बारी साहब ने आकर सन् 1945 में वहाँ के मजदूरों का संगठन करने और मजदूर आन्दोलन को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए वहाँ कांग्रेस का झंडा खड़ा किया था। नतीजा यह हुआ कि अंग्रेज ने मालिकों ने मजदूरों को जितना भी परेशान करना था उतना परेशान किया और आपको सुनकर ताज्जुब होगा कि वहाँ कई एक हड़तालें 6-6 महीने तक चलाई गई थी। मऊ भंडार में 25 साल के अन्दर मेरी जानकारी में कम से कम 30-35 लम्बी हड़तालें हुई। एक हड़ताल तो कम से कम महीने तक चली। मजदूरों को हर तरह से परेशान किया गया, उनके लिए पीने के लिये पानी का जो प्रबन्ध था उसको बन्द कर दिया गया, बिजली की रोशनी से वंचित कर दिया

गया और हड़ताल के लम्बे अरसे का पैसा नहीं दिया गया। उस समय बारी साहब ने टाटा के मजदूरों में और बनपुर के मजदूरों से चन्दा लाकर उन लोगों की हड़ताल को चलाया था और कामयाबी हमिल की थी। आज अगर वहाँ के मालिक को कम्पेनमेंशन देने की बात की जा रही है तो 25 बार वहाँ के मजदूरों ने अपनी वाजिब माँगों के लिये जो हड़ताल की और उनका जो नुकसान हुआ, मैं तो श्री कुमार-मंगलम साहब से कहूँगा कि उन मजदूरों को भी कम्पेनमेंशन देने की बात आप सोचें और अवश्य सोचें उन्होंने उस समय अपने हकों के लिये भारी कुरबानियाँ की थी।

सभापति महोदय, वहाँ पर अभी भी जैसी हालत है उसको श्री कुमारमंगलम् मानव जान रहे हैं। और उसको जानते हुए ही इसका राष्ट्रीयकरण कर रहे हैं। दो तीन माल पहले मैं भी उस क्षेत्र में संसत्सदस्य था और मैं जानता हूँ कि वहाँ मजदूरों की आवास की बहुत बड़ी दिक्कत है। इसी प्रकार से उनकी बहुत सी दूसरी आवश्यकताएँ भी हैं जिनको जल्द दूर करना चाहिये। इंजिनियरिंग वेज बोर्ड के एवार्ड के मिलने से उन्हें कुछ राहत मिली है। चूँकि मैं भी इंजिनियरिंग वेज बोर्ड का एक मेम्बर था, इसलिए मऊ भंडार और मोसावनी मेरे दिमाग में थे और उन्हें जो सहूलियतें दिलाने की थी, वह सहूलियतें मैंने दिलाई लेकिन क्वार्टर की अभी बहुत दिक्कत है। मेरे कहने पर कम्पनी क्वार्टर बनाने के लिये राजी भी हो गई लेकिन चूँकि वहाँ की सारी जमीन बिहार सरकार की है इसलिए बिहार सरकार के पास जब हम डलके लिये कहने गए तो कुछ नीचे के आफिसर्स ने उसमें दिक्कतें पैदा कीं। अब मैं श्री कुमारमंगलम् साहब से अर्ज करूँगा कि नेशनलाइजेशन करने के बाद आप इन बातों पर पूरा ध्यान दें।

सभापति महोदय, कहने के लिए तो बहुत सी बातें हैं कुछ मदस्यों ने उनको कहा भी है,

मेरा केवल यही कहना है कि मऊभंडार और मोसबानी को लेने से आज राखा माइन्स एक्सप्लायटेशन होने से बच गया। जैसा कि श्री कुमारमंगलम् साहब ने अभी कहा कि केम्नाइट माइन्स और मैगनीज माइन्स जो कार्पोरेशन ने लीज ली हैं उसको भी नेशनलाइज करेंगे। यह तो बिल्कुल सही है लेकिन वहाँ पर एक बहुत बड़ी धांधली हो रही है। मैं सरकार का ध्यान उस ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ। वह धांधली यह है कि वहाँ पर बहुत से छोटे-छोटे लीज होल्डरों ने माइन्स की लीज ले ली है और उनका धंधा यही है कि इंडियन कापर कार्पोरेशन का जो माल उठाया जाता है उसको वे चोरी से अपनी तरफ खींच लाते हैं जिसका नतीजा यह होता है कि इंडियन कापर कार्पोरेशन हमेशा बहुत नुकसान सहता है और इसे यदि नहीं रोका गया तो अब हमारी सरकार भी लास में जायगी। इसलिए मैं इस बात से आगाह करने हुए कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो छोटे-छोटे लीज होल्डर्स हैं उनकी लीज फौरन कैंसिल कर दी जाये। इस बात के प्रमाण मे मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी एक्सपोर्ट फीस को देखा जाये। यदि आप उसको देखेंगे तो पायेंगे कि उनका एक्सपोर्ट बहुत ज्यादा है। आखिर वह माल कहाँ से आता है? उनकी लीज तो इतनी छोटी है फिर इतना माल वे कहाँ से लाते हैं? यह बात छिपी हुई नहीं है कि छोटे-छोटे लीज होल्डर्स आज केम्नाइट और मैगनीज को ताजाइज तरीके से लेकर करोड़पति बन गए हैं। मैं चाहूँगा कि इस बात का भी ध्यान रखा जाये वरना यह माल-प्रेक्टिस चलती रहेगी।

इसके अतिरिक्त मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता एक अस्पताल की है। कुछ दिन पहले जब श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र जी श्रम मंत्री के नाते वहाँ गए थे तो उन्होंने बचन दिया था कि मोसावनी माइंस में सरकार की ओर से 100 बेड्स का एक अस्पताल बनवा दिया जाएगा लेकिन वह आज तक नहीं बन पाया है। इस पर भी मंत्री महोदय की ध्यान देना चाहिए।

श्री कार्तिक औरांव जी ने जैसा कहा है, मैं उनसे सहमत हूँ कि जहाँ तक नौकरी का मामला है, गवर्नमेंट का माइंड बिल्कुल क्लियर होना चाहिए। सिंहभूमि जिले में जहाँ पर मोसावनी और मऊभंडार माइंस हैं वहाँ आदिवासी बिहारी हैं, बंगाली स्पीकिंग बिहारी और उड़िया स्पीकिंग बिहारी, ज्यादा तादाद में रहते हैं लेकिन उनको नौकरी प्राप्त करने में दिक्कत होती है। गवर्नमेंट के पाम दो साल पहले मैंने उस क्षेत्र के ऐसे दर्जनों एम० ए०, एम० एस० सी० और बी० एस० सी० लड़कों की लिस्ट भेजी थी जो योग्यता रखते हुए भी नौकरी नहीं पा रहे थे। वे लोग बम्बई और दिल्ली में तो नौकरी पा सकते हैं लेकिन वहाँ पर नौकरी नहीं पाते हैं और दुःख की बात है। मैं चाहूँगा कि ये जो बंगाली स्पीकिंग और उड़िया स्पीकिंग बिहारी हैं उनको वहाँ नौकरी अवश्य मिलनी चाहिए। उनके साथ-साथ आदिवासियों को तो अवश्य ही अनस्किल्ड और सेमी स्किल्ड काम मिलना ही चाहिए। यह क्षेत्र पिछड़ा है और लोगों को कोई दूसरा धंधा मिलता नहीं है।

सभापति महोदय : यह जो बिल है इसमें कापर के लिए नेशनलाइजेशन की बात है। इसमें अगर आप सारी बातें करने लगेंगे तो इस बिल का पर्पज जो है उससे मेल नहीं खाएगा।

श्री शिव चंडिका : बात यह है, चैंबरमैन साहब, कि जल्दी बोलने का समय ही नहीं दिया जाता है। जब मिलता है तो सारी बातें कह देना ठीक है।

तो मैं कह रहा था कि वहाँ पर बंगाली मीडियम से, उड़िया मीडियम से स्कूल चलाई जाती हैं, वह स्कूल पिछले 50-60 सालों से चल रहे हैं। उसको टेक ओवर करने के बाद गवर्नमेंट उन स्कूलों को बन्द न करदे, बल्कि उन्हें चलाने में प्रोत्साहन दे। इन सारी बातों के साथ मैं आगे कुछ कहना नहीं चाहता, हालाँकि कहने को तो बहुत कुछ है, तीन साल में यह पहला मौका है जब बोलने का समय मिला है।

श्री नाथूराम मिर्चा (नागौर) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं तो केवल दो मिनट लूंगा सदन का, इसलिए कि ताँबा बैसे भी आज दुनिया के किसी भी देश की प्रगति की जड़ है और इसकी जिस कम्पनी का आज राष्ट्रीयकरण कर रहे हैं, वह स्वागत योग्य कदम है। प्राइवेट सेक्टर की कम्पनी और पब्लिक सेक्टर की कम्पनी दोनों में ऐसा तालमेल हो कि जिससे देश में ज्यादा ताँबा पैदा हो, इस भावना से इस कानून को लाया गया है, वह स्वागत योग्य है। परन्तु हमारा जो पुराना तजुर्बा है, अच्छा नहीं है। राजस्थान में खेतड़ी प्रोजेक्ट और जिक का कारखाना है उसके बाद भी हमको ये वस्तुएँ बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करनी पड़ती है। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने आशा व्यक्त की है कि अब यह खेतड़ी ठीक हो जाएगा और 21 हजार टन 1974 तक हम पैदा करने लगेंगे, यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है। वास्तव में इसका पुराना तजुर्बा बहुत ही खराब है, यह कापर प्रोजेक्ट अभी शुरू हुआ, इसमें बहुत मेटल पड़ा हुआ है, कारखाना शूडूल पर चला नहीं, टारगेट्स पूरे कब होंगे, अभी भी इसके अन्दर मुझे शंका है। इसके अलावा राजस्थान में पब्लिक सेक्टर में इन कारखानों के लगन के बाद भी वहाँ का जनता का कोई लाभ नहीं हुआ। पब्लिक सेक्टर के कारखानों की वजह से जो कुछ इन्फ्लायमेंट राजस्थान के लोगों को मिलना चाहिए था वह भी नहीं मिला। बड़ा ही मिस-मैनेजमेंट सारे मामले में रहा है।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूँगा कि जो कुछ ये सारी बातें हाउस में कही गई हैं, अनेक बार अखबारों में भी आ चुकी हैं, उनके बारे में जाँच होनी चाहिए और जिन्होंने ये खराब काम किये हैं, उनको जब तक आप पब्लिक सेक्टर में ठीक नहीं करेंगे, तब तक कभी भी आपका पब्लिक सेक्टर ठीक ढंग से चलेगा नहीं। इसलिए यह जिक का जो कारखाना है, उसका जो एक्सपेंशन का प्रोग्राम है, उसको भी देखें कि वहाँ पर कितना जस्ता अवेलेबल है, इन मामलों को बहुत गम्भीरता से देखने की

आवश्यकता है और इस कापर के बारे में भी जितने भी रिसोर्सेज हमारे केन्द्र में हैं, उनको ठीक तरह से चला सके, इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करना जरूरी है, वरना पब्लिक सेक्टर को हम बढ़ाते चले जाएँ तो लोग हमको दोष देगे और दुनिया हँसेगी और सभी लोग हमारी तरफ देखेंगे कि कैसा हमारा पब्लिक सेक्टर चल रहा है। इसलिए मैं इस मौके पर इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में और भी बहुत फामफेट भरा हुआ है जिसका उपयोग फर्टिलाइजर बनाने में किया जा सकता है, जिस पर हमें विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च करनी पड़ती है, उसका प्रापर ढंग में ऐक्मप्लायटेशन हो, उसका फर्टिलाइजर काप्लेक्स के रूप में इस्तेमाल हो, वह भी बहुत जल्दी सोचकर फैसला करने की जरूरत है। राजस्थान धातुओं में, मिनरल्स में बहुत रिच है, उसका सही उपयोग करने की दृष्टि से मैं इस मौके पर इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि इन मामलों को बहुत गहराई और ठीक ढंग से देखा जाये और आगे इसका शूडूल ठीक बने और उस हिमाब से काम चलने लगे और उसके जरिये किस तरह से इनका छोटा मोटा उपयोग लोगों की भलाई के लिए हो सकता है, उसका विशेष रूप से ध्यान रखने की मैं आपसे अपील करूँगा। इन चन्द शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूँ और निवेदन करूँगा कि इस मामले को आगे अच्छाई के साथ धातुओं के उत्पादन का कार्यक्रम बना कर चलाया जाए।

श्री दामोदर पांडे (हजारीबाग) : सभापति जी, मैं इस विधेयक का हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ। मैं मानता हूँ कि यह सही दिशा में एक मजबूत कदम है। यह काम बहुत पहले हो जाना चाहिए था।

आप देखेंगे कि इस विधेयक में जैसा कि कहा गया है, इंडियन कापर कॉर्पोरेशन अक्सर कनराता आया है इस मामले में कि थोड़ा और अधिक इन्वेस्ट करके वह लो-ग्रेड-ओर का भी इस्तेमाल करे। यह जो खदान की सम्पत्ति

होती है, चाहे कोयला हो, चाहे ताबा हो या कुछ दूसरी चीज हो, यह देश की बहुमूल्य सम्पत्ति है और यह खत्म होने वाली सम्पत्ति है, यह रोज-गोज बढ़ती नहीं। घरती ने विरामत के रूप में हमें दी है और इस विरासत को कोई गलत ढंग से इस्तेमाल करके इसको खत्म करे तो इसके लिए बाद में अफसोस करना पड़ता है। कोयले का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया एक हिस्से का और एक बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा अभी बाकी है, जैसे आपने खेतड़ी में देखा होगा।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सभापति महोदय, मैं व्यवस्था चाहता हूँ। सदन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है।

सभापति महोदय : आप बोलिए। गिनती हो रही है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सभापति महोदय, आपको मेरी गिनती पर भरोसा नहीं है ?

सभापति महोदय : कोरम की घंटी बजाई जा रही है। (15 57 पर कोरम की घंटी बजाई गई) कोरम हो गया। बोलिए।

श्री दामोदर पांडे : जैसा मैं कह रहा था, जो खत्म होने वाली सम्पत्ति हो उसका ठीक ढंग से इस्तेमाल किया जाए, ठीक ढंग से उसको काम में लाया जाए, यह बहुत जरूरी है। ताँबे का भंडार जो अपने देश में है, उसको देखकर यह कहा जा सकता है कि इसका जितना अच्छा उपयोग हो सके, वह बेहतर है। जो लो-ग्रेड और के इस्तेमाल के लिए इसका राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया है, जो मैनेजमेंट टेक ओवर किया गया है, यह स्वागत योग्य कदम है और साथ ही साथ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सिर्फ कापर ही नहीं, जितनी भी खदानें हैं, उनका जो गलत उपयोग हो रहा है, चाहे वह मैंगनीज की हो चाहे आयरन और की हो, चाहे कोयले की हो, आपके सामने कोई चारा नहीं रह गया है कि उसको आप ले लें और उसकी सही ढंग से व्यवस्था करें, सही ढंग से उनको चलायें जिससे

कि देश की जो सम्पत्ति है, उसकी गलत ढंग से बरबादी न हो। कोयले का आपने राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है. . . (ध्वजवाहन)

सभापति महोदय : मेरा ख्याल है कि जब कोई मोशन आता है तो हम लोग अपने को उतने तक ही लिमिट नहीं रखते हैं जितना उसका फील्ड है, सारे के सारे हम लोग कवर करते चले जाते हैं। मेरा ख्याल है कि यह परिपाटी ठीक नहीं मालूम होती। जो बिल में है, उसी के बारे में आप अपने विचार रखें तो समय भी कम लगे और हाउस का बिजिनेस भी ठीक तरह से चले।

16 hrs.

श्री दामोदर पांडे : मैं जैसा कह रहा था कि जो टेक ओवर किया गया है, इसकी व्यवस्था की तरफ भी ध्यान देना चाहिए। हम लोगों का अनुभव यह बताता है कि पिछले कुल महीनों में इस दिशा में काफी प्रगति हुई है। और काम हुए हैं लेकिन अभी बहुत कुछ करना बाकी है। इस दिशा में जो काम हुआ है उसके संबंध में भी मेरा यह विचार है कि आपकी नीयत तो अच्छी है लेकिन उनको चलाने के सिलसिले में, काम के मिलसिले में जो स्पीड होनी चाहिये थी वह अभी नहीं हो पाई है। जिस जरूरत के लिए आप इसको टेक ओवर करते हैं, उस जरूरत को हमेशा ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिये। अभी यह जरूर कोशिश की जा रही है कि लो ग्रेड और का हम इस्तेमाल करेंगे। इसकी जल्दी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। आज जो वेस्टेज होना है वहाँ कापर और का उसको जल्दी से जल्दी रोकना चाहिये। कोकिंग कोल के संबंध में पिछली बार कहा गया था कि उसके भंडार हमारे देश में बहुत कम हैं और बहुत जल्दी उसकी कमी महसूस की जाएगी लेकिन उसको टेक ओवर करने के बावजूद भी जो बरबादी रुकनी चाहिये थी वह रुक नहीं पाई। कोकिंग कोल का जो सही इस्तेमाल होना चाहिये, नहीं हो पाया। वैसे कामों में भी उसका इस्तेमाल होता है जिनका काम इन्फीरियर ग्रेड कोल से

[श्री दामोदर पांडे]

चल सकता है। मेरे ख्याल में जब आपने इसे टेक ओवर किया है तो इस ओर आप ध्यान दें कि जल्दी से जल्दी जो आपका मकसद है, उसको हासिल करने की दिशा में आप मही कदम उठाएँ। एशियन रिफ़ैक्ट्रीज को जब टेक ओवर किया गया तब कहा गया था कि छः महीने के अन्दर-अन्दर वह कारखाना चालू हो जायगा। छः महीने बीते काफी दिन हो गये हैं लेकिन अभी तक वह कारखाना चालू नहीं हुआ। इसी तरह से और भी बुनियादी उद्योग जिम मकसद से आप लेते हैं उस मकसद की पूर्ति की दिशा में अगर कहीं कोई कमी है, आपको आदमी नहीं मिलते हैं या मही आदमियों का इस्तेमाल नहीं हो पाता है तो उस दिशा में भी मोचने का अब समय आ गया है। मुझे विश्वास है एक प्रगतिशील मंत्री जो श्री कुमारमंगलम माहब है, वह अवश्य इस दिशा में ध्यान देंगे और जल्दी से जल्दी इसको पूरा करने के लिए कदम उठाएंगे।

अभी कुछ भाइयों ने कहा कि पब्लिक सैक्टर में जब किसी उद्योग को लिया जाता है तो एक और नेशनल लाम का रास्ता खुल जाता है। यह बात कुछ अपोजीशन के भाइयों ने कही। मेरा ख्याल है कि शायद वे स्थिति की जानकारी नहीं रखते हैं इसलिए उन्होंने ऐसी बात कह दी है। अगर इसको गहरे ढंग से वे देखेंगे तो स्वयं महसूस करेंगे कि इसके सिवा और कोई चारा नहीं है कि इन उद्योगों का जल्दी से जल्दी राष्ट्रीयकरण किया जाए। लास आज दूसरी शेष में हो रहा है। जो ओर की बरबादी हो रही है उस लाम को मेक अप करने का क्या रास्ता है? आज जो ताँबा निकल सकता है, जिसे फैंक दिया जाता है, जिस ओर को फैंक दिया जाता है उसके लास का अगर हिसाब लगाया जाए और उसके लिए जो हमको फारेन एक्स्चेंज खर्च करनी पड़ती है जिसकी वजह से देश की बरबादी होती है, उसका हिसाब लगाया जाए तो आप भी इस नतीजे पर पहुँचेंगे कि इसके सिवा और कोई

चारा सरकार के सामने नहीं रह गया। लेकिन हमारे ये भाई इस ओर ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। इस तरह की चीज को मैनेज करने के लिए जब हजार, दो हजार या लाख दो लाख का लास होता है तो उसकी तरफ बड़े जोर से इनका ध्यान जाना है।

एक और चीज में कह देना चाहता हूँ। पब्लिक सैक्टर में आप किसी कारखाने को लेते हैं, खदान को लेते हैं, तो उसके साथ-साथ कुछ आबलीगेशंस भी आपके ऊपर आ जाती हैं आप उस तरह का व्यवहार मजदूरों के साथ नहीं कर सकते हैं जिम तरह का व्यवहार प्राइवेट सैक्टर का जो मालिक होता है, वह करता है। उचित मजदूरी आपको उन्हें देनी पड़ती है, उनके रख-रखाव की ओर कल्याण की व्यवस्था आपको करनी पड़ती है। अगर आप किसी खदान को लेते हैं तो यह चीज इम्प्लाई होती है, यह साथ साथ चलती है आपको मजदूरों का कल्याण भी साथ साथ करना पड़ेगा और उसमें कुछ खर्च करना पड़ेगा। घाटा उठाकर करना पड़े तब भी करना पड़ेगा। मेरी यह मान्यता है कि मजदूर अगर सन्तुष्ट होगा तो बहुत जल्दी वह आपका घाटा पूरा कर देगा। सन्तुष्ट मजदूर वर्ग ही इस देश को आगे बढ़ा सकता है। उसको सन्तोष प्रदान करने के लिए यह जरूरी है कि चाहे धीरे-धीरे ही सही लेकिन मजबूत कदम आप उठाते चले जायें। यह जो कदम आपने उठाया है यह भी सही दिशा में एक कदम है, एक बड़ा कदम है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि आगे के लिए भी जितनी जल्दी हो सके, इसको पूरा किया जाए और दूसरी जो खदानें हैं, जो अभी भी बची हुई हैं, उनका भी राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया जाए।

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the Debate and for the support they have given to the decision of the

Government to the taking over of the management of the Indian Copper Corporation. I do not think there has been a single dissenting voice. I am certainly grateful for this unanimity.

There are, of course, a number of points raised by hon. Members and, in the time that is available at my disposal, I will try to do justice to them.

The first point that I would like to take up is the point regarding compensation. A number of hon. Members, beginning with Mr. Chatterji who opened the discussion of the subject, have criticised the position that we have taken up in this Bill regarding both the manner of taking over and the amount that we have provided for the compensation. Mr. Indrajit Gupta asked us as a question of policy, whether we intended always only to take over the management first and go over to full nationalisation later on. I can assure the hon. Member that this is not a part of our policy, but sometimes, it is impossible to proceed except in this manner.

So far as the question of coking coal mines is concerned, it was really a matter of establishing exactly what their assets were. We were not in a position, in view of the large number of mines involved, to decide exactly as to what was the value of the assets and what should be the different methods that should be taken into consideration before coming to a final decision as to the amount of compensation to be paid.

So far as this question with regard to the Copper Corporation is concerned, we had considered taking it over outright. We are now looking into the whole question of the principles on the basis of which we should pay compensation. Hon. Members are, I think, also aware that the 24th Amendment of the Constitution is now awaiting final ratification and adoption on the basis of ratification by the majority of State legislatures in the country...

श्री हुक्म चन्द कश्यप : सभापति महोदय,
गणपूर्ति नहीं है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung... Now there is quorum. He may continue.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I would like to correct myself. It is not the 24th Amendment which is now pending ratification; it is the 25th Amendment that is pending. Once this is adopted, we get the protection of Article 31 (c) in relation to any legislation that is in pursuance of the Directive Principles laid down in Articles 39 (b) and (c) of the Constitution. So we thought it would be better that the final Bill for nationalisation may be brought after the adoption of the 25th Amendment so that we can take advantage of the protection of art. 31(c). That is the main reason. The second, but the rather subsidiary reason is that we do want also to settle broadly in the terms of the amended Constitution, the principles on the basis of which we should compute compensation for concerns that are taken over. We are trying to settle that, and I would assure the House that we shall bring forward Bills both in relation to the coking coal mines as well as in relation to the Copper Corporation very soon. If there is time, I would like to bring it forward in the course of this session itself but I am not sure because there is shortage of legislative time, but certainly it will not go beyond the next session. I would like to give that assurance to the House.

Hon. Members have also criticised the provision of Rs. 75,000 as management compensation. I have every sympathy with the view that they have expressed, but they will appreciate, and particularly I would refer my hon. friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee to the terms of article 31A where it is expressed that the taking over of the management of any property by the State for a limited period is protected by the terms of that article. The difficulty about the application of that is that by and large the courts have approached this problem from the point of view that "limited period" would mean that we should run it for a limited period and then hand it back, not as a step towards nationalisation itself. I think that we may be in legal difficulties, and we have been advised by our legal advisers that we would be in legal difficulties if we adopted a different interpretation of article 31 A (b). That is so far as the question of compensation is concerned.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee also mentioned, of course, that we would be paying out large

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amounts out of the public revenues. That may not be entirely correct, because the compensation that is paid for loss of right of management will be out of the revenues of the corporation itself. The ownership of the corporation is still of the shareholders...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Even if there is loss, they are bound to pay this amount.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : So, the money will be paid out of the revenues of the corporation. So, the hon. Member is not mathematically right in thinking that we shall be paying money out of public revenues...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : What happens if there is loss ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : When there is loss also, they will have to bear the loss.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Even if there is loss, Rs. 75,000 will have to be paid.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : May I answer the hon. Member's question, if only he has the patience to listen to the answer ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Does he have any doubt about that ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I have no doubt at all. In fact, the coking coal mineowners who may suffer losses are extremely aggrieved that they will have to bear any loss that may be incurred, and there will be losses in some of the inefficiently managed coking coal mines. But here nobody anticipates that there will be loss and I may assure hon. Members that there will not be a loss.

Now, let me take up this question of management. A number of remarks have been made, and with great respect to hon. Members, I must say that some remarks have been made that have been extremely uncharitable regarding the management of Hindu-

stan Copper. Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that the managerial personnel of Hindustan Copper were only interested in foreign trips. Another hon. Member, Dr. Laxminarain Pandeya said that money had been embezzled in Hindustan Copper to the tune of crores of rupees. Shri Indrajit Gupta said that Khetri was a blot on the landscape. Dr. Laxminarain Pandeya also used the expression that he was shocked at its performance. Shri P. K. Ghosh said that the management of Hindustan Copper was totally inefficient. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi was pessimistic about the future and felt that it would be impossible for us to achieve the targets that we had put before ourselves.

I would only beg of hon. Members, before they make their very strong criticisms about the management of public sector concerns, to acquaint themselves with facts, because every person in this country, including managers in charge of public sector concerns is entitled to be treated justly, that is to say, facts must be taken into account before a person is condemned.

I have specifically investigated the position regarding the question of foreign trips. I would like to assure Shri Somnath Chatterjee that during the last three years, every foreign trip undertaken by technical personnel in Hindustan Copper—I am prepared to prove to him if he would meet me outside. I do not want to go into details here—has been undertaken for the benefit of the organisation and not for the benefit of the individual.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I remove the misconception that the hon. Minister has of the point that I made ? I did not say that they were only interested in foreign trips, but I said that the criticism appeared that they were interested more in foreign trips than in doing anything else.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : That is also unfair criticism which has no basis in fact. Technical officers like the mining engineer...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Through your good offices, Sir, may I seek one infor-

mation? How many such trips were made during the last three years?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : May I reply to his point? I would like to tell him the facts, if only he will have patience, a quality he seems to be lacking in. Technical officers like mining engineers and metallurgists have been sent for training to Australia, Zambia, Canada and the US in copper mines and smelting plants. The total number of officers sent during the last two years is 18. Some of them were sent under the Colombo Plan, some under USAID and some at the expense of the company. This also includes the visits made by the Chairman and the Senior Dy. General Manager to Zambia, which is one of the most advanced countries for the operation of copper mines, during 1971 for about ten days at the company's expense, and the visits also of the Chairman and two other senior officers to the US and Canada in 1972 for about two weeks at the invitation of the governments of those countries.

Shri Chatterjee very rightly drew attention to the shortage of experienced personnel. But he will appreciate that if we are to develop our own personnel quickly, we have to expose them to important and vital advances in technology and—copper mining technology is advancing very fast—which is only available in these foreign mines.

This is what has been done, and I think we should be fair to all our officers and not condemn them, particularly when every one of these trips has been sanctioned by Government. If hon. members wish to know the details of the individuals and the amounts spent, I am ready to give them to them. But my only request to them is that before they make allegations like this, they should first enquire of me, and I will give them all the facts, and if after I have given them the facts, they still find that these officers have misbehaved, let them condemn them on the floor of the House. Why I am making this appeal—and I make it with all the sincerity and emphasis at my command—is that during the last two or three years, officers are coming from the private sector into the public sector, sacrificing sometimes half the salaries they were drawing in the private sector. Many of the officers working today in Hindustan Copper were drawing substantially

higher salaries in the private sector. They come here with enthusiasm, with a commitment and a desire to serve the nation. And when they come here and work with all their heart and enthusiasm and are then charged with embezzling crores of rupees, with only being interested in foreign trips and so on, what will be the effect on their morale? Should we not have given a second thought to this aspect also? I most earnestly and sincerely plead with hon. members: kindly take note of facts before you criticise.

Take, for instance, the question of delay. It is true that the Khetri project has been greatly delayed. But I plead with you to appreciate that during the last three years there has been a thorough reorganisation of the top management in Khetri. The present Chairman joined in 1970; the FA in Jan. 1971; the present Deputy General Manager in charge of the Khetri Copper Mine joined in April 1971, the present mine Superintendent of Khetri who actually came from Indian Copper joined in May 1971. All of them are technical people or people who had a definite position in industry and in business, may be in mining, may be in other industries, but competent technical people. I think I would not be wrong in saying that every one of them has suffered financially as a result of coming to take up work in Hindustan Copper. These are the persons who, I think, are now definitely improving the position of Hindustan Copper. I would not have taken so much time on this matter, but since hon. Members have put this matter in issue, it is my duty to defend those who are not here to defend themselves.

Hon. Members will note that the latest programme for Khetri was made in July 1970 on the basis of a part prepared by the National Productivity Council. That provided for the concentrator plant to be brought into production by June, 1972, a date which has now been revised to December, 1972. I would give you the facts about that also. The smelter is to come into operation in December, 1973; the refinery also, in December, 1973. We are confident, and I have been assured even recently by the officer of Hindustan Copper, that we will keep to these dates.

You may necessarily and rightly enquire why there was delay in the concentrator

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plant. Unfortunately, there have been serious delays by the contractor who is responsible for completing the civil and structural work by February, 1971, which he will only complete by May, 1972. I would not like to go into the details of it, but the fact is that I am personally satisfied, because I have personally looked into this that the Hindustan Copper management is doing its best to reduce these delays due to the fault of the contractor to the maximum extent possible. So much so that though the delay in civil works will likely be as much as 15 months—February, 1971 to May, 1972—by taking advance action in other areas, electrical, mechanical and piping sections, and thus they have reduced the total delay to only nine months. This is their achievement and I would like on the floor of this House to pay a tribute to the way in which this young, new team has taken up the work in Hindustan Copper and is carrying out its duties. I would earnestly make one request to hon. Members; all our public sector managements will be happy if hon. Members will go into the facts of what is going on in the public sector undertakings. You are welcome at Khetri or Ghatsila. If anyone of you wants to meet the Chairman or any senior officer of Hindustan Copper, he is available to you. But please, most earnestly I beg of you, do not condemn them without discussing with them. Do not condemn them without getting their facts. How will they carry on, having come here and feeling that they are doing something really for the country? Let us give them a chance. I am confident that if we give our technologists, if we give our managing agents in the public sector a chance, if we give them support from this House, they will deliver the goods to our country and to our people. I am confident that there is a turn in the public sector, and I am sure that hon. Members also would like to see that turn. If you have any doubts, it may be discussed with the public sector management first, before you come to condemn them on the floor of the House.

Shri Chatterjee raised the question of clause 13. I can assure the hon. Member, as also Mr. Indrajit Gupta who has come here, and other hon. Members including Mr. Viswanathan and Mr. Panigrahi, that

clause 13 is not meant in anyway to affect the service conditions of the workers or to make any worker suffer. It is a clause which we usually put in, and it is merely meant to safeguard us from paying anybody who has been introduced by the management at any particular level not for the good of the Corporation out for the good of that individual—higher salary, supernumerary staff or just really nepotistically introduced into the organisation. It is to safeguard us from having to keep them on the rolls of the Corporation. I can assure hon. Members that this clause is not going to be used by the Custodian, and the Government will see that it is not used more than to the extent that it is necessary for the Government to do, because we have every confidence in the custodian himself that he will do as other custodians have done.

I would also like to make a reference to what my friend, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, has mentioned regarding the head office. The difficulty about this staff of 25 in the head office is that they were not really doing the work of the Copper Corporation as such. They were engaged in doing the work for the managing agent regarding the shareholders, that is to say, the 26,000 shareholders of the Indian Copper Corporation—what should be done for them in terms of notice about dividend, annual general meetings, this, that and the other,—and it is merely that part of the work of the managing agent. It is a moot point which I think he will also appreciate, as to whether dealing with work of the shareholders, when working for the managing agent, is dealing with the work of what may be called the Indian Copper Corporation producing copper. That is the only question that is involved. Of course, we could take another 25 people on rolls, but not because they were having anything to do with the work of the Copper Corporation as such. But they were actually working in the concern of the managing agents.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : So long as you take over the management, and not ownership, these persons will still be engaged in doing that work.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I think you should be quite clear that we have not taken over everybody at all. Those who are working in the managing agency are only the servants of the managing agents; when they become the servants of the new nationalised organisation, whatever we may call it, whether it is part of the HCC or anything else; only then the question of the transfer of their services comes in. But you will appreciate that there is a difference between persons working under the managing agents dealing with share transfers, etc. of the Indian Copper Corporation and persons who are working in the Indian Copper Corporation as such. That is why, while I can give you certainly an assurance that all those who are working in the Indian Copper Corporation will continue to work in that Corporation, I cannot give you an assurance that everybody working with the managing agents, Gilanders Arbuthnot will necessarily become part of this institution. It is only understandable that these people feel that they should be taken over. They are naturally uncertain about their future. I can appreciate and sympathise with them. At the same time I hope you will appreciate that those who were in the service of Gilanders Arbuthnot and Company who were managing agents, many of whom had nothing to do with copper but today are claiming to do something with the Indian Copper Corporation, we have to be careful whom we take over in the working of the Corporation itself.

Regarding the question of distribution, I think Mr. Chatterjee went back some 12 or 13 years in his figures. The production of ICC was a little over 9,000 tonnes a year for the last few years. 6,000 tonnes was being given to the DGSD at prices fixed by the Cost Accounts Officer in the Ministry of Finance. 2,000 tonnes were allotted to be used in the rolling steel mills of the ICC. About 1000 tonnes, the balance, was being sold in the open market. But in February 1971 a restriction was imposed that the sales of the balance should be through the DGTD nominees. I have not got the figures for each State. But this is only 10 per cent of the total amount of copper used in the country. Most of the copper produced by the ICC was going through the DGSD for defence purposes. I shall give him the state-

wise figures if he is interested and comes to see me afterwards.

The most important and the most urgent question that we are faced with today is the speeding up as quickly as we can of the construction of Khetri on the one hand and of the bringing into operation of copper production plants in other areas, namely, Malanjkhand and Agnigundala. In my introductory remarks I said that Malanjkhand would be one of the most promising deposits. Agnigundala is a comparatively smaller in deposit. My friend Mr. Sharma referred to Dariba. That project had been sanctioned and we are going forward as fast as we can. The estimates were cleared by the Government in February 1972 for Rs. 1.17 crores for the production of 100 tonnes of ore a day, equivalent to 560 tonnes of copper a year. These will be taken to Khetri and smelted there. That is there now add we are going forward fast with it.

So far as the copper ore deposits in the country is concerned,—I think Mr. Indrajit Gupta asked me about it—the figures are as follows : Khetri and Kolihan deposits amount to something like 96 million tonnes. They are the biggest deposit, though they are not possibly so rich as the Singbhum deposits. Rakha, Siddheshwar and the entire mining area of ICC—80 million tonnes. Malanjkhand has proved deposits of 21 million tonnes, but I am sure it will be more. Agnigundala has a small deposit of only 8 million tonnes, and that is why the figures which I gave earlier of production are also on a small scale. Apart from that, if we take the small deposits in Bihar, Mysore and Andhra, the total amount would come to something like 45 million tonnes, and the overall deposits in the country are 250 million tonnes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What are our actual requirements at present ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : Somewhere in the region of one lakh tonnes. I told you earlier that our production is only about 10 per cent. We hope that by 1975 or so we will go up to about 40 to 50 per cent of our requirements, and by the time we reach 1980 we should have moved substantially towards becoming

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self-sufficient according to our present plans. But I can assure hon. Members that we are paying the maximum attention that we can to development of production as fast as possible, and the most important reasons for the take over of the Indian Copper Corporation is to speed up development.

I think it was Mr. Indrajit Gupta who raised the question whether we have been able to get copper from elsewhere in view of the fact that U. S. aid has been cut. We have been trying to negotiate with other countries. I think you know that Latin America, particularly Chile and Peru both are mining substantial amounts of copper ore and producing also the metal. I cannot say definitely that we have reached any understanding, but at the moment the signs are quite reasonable that we should be able to reach some understanding to buy copper from them.

Finally, on this question of local employment that has been raised by Mr. Mirdha in relation to Khetri and also by some of our Members who come from the Singbhum area, I would like to make it quite clear that Government's policy in this regard is that where the posts only carry a salary of Rs. 500 or less, we do want to give preference to persons in the local area itself. By and large I think that now it has been established that only persons who have registered themselves in the local employment exchanges will be given preference. Of course, there are cases of persons who come from outside and register themselves in the local employment exchange and then call themselves as persons from the locality. That is a matter for the effective operation of the local employment exchanges themselves, and it is difficult to avoid that, but so far as the senior technical posts are concerned, we must look upon them as all-India posts and take the best possible persons who are available, and I can assure hon. Members that we are doing this. In every place we take the person whom we think is the most competent, and hon. Members have every right, if not duty, to criticise us if they think any other consideration enters into the appointments to posts of that level. We believe that the technical expertise in the public sector today is growing fast, and we are confident that

the younger set of Managers who have been coming into the public sector in the last two or three years will be able to deliver the goods. All the criticisms—and they are justified criticisms, and I do not reject them merely because they are criticisms—that have been made about the working of our public sector undertakings in the past, I can confidently say, will become a thing of the past, and we will be able to deliver the goods to our country in terms of the promises that we have made.

With these words, I commend the Bill to the House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : May I know how long this twilight period will last—the two phases of nationalisation ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Unfortunately, he came a little late because I dealt with it in the beginning of my speech. He can read it a little later.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill to provide for the taking over, in the public interest, of the management of the undertaking of the Indian Copper Corporation Limited, pending acquisition of the undertaking, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up clause by clause consideration. As there are no amendments, I will straightway put clauses 2 and 3 to the vote of the House. The question is :

“That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4—(Appointment of Custodian to take over management of the under taking of the Company)

श्री रामावतार शारदा (पटना): सभापति महोदय, मेरा संसोधन पृष्ठ 3 के क्लॉज 4 के सब-क्लॉज 6 में है। जिसमें यह कहा गया है कि :

"The Custodian shall receive from the funds of the undertaking of the company such remuneration as the Central Government may fix"

इस तरह से इसको रखने में कोई चीज निश्चित नहीं होती है। सरकार ज्यादा भी दे सकती है, कम का तो सवाल ही नहीं है, ज्यादा देने का खतरा ज्यादा है। इस लिये मैं इसको स्पेसिफाई करना चाहता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि "कम्पनी" शब्द के बाद "सच" शब्द हटा दिया जाय और "रिम्यूनरेशन" शब्द के बाद "एज दी सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट मे फिक्स" को हटा दिया जाय तथा इन की जगह—

"of rupees one thousand and five hundred per month only"

रखा जाय। मैं ऐसा इसलिये कह रहा हूँ कि अगर हम स्पेसिफाई नहीं करेंगे तो आप जनते हैं कि बड़े-बड़े अफसरों और कस्टोडियन की तनख्वाहें कितनी अधिक होती हैं और दूसरी तरफ अगर माधारण श्रेणी के लोग कोई माँग करते हैं तो आप कहते हैं कि पैसा कम है। इस तरह का बहाना बना कर आप उनको टरकाते रहते हैं। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि मैक्सिमम लिमिट बाँध दी जाय और उस लिमिट को तय करने का अधिकार पार्लियामेंट को ही होना चाहिये। हम अफसरों के ऊपर या सरकार के ऊपर इस बात को नहीं छोड़ना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि जिन को बेसन देना है, अगर उसी तरह के लोग फैसला करेंगे तो जाहिर है कि वह सही फैसला नहीं कर सकेंगे। इस लिये मेरी मशा सिर्फ इतनी है कि हमें ऊँची तनख्वाही के बारे में सीमा बाँधनी चाहिये। पहले हम एक हजार रुपये की बात कहते थे। अब आप कह सकते हैं कि मंहुगाई बढ़ती जा रही है, उनके लिये

भी कुछ रीखनेबिल होना चाहिये, इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि 1500 रु० कर दिया जाय। लेकिन इसको उनके स्वीट-विल पर छोड़ देना मैं मुनासिब नहीं समझता हूँ। इसलिये मैंने उचित समझा है कि इसके लिये बिल्कुल निश्चित रकम बाँध दी जाय जो बड़े हजार रुपये से ज्यादा न हो। अब यह सरकारी कम्पनी होने जा रही है, सरकार का पैसा मिलेगा, इसलिये इससे ज्यादा उनको नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये। मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ :

Page 3, line 51,—

(i) omit "such"

(ii) for "as the Central Government may fix"

substitute—

"of rupees one thousand and five hundred per month only" (1)

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA LAM : Mr. Chairman, I have listened with great interest and enthusiasm to the very-vigorous speech made by the hon. Member, and I am so regretful about the fact that it is entirely wasted because he has misunderstood the scope of the section. And I hope on the next occasion when he speaks directly about something else he will be more eloquent than this.

The point is this. The Custodian mentioned in clause 4, sub-section (6) is the Custodian mentioned in clause 2, sub-section (c), that is to say, the government company appointed under section 4 to take over the management of the undertaking or the company. Therefore, no high-salaried individual is involved at all, and all the eloquence spent on the high salaries being wrongly paid to the wrong people should be applied at some other time to some other sets of facts, and not to the position here. So far as this remuneration is concerned, it is only to the government companies, namely, to Hindustan Copper. It is not paid to the Chairman of Hindustan Copper or to some officer of Hindustan Copper, but to the company itself, namely, Hindustan Copper. Such remuneration as we may fix will be paid to Hindustan Copper for running, a public sector under-

[Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam]

taking. We are not likely to fix such an enormous amount for that and I think you can leave it to our good sense to come to a proper conclusion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put amendment No. 1 to the vote of the House.

The Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 4 was added to the Bill

Clause 5 was added to the Bill

Clause 6—(Penalties)

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : सभापति महोदय, जहाँ सजा देने की बात कही गई है जिस क्लॉज में, क्लॉज नम्बर 6 में उसमें अगर कोई उस कम्पनी के सामान को, सम्पत्ति को या किसी भी चीज़ को रख लेता है या वहाँ से हटा देना चाहता है या हटा चुका है तो उसके लिए कौन सी सजा आप देंगे, वह बात कही गई है। पेज नं० 4, लाइन 31 में कहा गया है.

"Shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, or with both."

"बिध बोध" अगर रहता तो मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना था या केवल आप यही कह देते कि हम सजा ही करेंगे दो साल की तब भी मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना था लेकिन आपने इसमें रखा है कि दो साल की सजा न करके केवल दस हजार रुपया जुर्माना ही कर सकते हैं तो यह बहुत कम है। इसलिए मैंने संशोधन रखा कि अगर आपको केवल रुपए की ही शक्ल में जुर्माना करना है तो उसको 50 हजार रखिए। हाँ, अगर आप दोनों रखते तो मैं आपने सामने संशोधन पेश नहीं करता।

मैं आपको स्मरण दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जब हम लोग कोकिंग कोल टेक ओवर संबंधी विधेयक पर विचार कर रहे थे तो उस समय आपने सजा की अवधि 6 महीने बढ़ायी थी, मेरे संशोधन को आपने एक्सेप्ट किया था, उसके लिए हम आपको धन्यवाद देते हैं लेकिन यहाँ पर जो आप केवल दस हजार का जुर्माना करना चाहते हैं वह बहुत कम है। इससे लोग मानेंगे नहीं, वे गलती करेंगे और आपकी बहुत सी सम्पत्ति उठाकर ले जायेंगे। कोकिंग कोल के कारखाने के मालिकों के बारे में आपने स्वयं स्वीकार किया था कि वे बहुत सारी मशीनें उठाकर ले गए। इसलिए मे समझता हूँ यह राशि बहुत कम है, मैं चाहता हूँ दस हजार की जगह पर 50 हजार कर दिया जाये। मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ,

Page 4, line 32.—

for "ten" substitute "fifty" (2)

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The hon. Member will, I think, be happy that on this occasion, when we have taken over the Copper Corporation, neither the management nor the hon. Member himself had any idea that it was going to be done. Therefore, at least we can take a little credit for that.

Shri Chatterjee will excuse me that I had forgotten to reply to him about the question of taking it over by an Ordinance. I am surprised that of all the people in the world you have not been able to appreciate why we took it over by means of an Ordinance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The date, 10th March, was significant.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : If you want me not to take over such things by an Ordinance and to give notice to the gentlemen who do things of the kind that they did in the case of coking coal, as you know, we will give up this practice also. But please be kind to us,

Sometimes I begin to feel that on matters like this you are bending over backwards to oppose us somehow. But in that case your back itself will be strained.

To come back to Shri Shastri, I do not think it is really necessary in this case to make this change. It is a single company and I thought, we could accept it on this basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the amendment (No. 2) to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 2 was put and negatived

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 6 was added to the Bill

Clauses 7 to 15, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN . Motion moved

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE (Sangli) : Mr. Chairman, sub-clause (b) of clause 2 defines "company" and says :—

"having its head office at Gillander House, Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta-1."
In sub-clause (2) of clause 5 it says :

"Provided that the amount payable..., in the event of there being no such agreement, in such proportion as may be determined by the High Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the principal place of business of the company in India is situated."

Clause 2 makes it completely clear that the head office of the Company is situated within the jurisdiction of Calcutta High Court. Why not make the same provision in sub-clause (2) of clause 5 also and not leave it ambiguous by saying "whose jurisdiction the principal place of business of the company in India is situated?"

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री: सभापति महोदय, इंडियन कापर कारपोरेशन के प्रबंध को सरकार के हाथ में लेने संबंधी जो विधेयक हाउस के सामने रखा गया है, उसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। स्वागत इसलिए करता हूँ कि हमारे देश में तंबाकी की जितनी आवश्यकता है और जिस तरीके से उसकी कमी है, इस बिल के जरिये उसका उत्पादन बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है और उसका मही इस्तेमाल हो, इस बात की भी आवश्यकता है। और इसी दृष्टिकोण से मंत्री महोदय ने इस विधेयक को सदन के सामने पेश किया है, इसलिए इसका स्वागत करना मैं जरूरी समझता हूँ।

लेकिन इसके सिलसिले में एक दो बातें मैं आपकी मार्फत सदन के सामने पेश करना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि जहाँ तक मुआवजे का सवाल है, 75 हजार रुहर महीने यानी एक माल में 9 लाख रुपया ये देंगे। इतनी बड़ी रकम देने की क्या आवश्यकता है? क्या वह पाँच हजार नहीं दे सकते थे?

सभापति महोदय . इसका जवाब वह दे चुके हैं, शायद आप नहीं थे।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री: नहीं, मैं था। उनका जवाब संतोषजनक नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमको देना है कानून के मुताबिक। उन्होंने सविधान की एक धारा को भी कोट किया। ठीक है, अगर देना ही है तो इतनी बड़ी रकम आपने क्यों दी? आप कम दे सकते थे। तो इतनी बड़ी रकम देने का सरकार के सामने कोई औचित्य नहीं है। हम सब लोग जानते हैं कि अंग्रेजी कंपनी है, अंग्रेजों ने शुरू से लेकर अब तक हमारे देश को किस तरह से

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

चूसा है और किस तरह से हमारे देश का खोज किया है, हमारी जनता का किया है, तो उसे इतनी बड़ी रकम देने की आवश्यकता नहीं थी।

दूसरी बात। उन्होंने ठीक कहा कि हमारे देश में जितने भी अफसर हैं, बड़े हों, छोटे हों, सबके सब खराब अफसर नहीं हैं, अच्छे भी हैं। उनका कोआपरेशन हमें चाहिए। लेकिन ऐसे अफसर भी बहुत हैं जो गोलमाल करते हैं। जैसे आप देख रहे हैं कि बैंकिंग सेक्टर में क्या हो रहा है। बांध में बैंकों की हड़ताल चल रही है और किस तरह से नौकरशाह, बड़े बड़े अफसरों पेश आ रहे हैं, यह आपको भी मालूम है। ऐसे लोगों को अंकुश में लाना चाहिए। उनको सही रास्ते पर लाना चाहिए, यह भी सरकार का काम है। तो जिन लोगों ने इस ओर ध्यान दिलाया है, इसीलिए दिलाया है कि जो अच्छे लोग हैं उनको थोड़ा प्रोत्साहन मिलना चाहिए और जो गोलमाल करने वाले अफसर हैं उनके ऊपर सख्ती होनी चाहिए ताकि हमारे देश को, समाज को आगे बढ़ने का मौका मिले।

इसके बाद अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह ठीक है कि अभी तक कोई खबर नहीं आई कि कोई मशीन उठाकर ले गया है कि नहीं, लेकिन आपको चौकस रहना है, कोई सामान न ले जाए। हमारी इस तरह की कीमती खानें हैं उनकी तरफ आपका ध्यान जरूर गया होगा। पहले से हम आपको और जोर डालने के लिए इस ओर आपका ध्यान दिला रहे हैं ताकि हमारे देश की सम्पत्ति का नुकसान न हो।

उसके बाद मजदूरों के सबाल बहुत सारे माननीय सदस्यों ने उठाये और हमारे बड़े भाई शिव बंडिका जी ने भी उठाया। तो मैं चाहूँगा कि यदि मजदूरों का कुछ बकाया हो तो इंडियन

कापर कारपोरेशन के पास किसी भी शकल में उनका पैसा हो, चाहे प्राविडेंट फंड के रूप में हो या अन्य किसी रूप में, उनको दिलवाने का वायित्व सरकार के ऊपर है और होना चाहिए।

आखिरी बात मैं कहता हूँ कि ठीक है कि अगर हमें बड़े बड़े टेलेंट दूसरे सूबों में मिलें तो हमें लेना चाहिए, मैं उसका मुखातिब नहीं हूँ, लेकिन बिहार के अन्दर या जिस स्टेट में खानें हैं उसमें अगर लोकल टेलेंट हो तो प्रेफरेंस उनको मिलना चाहिए, पहले उन लोगों को मौका दिया जाय, ऐसा करने से किसी को कोई शिकायत नहीं होगी। तो मेरा निवेदन है कि टेलेंटेड पीपुल को प्रेफरेंस उस स्टेट में जिसमें इस तरह की खानें हों, वहाँ मिलना चाहिए। इन शर्तों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूँ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time. All I want to say is about 25 employees who have been working in the Indian Copper Corporation office in Calcutta I do hope the Minister will not deny the fact that they had been actually getting their wages from out of the money that came from the Indian Copper Corporation. It may be that they were receiving a commission... (Interruption). You will have your chance to reply. The remuneration that these 25 employees received actually came from the earnings of the Indian Copper Corporation.

Therefore, it would be quite right for me to expect that these 25 persons who have been working for the Indian Copper Corporation should be absorbed by the nationalised company.

The second issue is about payment of Rs. 75,000 a month. We have seen what this Government, with the particular class character of capitalists, has been doing. When they took over general insurance, they were paying a sum of about Rs. 28 lakhs, if I remember aright. If they had wanted to amend the Constitution before they stood

committed to pay that amount, they could have easily kept the whole thing in their hands and done as they wished, but they did not deliberately do it. Here, of course, Mr. Chatterjee mentioned about 10th March. After hearing so much, knowing so much about what had happened during the last elections and before the elections, I would not be surprised if the Bill had something to do with the contributions for their election fund...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may please speak about the Bill...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I am not mentioning any name. Mr. Chatterjee had said. Mr. Chairman, you had been a revolutionary yourself...

MR. CHAIRMAN : But here I am performing another duty.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I am mindful of that fact, Sir. You are expected to be fair on us. That is why I was saying about this compensation for that private company. I do not know the book value of the assets—I confess that I have not studied it—I do not know the written down book value of the assets of the company, what was their actual profit and what they were doing. But I can certainly say that this Government is always over-anxious to please these big monopolists and here again, in this instance, there has been no exception.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister.

SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI : On a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung...

Now there is quorum. The hon. Minister.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, regarding the question of compensation, my friend, Mr. Ramavtar Shastri, asked, 'Why do we not give Rs. 5,000/-?' I mentioned while opening the discussion on the motion to adopt the Bill that we had come to this figure of Rs. 75,000 a month in relation to Rs. 15

lakhs a year which was the managing agency commission. We were advised that, otherwise, it would be taken that the compensation paid is illusory; under article 31 (2) as it stands today, as it stands until the 25th Amendment becomes law, it would be an illegal acquisition of an undertaking. That is the reason why we came to this figure as being reasonable in relation to the deprivation of the property suffered by those who were managing earlier.

My friend, Mr. Bosu, is apprehensive how long they are going to continue. I can assure him that we will try to do it as early as possible. I can also assure him that the take-over as well as the Rs. 75,000 has nothing to do with elections. He should know that Rs. 75,000 is a small sum for elections... (*Interruptions*). Even in Mr. Bosu's election, Rs. 75,000 would not have taken him anywhere. (*Interruption*).

Let me conclude by only mentioning that, so far as the removal of machinery is concerned, no machinery has been removed. There has been no removal of machinery because this was a well-executed operation. I think, we can, at this stage, take credit for the efficiency with which this operation was conducted.

17 hrs.

So far as the dues to workers are concerned, to our knowledge, till now no worker has come to us with any complaint that he has not been properly paid according to the law. The Indian Copper Corporation was a profitable and prosperous Corporation and whether it was paying good or bad wages, I am not going into that controversy, but, they paid whatever they had to pay under the law. I don't think that the workers are cheated for instance money paid is under a receipt for Rs. 10 but he is paid only Rs. 5 or the PF collections were not credited to his account. The Indian Copper Corporation was a good and efficiently run corporation in terms of money earnings, and I am satisfied with what I have heard from the workers after going down there, which I actually did that no injustice in terms of non-payment has been done. In any case, I assure you that if any harm has been done, it will certainly be looked into... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVA CHANDIKA (Banka) : The hon Minister is perfectly right in saying that the Indian Corporation was generous...

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I never said that they are generous. They paid whatever they had to pay under the law. I express no admiration. I merely stated the facts.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDIKA : Within twenty years they have retrenched some 8000 workers. Would the hon Minister consider giving some compensation to those workers ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I am afraid I cannot go into the past as far as those workers who were retrenched are concerned and on what basis they were retrenched. In the course of the expansion of the nationalised Copper Corporation when it comes into existence, if we need more workers, certainly the claims of those retrenched workers will be taken into consideration.

Regarding Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu's question about the 25 workers, the position is that they were Gillanders' employees until July 1971 when they were taken into service with retrospective effect from April 1971 but they have been doing work which is not connected in any way with the productive activities of the Indian Copper Corporation. That I have already told Mr. Gupta and I tell you also. The Custodian as well as the Government will look into that case and see what can be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17'03 hrs.

CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH) :** Sir, I beg to move* that the

Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950, be taken into consideration.

The Bill seeks to further amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950 for the purpose of raising the corpus of the Contingency Fund of India from Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 100 crores temporarily during the period beginning on the 9th February, 1972 and ending on the 30th day of April, 1972 for meeting the immediate commitment of the Government of India to Bangla Desh.

The corpus of the Fund is thirty crores of rupees. Out of this, Rs. 2 crores have currently been placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Railways and the balance of Rs. 28 crores is at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance to meet the requirements of unforeseen expenditure of Civil, Defence and P & T Department.

In accordance with the rules framed under the Act, advances from the Fund are made for the purposes of meeting unforeseen expenditure including expenditure on a new service not contemplated in the annual financial statement and the expenditure cannot wait till presentation to and passing by Parliament of the next batch of Supplementary Demands.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Why is that ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : These advances are recouped to the Fund by obtaining Supplementary Grants or Appropriations at the session of the Parliament meeting immediately after the advances are granted. Even in cases where provision for any scheme or project is included in the General Budget, no expenditure can be incurred on the scheme, if it is a 'New Service', during the 'Vote on Account' period. In such cases also, the procedure of obtaining advances from the Contingency Fund of India is resorted to. Such advances are recouped to the the Fund as soon as the Budget for the whole year is passed by Parliament. The Parliament is, however, informed of the fact

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.