

12.40½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKERS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LIMITED

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM):

Deficiencies in steel production have been a matter of great concern to the Government as well as to the House. As the House is aware, a number of steps have been considered to step up production. One of the factors which has affected production is unsatisfactory industrial relations that have existed in certain units of Hindustan Steel.

In this context, it is a matter of gratification that the recent wage agreement concluded by the Joint Wage Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry through bi-partite negotiations not only settled the question of wages for the next 4 years starting from 1st September, 1970 but also covered a number of other allied matters. This Committee is a representative organization consisting of four representatives of the employers from the four main producers of steel (Hindustan Steel Ltd., Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. and Mysore Iron & Steel Ltd.) and, on the workers' side fifteen representatives—three each from Central Trade Union Organizations viz., the Indian National Trade Union Congress, All-India Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and one representative each from recognized unions at Jamshedpur, Burnpur, Rourkela, Bhilai, Durgapur and Bhadravati.

The Committee has decided to continue to function in order to supervise and ensure the implementation of the agreement in a spirit of goodwill and to maintain peaceful and harmonious industrial relations and to make every effort to increase productivity. I have addressed the Committee and was impressed with the spirit of goodwill and cooperation which governs their discussions. I have requested the Committee to take up broader responsibilities, especially those flowing out of the urgent need to increase production. As a consequence, the name of the Committee has been changed to Joint Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry.

In this background and with a view to further strengthen the relations between the

management and the workers in HSL, Government have proposed to the trade union representatives on this Committee that 2 representatives of the workers may be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Steel Limited. The workers' representatives have welcomed the proposal and promised to send their suggestions for the implementation of this proposal.

Government hope that this step would help materially in obtaining the full cooperation of the workers in increasing production in Hindustan Steel and thus contribute towards the improvement of our economy and the fulfilment of our Plans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

RAJMATA V. R. SCINDIA (Bhind): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 23rd March, 1971 Shri S. M. Banerjee said in the course of a Calling Attention discussion, "and also what happened in Morena. Villages have been burnt by the Rajmata of Gwalior."

I do not have the slightest idea as to what Shri Banerjee was referring to when he alluded to some happenings in Morena. As to his remark that "villages have been burnt by the Rajmata of Gwalior", I wish to affirm with all the emphasis at my command that the statement is not only incorrect but malicious. It is a slander on my record of public service. .
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Sir, you should pull them up. When others are interrupting you pull them up. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): They have no sense of decency.

RAJMATA V. R. SCINDIA: Sir, remarks of this nature against members are being made from time to time. I fervently appeal to you, Sir, to safeguard our honour and the prestige of this august House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I rise on a point of order. You have allowed her. I have nothing against the Rajmata. She is as a sister to me. I am not going to add to it.