

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Friday, August 23, 1985/Bhadra 1,
1907 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : JEEVEMA SHARADAH SHATAM. (May you live for a hundred years.)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, is it a fact that today happens to be your birthday? If so, what is your age? Can we congratulate you, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : Is it Starred or Unstarred question, Sir? What is it, Sir? The ruling is that no question can be asked from the Speaker.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When the ruling concerns the Speaker, the Speaker should not give the ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I asked the Secretary-General so that I might not be caught in a trap.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : But in any case, we can offer our congratulations and you allow us to do so.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : This is all your kindness, sister, these are your good wishes.

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SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is "Geeta's Teaching."

MR. SPEAKER : When her name is Geeta, the knowledge would also be from Gita—*Yatha nama—tatha guna*.

I thank all of you very much.

[*English*]

Now, Question No. 450—Shri Harihar Soren.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Sir, before I say that a statement is laid on the table of the House, may I wish you many happy returns of the day?

Non-Implementation of Incentive Scheme by Bolani Ores Limited, Keonjhar (Orissa)

*450. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incentive schemes introduced in mines in the country have not been implemented in Bolani Ores Limited, Keonjhar district, Orissa ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ; and

(c) the steps taken to implement incentive schemes in the above mine which is a captive mine of Durgapur Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) It is correct that there is no incentive scheme operating at the Bolani Iron Ore Mines of Durgapur Steel Plant.

(b) After the merger of Bolani Ores Ltd. (who owned the mines) with Steel Authority of India Ltd. from 1st January, 1979, large scale revamping of the plant and equipment had to be carried out alongwith extensive streamlining of the entire organisation. The industrial relations situation at the mines also remained seriously disrupted on account of inter union rivalry. For these reasons it was not possible to draw up and negotiate on incentive scheme with labour leaders.

(c) An incentive scheme has been prepared by Steel Authority of India Ltd. and recently received by Government for approval.

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply to part (c) of my question that an incentive scheme has been prepared by Steel Authority of India Limited. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what the details of that incentive scheme are and by which time that scheme is expected to be approved.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : The proposed incentive scheme for Bolani was sent to the SAIL Office by the Durgapur Steel Plant in December, 1984 and it was sent to the Department of Steel in the month of May, 1985. Now, we examined the report of the Plant and we found some lacunae in the scheme, particularly, no information was given about productivity and profitability. So, we sent it back to SAIL. The clarification have now been given to Government and we will now refer the matter to the B.P.E. and we hope that the B.P.E. will let us have their clearance very shortly.

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply

to part (b) of my question that a large-scale revamping of the plant and equipment had been carried out along with extensive streamlining of the entire organisation. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the amount spent in the revamping of the plant and equipment and whether it is a fact that equipment worth lakhs of rupees purchased for use in the mines site and the plant has remained idle. If it is so, I would like to know the reasons therefor and the steps taken to make use of those equipments.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I do not have the figures of the equipment in the revamping because this is not the hard core of the question that the Hon. Member asked. But I will certainly provide the information.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The Hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that the labour relations also remained seriously disturbed and strained and that is one of the reasons for delaying the scheme.

How are the relations disturbed? Secondly, if the scheme is now to be implemented, will it be given retrospective effect? That is more important, because they have given more production during the past. What I expect is that the money should be given to the workers for the last one or two years, and they should not be blamed. Is the Government prepared to do that?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I hesitate to speak about labour matters to the distinguished Member, who has contributed so much to them one way or the other.

There are in Bolani two Unions. The melancholy fact is that both unions owe allegiance to the INTUC and the situation got so bad that on one or two occasions, police had to intervene. I have got the list of unfortunate incidents that have taken place. If you permit me, I can read them out, but that is rather lengthy.

MR. SPEAKER : You can give it to the Hon. Member.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH
The latest incident was on the 29th May, 1985.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : What about the retrospective effect of the scheme ?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : When the scheme is approved by the BPE, we will look at time particular aspect.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Hon. Minister said about the fate this draft incentive scheme that it was found to be defective in some respects and it had to be sent back and so on. I would like to know how this proposed scheme differs from the incentive schemes which are in force in other public sector captive iron ore mines such as in Bhilai and Bokaro. Why could it not be made on the same pattern and on the same lines ?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : There is no uniform policy with regard to incentives in various plants. As you know, there are two categories, mechanised and unmechanised mines and each plant has its own special problems and situation. Therefore, there is no uniform scheme.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The incentive scheme has already been introduced in the Bailadila, Kiriburu and other captive mines throughout the country.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Bailadila is not a captive mine.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Fifty percent is captive and fifty percent is not captive. The Bolani iron ore mine was a private undertaking previously. Now, it has been taken over by the Government of India. You have answered to my colleague that the modern equipment and machinery which

has been purchased has not been utilised properly, but is has no relevance to this question.

I want to know from the Minister what is the OMS per worker per day in mining and what is the percentage of mechanisation by which the iron ore is transmitted to the railway wagons by ropeways or conveyor belt system ?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I do not have this particular information. I can collect it and give it to the Hon. Member.

Proposal to Appoint Wage Boards Instead of Bipartite Wage Agreements

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*451 SARIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to do away with the present system of bipartite wage agreement based on the principle of collective bargaining and appoint Wage Board instead ; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : In view of the cryptic reply, I would like to ask the Minister whether he knows that this question has arisen out of the Arjun Sengupta Committee's recommendation for appointing Wage Board and Wage Commission instead of the bipartite negotiation machinery in the public sector, such as JBCCI, NJCC, BHEL Joint Committee etc. ? Since he says : "No Sir", which means that they are not considering, may I know whether