

[ Shri Vidya Charan Shukla ]

Judges (Amendment) Rules, 1970, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 497 in Gazette of India dated the 28 March, 1970, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the High Court Judges (Conditions of Services) Act, 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3220/70]

**Delhi Motor Vehicles (Fourth Amendment) Rules 1969**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Delhi Motor Vehicles (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1969 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.F. 3 (49)/69—Tpt. in Delhi Gazette dated the 16th March, 1970 under sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3221/70].

13.25 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1970-71)—  
Contd.**

**Ministry of Steel and Heavy  
Engineering—Contd.**

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Engineering.

The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30.

13.26 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till half past Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirtyfive Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1970-71—  
Contd.**

**Ministry of steel and Heavy  
Engineering—Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri K. P. Singh Deo.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे एक बहुत ही आवश्यक निवेदन करना है। जैसा कि आप जानते हैं कि बिहार की असेम्बली ने बिहार कौंसिल को समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव पास किया है जिस पर वहाँ के कांग्रेसी सदस्यों ने भी वोट किया था। लेकिन अब खबर लगी है कि कौंसिल को रखने के लिए षडयन्त्र किया जा रहा है। वहाँ से हूलिग कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोग यहाँ आये हुए हैं और उनका प्रतिनिधि मंडल कल गृह-मंत्रों से मिला था। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फिर जनतन्त्र का मतलब क्या है? मैं आपके जरिए से इस तरह के तरीके का विरोध करता हूँ और चाहूँगा कि सरकार इसके बारे में यहाँ पर अपना बयान दे। मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में कालिग अटेंशन और शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन भी दिये थे लेकिन उनको स्वीकार नहीं किया गया। इसलिए मैं आपकी माफत सरकार के पास यह खबर पहुंचाना चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had your say. Shri K. P. Singh Deo.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the limited time at my disposal, it is not possible to do justice to such a vast and important subject of steel and heavy engineering. But I will do my best to highlight some of its important aspects.

We have been asked to sanction about Rs. 89,27,03,000 for the financial year ending 31st March, 1971. This is quite a tidy sum of money by any standard and, specially for our country, it is quite a substantial sum. Before sanctioning it, it is imperative on our part that we should critically examine the performance and the functioning of the

departments under this Ministry.

Steel is a very important and all-pervasive commodity which is utilised in nearly all manufacturing concerns, in agriculture, in railways, in defence and in other important sectors. Right from the beginning, there has been a total lack of understanding or may be lack of seriousness and there has been an indifferent attitude towards this subject and Ministry. There has been a total lack of continuity of policy direction at the highest-level which can be judged by the performance and fact that, right from SHRI K. C. Reddy to Shri K. C. Pant, incumbents have hardly stayed for more than 2½ years and, I hope, my hon. young friend who has a technical background will bring a little stability and will improve the functioning of this Department.

As you know, steel is the barometer of economic standards of any country and, everyday, we read about fall in output, shortage of steel, unutilised capacity and lack of supplies which reflect the overall economy of shortages in the country. In this context, the long-term projections for iron and steel take an important dimension. With the limited time at my disposal, I will not go into the details. I would only refer to the N. C. A. E. R. Report on both long-term projections of iron and steel and the transport requirements of the steel belt, that is, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The transportation problem there is very acute. If we are to thrive in a competitive export market of the world with our steel and iron products, we must develop our modes of transport and link up the missing links to the ports, the hinterland and the steel plant areas, like, Paradeep and several other places mentioned in the reports.

Going through the Annual Report on the chapter on Production and Prices and Export-Import, an impression has been created that the output of saleable steel has been better this year. What is the criteria on the basis of which it is said that the output has been better? It is relative to the production of last year which is a miserable amount. I

think, a technically-qualified man like Shri K. C. Pant should not sit on his haunches and be satisfied with the progress which we have made as far as production is concerned, which is far below capacity.

Now the Government have decided to raise the price of steel and the report once again is an essay on hopes and platitudes that everything is satisfactory in this country and no adverse effect has taken place as a result of the increase in steel price. This is a travesty of truth because it has had adverse repercussions in different sections of the economy. It has sparked off adverse reactions in the general price system, in the engineering industries which were just picking up after recession and all ancillary industries.

This rise in price has been brought out to offset the huge losses of the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and the Government of India have become a party to the defence of the losses and mismanagement, indiscipline, lack of co-ordination and corruption and inefficiency of the public sector undertakings, and the people who are going to bear the brunt are the consumers and the common people. I wonder if this price increase could not have been avoided by reduction in the excise duty which would have left the steel plants with savings and more sales realisation.

On imports and exports also the same old story is narrated in this report. Yet we find that there are shortages of steel and there are huge imports into the country. In this respect I would request my hon. friend, the Minister, to have detailed project reports on potential integrated steel plants and decide immediately and act upon where they are going to locate the steel plant in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

AN HON MEMBER : In Salem.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Salem is one of them. Hospet, Goa and Vizag are the other places suggested. The present Government of Orissa has also submitted a memorandum in this respect with regard to Bonai and Nayagarh. In Orissa at Talcher an

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industrial complex has been envisaged when the fertiliser portion of it has been commissioned and right from Dr. Chenna Reddy, Shri P. C. Sethi to Shri K. C. Pant we have been trying to see that the pig iron plant also comes up. I would like to have a categorical assurance from the Minister that he will expedite the matter.

If you are to bridge the gap between our demand and supply and raise our export potentialities, then we should take advantage of the technological advances in the steel industry which have taken place in advanced countries. The need of the hour is to have port-based steel plants and mini steel plants as they have been called. In this regard there will have to be a slight modification in the Industrial Policy Resolution because these mini steel plants will have to be in the private sector also and these will cost Rs. 18 to 20 crores. Of course, I do not want to go into the details of the economics and I would be glad to discuss with the Minister some time later. Now I would like to come to HSL.

Reading the report, the first thing that strikes one is the satisfaction of producing a little more than the previous year. Then we come to the fact that it has been running at a loss of Rs. 40 crores last year.

Even by strict economic terms this Rs. 40 crores loss is not actually Rs. 40 crores. It is a misnomer and a fallacy. Having invested a thousand crores of rupees which would have given a return of 5% on investment, it would have given Rs. 50 crores. Instead of our earning Rs. 50 crores which would have been an addition to the ways and means position of the Government, we have lost an additional Rs. 40 crores which means that we have lost about Rs. 90 crores. The total losses till date are about Rs. 250 crores. May be with the Rs. 250 crores we might have had another steel plant and we could have given employment to another 10,000-14,000 people and as a result an infra-structure would have developed with the ancillary industries.

Secondly, the other glaring feature of the

Hindustan Steel Limited is the strained industrial labour relationship and the labour troubles; This has been the malady and the bane of all the three steel plants, Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur. Government is supposed to be an ideal employer, but the Government in this respect has failed to get the cooperation and the participation of labour in the management of these undertakings and to make it a success.

So, I would urge through you, Sir, that this Government should take all concrete steps to see that there is more cooperation and labour-management relationship is improved in the steel plants and that productivity increases. The multiplicity of trade unions in these plants is also one of the reasons for these labour troubles which should be removed as soon as possible.

Another reason for the losses in the Hindustan Steel is this. First of all, Bhilai was badly planned; it was unrealistic as far as product-mix is concerned and it had no bearing with the requirements of the country or the consumer. We are producing something which is only needed by our Soviet collaboration and they have dictated terms to us. Sir, in this respect, I would like to refer to an Article in *The Citizen* to which our hon. Steel Minister is very fond of contributing. This is from an article by Dr. M. N. Dastur an eminent steel expert entitled "Collaboration at India's cost." This appeared in *The Citizen* dated 11-4-1970. With your permission I would like to quote a few paragraphs, He says:

"First, knowhow or expertise already available in the country is totally ignored and Indian experts are repeatedly denied opportunities to assume responsibilities for projects."

Then again:

"There is a feeling in certain Government circles that India cannot offend foreign aid-givers by any insistence even on legitimate Indian participation in the engineering of foreign-aided projects."

Again he says:

"It is a sad commentary on the conduct of our country's affairs that our

timidity in obtaining foreign loans has left the country open to foreign pressures.

Foreign aid, all said and done, is commercial credit and both the principal and interest on it will have to be paid sooner or later. Moreover, it is costly and scarce. Yet it has been allowed to be frittered away in high cost prestige projects of doubtful utility and effectiveness. Examples can be multiplied which give ample evidence of the indiscriminate use—and criminal waste-of aid-finance both in the public and private sectors, which in a poor country like India is tragic”.

There is a lot more, but I don't want to go through all of them. There is one more quotation which I will give. It says :

“The generalist manager with no previous association or experience of the industry is the re-fore an anachronism.”

This Government is very fond of removing anachronism from our country. I hope they will take this suggestion which comes from a very reliable and a very qualified man in Steel, who has made a name for himself in the United States, who came to India at the invitation of late Pandit Nehru, and I hope they will see that HSL and other such public sector undertakings are headed by technocrats who know their jobs. Even our good Soviet friends have technocrats on top. Mr. Kosygin himself is an example.

Then, in Rourkela the same malady is there. Although it is well planned so far as product-mix is concerned when the question of expansion comes up our collaborators do a lot of armtwisting, because it gives us sophisticated technology and we become potential competitors to them. Durgapur, although well-planned, due to industrial relationship and poor labour management, is in the losing end. I hope the Minister will take personal interest and see that this plant will have better labour-management relationship.

While I am on Durgapur, I would like to have a categorical assurance, as also the reac-

tion of the Government, as to whether with regard to the Alloy Steel Plant expansion the Government have come to an agreement to give the consultancy to one of our Indian consultants. I believe that there is some hanky-panky going on in the Ministry and this gentleman is going to be deprived of the consultancy. I hope that the Government will not repeat the Bokaro story again but they will utilise our Indian scientists and technologists only.

I would like to know as to what are the concrete steps that the H.S.L. have taken to raise the productivity in the plants and what has been the role of the State Governments of the respective areas where these three public sector plants are situated. And what is the attitude of the Government of India in this regard? Have they taken any action in implementing the Act of Parliament, with regard to the Industrial Security Forces Bill?

The cost of production of steel is very high in a country like India which has iron-ore, coal, lime-stone, dolomite and refractories in abundance. And it is a sad reflection on the way these things have been going on in the H. S. L. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to who is going to be answerable for this colossal loss. Is it Shri K. C. Pant or is it the management or the Chairman of the H. S. L. who is responsible for this? This burden of loss is going to be put on the common man by way of additional taxation or we may have to go to the Nasik Printing Press for putting further currency notes into circulation.

In this respect I would like to know as to what is the reaction of the Government to having different managements for different plants as each has its peculiarities. As far as I know, it is the present management of the steel plants, having centralised managing system, which has brought all the steel plants to this situation. There are lots of avenues where savings could be effected, as far as losses are concerned, I am happy to note that in the report there is a mention that inventories have been reduced. I need not go into the details of it. It is well known that if

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inventories are reduced it will bring down the capital cost and effect savings.

Before I conclude I would like to mention about our Bokaro Steel Plant, about the sordid state of affairs and perfidious acts of Bokaro Steel Ltd. and the Government of India by which they sacrificed this country's interest, integrity and the country's technology. In spite of the fact that we had the expertise and the technology, we succumbed to the pressure of the Soviet Union and gave the consultancy to Gypromex. A lot of fanfare has been made about C. E. D. B. which is a new organisation having the designing facilities. Apart from that they do not have anything else in this thousand crore project. I would like to know whether this Ministry is interested in raising the employment potentials for the Indians or whether these Rs. 1,000 crores are to be spent on employing the Soviet technicians at the cost of India. The ratio for every technician in the field, seven persons are needed to back him up to solve the technological problems. As a result of the consultancy between the C. E. D. B. and the Gypromex, the money—Rs. 1,000 crores—that is going to be spent is going for their i. e. Soviet benefit. The technology we have got is outdated. The capacity is too much—vis-a-vis production and requirement and a longer gestation period. The finished products are going to cost us more. This delay, as it is has already cost more than 100 crores of rupees for Bokaro. And when the finished products come up, they are going to cost more than silver, gold and other dearer commodities.

One more thing I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. The wrong which has been done to our Indian consultants must be rectified. It is not too late to do anything when the question of the country's interest is at stake and I think that the hon. Minister can reconsider the question and say whether Dastur & Co. cannot be given the consultancy which was promised in Parliament in 1964, on the floor of this House, by the Minister of Steel. And I hope that the Minister of Steel here will keep up that assurance given by the Government of India to Parlia-

ment and the country.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) : Thank you very much Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to say something in connection with the Demands of Steel and Heavy Engineering.

It is not the Demands which matter. In Rs. 89 crores, it does not matter if it is one crore more or less. What is important is to see that whatever is invested gives a reasonable dividend. That is what matters. We are concerned very much with the return. Whatever money is given in the form of Demands is not material.

It should be a matter of great concern for our country that when our people are starving in the streets we are spending so much money over these public sector units, thousands of crores and they are all running at losses. Sometimes we think that this is because of labour trouble; some other time, we say it is teething trouble. Teething trouble may cause diarrhoea in children. But to conclude that whenever there is diarrhoea, it is due to teething trouble, is wrong. Even after 5 years and 6 years there is teething trouble. Even after 16 years there is teething trouble! This sort of approach should go. Guidelines must be laid down on investments in regard to the returns they should yield. We must see that it is not less than 10 per cent of capital outlay after three years of going into production; if it is a loss Government must set up an expert committee to go into the details and find out the causes which are leading to those losses. These things are very serious and we must attend to them.

As a matter of fact, in the public sector—or for that matter, in any factory—what are material are men, money, machines and materials. But among these, men are more important than anything else.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash) : Is it?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Definitely, men of character. Such men must be put in these public sector units. In any organisation, unless we give proper attention to the selection of suitable personnel, we will not be able to do justice.

But what is happening today in the matter of selection of public sector Chairmen, for example? We keep the post vacant for six months and then finally appoint somebody from somewhere. There must be a cadre of engineers in our country. After all these things can not be done in our industrially-oriented country, unless there is All India Service of Engineers. There must be an Indian Service of Engineers. There must be a seniority list and selection must be made from that. But that is what they do not do. Somebody is picked up from somewhere and appointed Chairman.

What is happening today? These Chairmen are the followers, rather the exponents, of the principle of not 'who knows what,' but 'who knows whom'. That is the trouble.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: Let him tell his Ministers.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: They follow the principle of 'not what is right,' but 'who is right.' That sort of thing must be stopped. What the eye does not see, the heart does not grieve about. I have seen for myself things both in India and abroad. That is why I can say that I feel so much concerned about our public sector running at losses. Why should they run at losses? We cannot afford it. The first basic reason is loss of national character right from top to bottom. That must be set right. The people at the top must be above suspicion. That is my contention.

I will give an instance. I applied to the British Transport Commission for a job. There were three categories, A, B and C, A being the lowest. I qualified for B and applied for A. They called me for an interview. Whenever you get a job, you are told: 'You come at 10 O'clock. Such and such time is working hour; such and such time is lunch time'. When they do not want to give you the job, the employers generally say, "We will let you know". I was also told, "We will let you know." So, I thought I was going to get a very good regret letter, saying, "Thank you very much for taking interest in our concern, but sorry to say that we have nothing suitable

to offer you in keeping with your qualification and experience". So, when I got the offer, I threw it into the waste paper basket thinking it was another regret letter, but after a week, the Chief Engineer rang me up in the place I was working, and asked me whether I was going to accept the offer or not. I explained to him the position. He said that the offer stood and asked me to join. So, I searched for the letter and found it in the dust bin. To my great surprise it was an offer. I had applied for category "A" job. They gave me a Designer's post instead of a Design Assistant (category 'A'), with a salary of £300 more. I thought there was something wrong. I went to the Chief Engineer and told him that I did not ask for it. They said it was all right and they gave me three increments on top of it. I thought there must be some clerical mistake. I went to the Chief Engineer and pointed it out to him. He said that when they committed a mistake, they stood by it. I asked him to checkup and said it was embarrassing for me. He called for the file and showed in it, "Suitable for post of Designer. Three increments may be given" and asked me if I was satisfied. I replied in the affirmative, and when I was about to go, he asked me to sit down and asked if I was a Commonwealth citizen. I said, "Yes", and he told me with pride, "We are British, I would not like to do anything which is not British". I want our Chairmen to feel the same way that "they are Indians and that they would not like to do anything which is not Indian." That is what is wanted in this country.

15 hrs.

Therefore, I want that in the selection of our Chairman, the maximum care and caution should be taken. It is as reflection on our country's character that whosoever goes to the public sector as Chairman starts practising favouritism, nepotism, provincialism, and all sorts of—isms. That must be stopped.

We must realise that foreign collaboration howsoever alluring has always got a retarding effect on our national effort. While we get foreign technical know-how, we must be

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prepared to be self-sufficient in all matters, self-reliant in technical know-how as well. What have we done about it so far? Today, the practice is that you get a number of foreign experts for one year. I had been fighting for this in the Heavy Engineering Corporation with the Chairman while I was there. Instead of getting so many experts for only one year, why not get a small number of experts for a longer period? Because what happens is that they take three months to get used to the job, they work for another six months and for the rest of the three months they are preparing to go back, their mind is on going back. So, actually they work for six months and get salary for 12 months. And the fabulous salaries offered to them is very discouraging to our engineers by comparison. Therefore, although I do not want to discourage this foreign expert business, it should be cut down as far as possible.

I feel very much disheartened that even today there are ICS and IAS officers in the public sector. What are the blooming engineers doing? Whether the projects lose or gain, they will not be exonerated of the blame by this country. Nothing can excuse the engineers of this country, because the people will say that it is the engineers who are responsible, they will not say that the ICS and IAS are not doing anything. Therefore, the public sector under-taking must be headed by technical men. If they were really interested in the public sectors, the Government must create an Indian Service of Engineers.

The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 says that projects should be located in different places so that regional imbalances may be removed. But it is being worked just the other way round. Not only that. Wherever public sector projects are located, the people are not getting the jobs. What about the HEC? That is one instance. Tribal people had given their lands and lives for this. That is the sad plight of the people. What type of resolutions is it if you frame policies but could not implement them? What is the good of having this sort of policies? Therefore, they must keep a careful eye on the Industrial Policy resolution and implement it as far as

possible and as early as possible. The local people are not getting anything.

Finally, our task is tremendous and the problems are so deep rooted in poverty and backwardness, etc. That without a supreme effort from the public sectors what we had dreamt before and after Independence will never be achieved. It is a big challenge and it can only be met with an effort which is no less revolutionary in character. Therefore, I hope the hon. Minister will give serious thought to whatever have said and implement them as far as possible.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, किसी भी देश की स्मृद्धि वहां लोहा कोयला, इस्पात, तेल आदि के भंडारों पर निर्भर करती है। उसी से पता चलाया जा सकता है कि कौन देश कितना समृद्धिशाली है और कौन देश कितना पिछड़ा हुआ है। लेकिन अफसोस इस बात का है कि 20-22 साल की आजादी के बाद भी हमने अपने देश में लोहा, इस्पात, तेल, कोयला आदि तमाम चीजों के रहते हुए भी, अपने देश को समृद्धिशाली नहीं बनाया बल्कि उल्टे हमारे देश में बेकारी, अन्न संकट आदि तमाम तरह की गड़बड़ियां पैदा हो रही हैं, बढ़ रही हैं। इनके साथ-साथ हमारे देश में एकाधिकार तथा पूंजीवाद का विकास हो रहा है। ऐसा इसलिए हो रहा है कि सरकार की नीति देश में समाजवाद लाने की नहीं है, भले ही वह उछल-उछल कर समाजवाद की बात करती हो। उसकी नीति हिन्दुस्तान में पूंजीवाद का निर्माण करने की है। अगर ऐसी बात न होती तो आज हमारे देश के बहुत से भागों में लोहा और इस्पात के कारखाने होते और हमारे यहां की बेकारी खत्म हो गई होती और हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोहे और इस्पात का सामान दूसरे देशों को भेजते। मैं मानता हूँ कि अभी भी हम भेज रहे हैं लेकिन इससे भी उस अवस्था में कई गुना अधिक भेजते। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हुआ है। इसकी जवाबदेही यहां की सरकार की नीति के

ऊपर है। अगर सरकार सचमुच लोहा, इस्पात आदि के मामले में आगे बढ़ना चाहती है, वड़े बड़े मुल्कों का मुकाबला करना चाहती है तो वह पूंजीवादी नीति का परित्याग करके सचमुच में समाजवादी नीति की तरफ चले।

केरल के लोगों और कई अन्य सूबों के लोगों की तरफ से यह मांग की जा रही है कि उनके यहां इस्पात कारखाने बनाये जायें। इस लिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि देश के जिन भागों में पिछड़ापन है, और जहां ये उद्योग खड़े किये जा सकते हैं, वहां इस्पात कारखाने बनाए जायें, ताकि हमारा देश प्रगति कर सके।

मैं एक दो बातें बोकारो के सिलसिले में कहना चाहता हूं। हमारे देश में जो समाजवाद के विरोधी और इजारेदारों के दोस्त हैं, चाहे वे स्वतंत्र पार्टी, कांग्रेस और जनसंघ के सदस्य हों और चाहे सत्तारूढ़ दल के सदस्य हों, वे बोकारो के सवाल को लेकर बराबर सोवियत यूनियन और सरकार पर हमला कर रहे हैं। इस कारखाने के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने पहले अमरीका और इंग्लैंड का दरवाजा खटखटाया था, लेकिन जब उन्होंने हमारी बात नहीं सुनी और उनकी ओर से माफिक शर्तें नहीं मिलीं, तो सरकार सोवियत यूनियन की तरफ रजु हुई। सोवियत यूनियन और अन्य समाजवादी देशों की यह नीति है कि विकासमान देशों को आत्म-निर्भर बनाने और साम्राज्यवादी देशों पर उनकी निर्भरता को खत्म करने के लिए उनकी मदद की जाये, जिसका सुवृत्त हिन्दुस्तान में भिलाई के इस्पात कारखाने, रांची की हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कार्पोरेशन और बरौनी के तेल के कारखाने के निर्माण में मिला है।

उस नीति के अनुसार सोवियत यूनियन ने 1964 में बोकारो के सम्बन्ध में हमारे साथ समझौता किया। इस बारे में हमारे देश में जो सोवियत-विरोधी प्रतिगामी तत्व हैं, स्वतंत्र पार्टी और दूसरे लोग, उनका कहना है कि

इसमें खर्चा बहुत ज्यादा हो रहा है, वह कारखाना समय पर पूरा नहीं हो रहा है। यह बात ठीक है कि खर्चा बढ़ रहा है। पहले चरण में 1.7 मिलियन टन इस्पात की क्षमता के लिए 590 करोड़ रुपये लगाने का फैसला था, जोकि अब 760 करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। दूसरे चरण में 4 मिलियन टन इस्पात बनाने के लिए 770 करोड़ रुपये निर्धारित किया गया था, जो अब बढ़ कर 1090 करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। ऐसा क्यों हुआ है? क्या इसके लिए सोवियत यूनियन जवाबदेह है या स्वतंत्र पार्टी, श्री अशोक मेहता और उस विचार के दूसरे लोग, जिन्होंने अवमूल्यन किया, जिसके कारण यह खर्चा बढ़ा?

आपको मालूम होगा कि जब भिलाई, राउरकेला और दुर्गापुर के कारखाने बने थे, तो प्रांत दस लाख टन इस्पात की क्षमता के लिए 200 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुआ। उसके चौदह साल बाद जब महंगाई बढ़ गई है, बोकारो के कारखाने में प्रति दस लाख टन इस्पात की क्षमता के लिए 270 करोड़ रुपये, अर्थात् केवल 70 करोड़ रुपये अधिक, खर्च करने का फैसला हुआ है। जो लोग इस बारे में आलोचना करते हैं, उनका ध्यान इन तथ्यों की ओर नहीं जाता है।

जहां तक देरी होने का सम्बन्ध है, देरी इस लिए हो रही है कि हिन्दुस्तान से जो सामान मिलना चाहिए, वह समय पर नहीं मिलता है। इसकी जवाब देही यहां की सरकार और उसके अफसरों की है।

फिगर्ज को देखने से पता चलता है कि सोवियत यूनियन को 1 लाख टन साज-सामान, एक्विपमेंट देना था, जिसमें से वह 70,000 टन दे चुका है। इसकी तुलना में हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार को 1,54,000 टन साज-सामान देना था, लेकिन अभी तक उसने केवल 18,000



[श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री]

टन दिया है। इसलिए इसमें विलम्ब का कारण सोवियत यूनियन की नीति नहीं है, बल्कि इस सरकार की नीति और यहां के इजारेदारों और पूंजीपतियों के षड्यंत्र हैं।

यह भी कहा जाता है कि सोवियत कनसल्टेन्सी पर निर्भर करने के कारण हमारा देश इस सम्बन्ध में आत्म-निर्भर नहीं हो पायेगा।

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) : माननीय सदस्य सोवियत यूनियन का ब्रीफ लिये हुए हैं।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : मैं यह बता रहा हूँ कि सोवियत यूनियन इस देश की मदद कर रहा है, रूस हमारा सच्चा दोस्त है और वह हमारी मदद कर रहा है। लेकिन हमारे ये भाई सच्चे दोस्त नहीं हैं, ये देश के हित को नहीं देखते हैं।

जिस तरह सरकार ने सोवियत कनसल्टेन्सी के बारे में समझौता किया है, उसी तरह दस्तूर एंड कम्पनी के साथ उसका समझौता है। दस्तूर एंड कम्पनी को जवाबदेही दी गई है और वह जवाब देही उन्हें पूरी करनी चाहिए। आज हमारे देश में एक गलत तरीके से सोवियत यूनियन को बदनाम करने, सोवियत-विरोधी और समाजवाद-विरोधी भावनाओं को भड़काने और निहित स्वार्थों को मजबूत बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। सरकार के कुछ लोग भी उसी दिशा में काम कर रहे प्रतीत होते हैं। वे बहादुरी और ईमानदारी के साथ सोवियत यूनियन की दोस्ती को स्वीकार नहीं करते हैं—अपने दिलों में तो वे स्वीकार करते हैं, लेकिन जब उन पर हमले होते हैं, तो वे अपने मित्र देश के पक्ष में नहीं बोल सकते हैं। एच० ई० सी० में जो सामान बनता है, सरकार उसको समय पर उपलब्ध नहीं करती है। यह इस सरकार और देश की जवाबदेही है। यहां पर दिन-रात

सोवियत यूनियन और अन्य समाजवादी देशों को गाली देना उचित नहीं है, जो सचमुच हमारे दोस्त हैं। उनके साथ हमारी दोस्ती और बढ़नी चाहिए। उनकी जो बात या कार्य हमें पसन्द नहीं है, उसके बारे में हम जरूर कहें, लेकिन ईमानदारी के साथ कहें। जो मदद हमें मिलती है, वह हमें स्वीकार करना चाहिए और जो मदद नहीं मिलती है, उसके बारे में हम चाहे जो कुछ कहें।

बोकारो में एक और कठिनाई है। वहां पर सरकार ने जो कंट्रैक्टर बहाल कर रखे हैं, वे मजदूरों के साथ समझौते को लागू नहीं करते हैं। इस वजह से भी वहां देर होती है और साथ ही मजदूरों में असंतोष बढ़ता है। सरकार कंट्रैक्टरों पर तो विश्वास करती है, लेकिन वह मजदूर यूनियनों का सहयोग नहीं लेना चाहती है। यह आवश्यक है कि सरकार यूनियनों का सहयोग प्राप्त करे और इन कंट्रैक्टरों को बिदा कर दे और अगर ऐसा करना सम्भव न हो, तो वह उनकी बात न मान कर यूनियनों का सहयोग और विश्वास प्राप्त करे।

जहां तक हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कांपैरिशन का सम्बन्ध है, ...

श्री लोबो प्रभु (उदोपी) : बहुत हैवी है।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : उसमें कुछ सुधार हुआ है और उसमें कुछ सामान बनने लगा है। लेकिन क्या यह सही नहीं है कि सरकार वहां से सामान न ले कर इंडिविडुअल कैपिटलिस्ट्स और दूसरे देशों से मंगवाती है? जब सरकार को इस नीति पर चलना था, तो फिर उसने राजकीय क्षेत्र में इंजीनियरिंग के कारखाने क्यों लगाये? क्या यह सही है कि इस समय हमारे देश में जो इंजीनियरिंग कारखाने हैं, उनकी क्षमता का केवल 25 फीसदी ही इस्तेमाल में लाया जा रहा है? इसका अर्थ तो यह है कि आत्म-निर्भरता केवल नारों तक

ही सीमित रहेगी। क्या यह भी सही है कि सरकारी कारखाने इस देश के कैपिटलिस्टों, टाटा, बिड़ला आदि के कारखानों में बना हुआ सामान लेते हैं? अगर हम इस नीति पर चलते रहेंगे और अपना फारेन एक्सचेंज दूसरों को देते रहेंगे, तो आत्म-निर्भरता कैसे आयेगी और देश की तरक्की कैसे होगी? यह सही नहीं है।

दूसरे, हैबो इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन हटिया में है, वहां 1967 में जनसंघ के भाइयों ने रायट करवाया। रायट के बाद वहां की स्थिति को आज तक दुरुस्त नहीं किया गया। वहां के जो मुस्लिम एम्प्लोईज हैं उनके पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था अब तक आपने नहीं की। मेरा यह कहना नहीं है कि उनके लिए कोई अलग कालोनी बनाइए। यह गलत है। लेकिन आप उन्हें उनके साथ रखिए जो उनके विद्वासपात्र हैं, जो उनकी हिफाजत कर सकते हैं। फिर उन्हें उनके बीच में न छोड़ दीजिए जो लोग फिर मोके पर उन्हें छुरा भोंकें और उनकी जान लें। इस समस्या का समाधान अभी तक नहीं हुआ।

सितम्बर महीने में रांची में एक बैठक हुई थी इस बात को लेकर। वहां कुछ रास्ते निकाले गए लेकिन उस रास्ते पर अमल नहीं किया गया। इनके अफसर लोग वहां बैठ कर पालिटिक्स करते हैं, जनसंघ के लोगों के साथ बैठ कर और उनकी यूनियन के साथ मिल कर जो मन में आता है करते हैं।

आखिर में एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। जो मजदूर हैं वह इस्पात के कारखाने में काम करते हैं, लोहे के कारखाने में काम करते हैं, इंजीनियरिंग के कारखाने में काम करते हैं, उनकी मांगों की तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए। आप उनके ऊपर संजीवनी के साथ विचार कीजिए, सहानुभूति के साथ विचार

कीजिए। हैबो इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन रांची के सेक्योरिटी फोर्स के लोग कई महीने से हड़ताल कर रहे हैं, उनकी तरफ ध्यान दीजिए। उनकी मांग है कि जो वेज बोर्ड का ग्रेड है वह जैसे दूसरों को दिया है उसी समय से उन्हें भी दिया जाय। मेरा निवेदन है कि जो उनकी मांगें हैं उनको मानिए और उनकी हड़ताल को खत्म कराने में मदद कीजिए।

SHRI P. K. GHOSH (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, just now my friend Mr. Ramavatar Shastri has mentioned that in HEC the management is not doing anything to settle the Muslim employees there. I say it is an absolutely wrong statement because I myself represent Ranchi and HEC area and I was also associated in rehabilitating Muslim employees of HEC affected by 1967 riots.

Sir, the rehabilitation of the Muslim employees could not be an administrative decision. It is not a question of production of steel or iron or doing something like that. It is a human problem. One has to do that in that manner. The Minister could have ordered that all the Muslim employees should be rehabilitated.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : माननीय सदस्य क्या कह रहे हैं? मंत्री महोदय क्या यह नहीं जानते हैं कि वहां केवल जनसंघ की यूनियन के साथ विचार करके समझौता कराया गया। वहां की जो रेकग्नाइज्ड यूनियन्स हैं, इनकी यूनियन है उसको नहीं बुलाया गया, जो हमारी यूनियन है उसको भी नहीं बुलाया गया। यह बिल्कुल गलत बोल रहे हैं..... (व्यवधान).....

SHRI P. K. GHOSH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for your information I can tell you that already 50 or 60 families have been rehabilitated. As I have said, it was a human problem. We had to wait for the proper climate to rehabilitate them. It is no use just putting them into different quarters

[Shri P. K. Ghosh]

without having proper climate and without having proper cordial relations with the other communities. Therefore, we had to create a proper climate. We had to take help from all communities and now if you want me, Sir, I can say that we have been able to convince the Jan Sangh people that no separate colony is going to be given. We have chalked out a plan for proper rehabilitation and as per the plan rehabilitation is going on. We are getting the cooperation of all sections and communities. Even the Jana Sangh people are cooperating in getting these people rehabilitated in their respective residences. There is a good climate. Rehabilitation cannot be done by force; it has to be done by persuasion and proper understanding which my hon. friend does not understand.

Coming to the other aspects of steel and heavy engineering, it is very unfortunate that all the undertakings which are under this Ministry are running at a loss for which this poor Minister has to hear criticism on the floor of the House every time for no fault of his own. I must say that since Shri Pant has taken over, he is running the Ministry very efficiently.

AN HON. MEMBER : And incurring losses.

SHRI P. K. GHOSH : Losses are for different reasons. On his part, I should say, he is a very efficient man and is doing his utmost to see that the losses are minimised.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor) : Operation successful; patient has died.

SHRI P. K. GHOSH : It is not that. You should have the patience to see. We hope that under his able leadership he will be able to minimise the losses and run these undertakings very efficiently.

One of the reasons for these losses, apart from various other reasons, is the frequent change in the Ministry. One man comes and goes; before he can have a complete grasp of the subject, he is transferred to some other

Ministry. Let us hope that Shri Pant is at least kept in this Ministry for a few years.

Other reasons for these losses are the inefficient top managerial personnel drawn from the general administration who do not have any idea whatsoever of running industries, the top heavy administration, dishonest top officials and labour trouble.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : What is the dishonesty of the top officer?

SHRI P. K. GHOSH : I will come to that and will cite an example.

It is very unfortunate that in most cases we have taken officers from the administrative pool who were trained under the British and who do not have any national feeling. Whenever they are put in charge of some public undertakings, first of all they will arrange for amenities for themselves. They will put a big club investing a lot of money in it; they will have a guest house; they will put half a dozen employees as chaprassis and drivers for their own comfort and amenity. Not only that, they will create posts and appoint some friends and relations to them. That is how we find top heavy administration there.

The managerial personnel are mostly out of headquarters. For example, the Chairman of Hindustan Steel remains out of headquarters for 25 days in a month. He goes abroad very frequently and hardly remains at the headquarters.

Many of my friends are in favour of giving autonomy to these undertakings. But autonomy without accountability will be disastrous. With the type of people that we have, if we give them autonomy, they will spend more money on their personal amenities; they will take certain decisions the benefit of which will go to the top officials. Therefore, I am against autonomy. They will make mistakes for which we will pull up the Minister who is not responsible for those mistakes. Therefore, if at all we have to give them autonomy, we should give autonomy only to the extent of internal management; for important decisions, the matter should come to the Ministry for the approval of the Ministry.

Then, these officials do not have any regard for the Parliament. Recently, there was a meeting of the Consultative Committee on Steel and Heavy Engineering during the inter-session period at Bokaro and, while the meeting was still continuing, the Chairman of the HSL just walked out of the meeting without caring to take the permission of the Members. This is how we find they do not care for the Parliament. If they are given autonomy, they will not even care for the Ministers.

I was talking about the dishonest officials at the top. Recently, there was an inquiry by the C.B.I. into some cases in Durgapur Steel plant and it was found that a number of top engineers were involved in corruption whereby the Durgapur Steel plant lost a huge amount. Unless we stop this corruption in public sector undertakings, it is very difficult to make these public sector undertakings run on profit. We should, therefore, engage more C.B.I. personnel to check corruption in the public sector undertakings and, whenever we find any one responsible for corruption, he should be very severely dealt with.

Lastly, about the labour trouble, in Durgapur, the labour trouble is due to an abnormal political climate there. But in many cases, the top officials are responsible for the labour trouble because of their attitude towards labour. These top officials treat labourers as inferior people and they do not deal with the labour problems with sympathy. They do not deal with the labour with proper courtesy. They hate to sit with labour across the table. It is this attitude which makes labour adamant. Indian labour today is more conscious of their self-respect than about their wages and other things. Therefore, we should see that these officials deal with labour properly and with sympathy.

In H.E.C., I can cite some of the cases where the officials are instigating the labourers to go on strike in order to discredit the management. These are very serious matters and I request the hon. Minister to look into them and get these things enquired into by the Intelligence Department and whosoever is

found responsible for these things should be summarily dismissed.

SHRI MANOHARAN (Madras North) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving this opportunity to say a few words about the Steel Ministry and its administration.

First of all, I must say, this Ministry which is very vital in the industrialisation of this country is being headed by an able Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh, assisted by my good friend and dynamic man, Shri K.C. Pant, and helped by a very energetic youngman, Shri Qureshi. So, I think, the Ministry will deliver its goods. Let me wish so.

As you all know, the raw materials for the industrial revolution are two-fold, one is coal and the other is iron, and, in other word they are called the bread and butter of the industrial revolution.

This country is passing through a sort of industrial revolution. The happy combination of iron and coal produces steel which is otherwise called a pivot on which the industrial advancement and the economic prosperity of any nation revolves. This country, after Independence, is gradually passing through meeting some impediments and coming to a place where serious consideration is a must.

The total requirements of this country in future development of this nation have been reported in the report submitted by the Ministry. On page 4, the report says :

"In the Annual Report for the last year, the projections of total demand in the year 1973-74 and 1978-79 both for indigenous consumption and for export were indicated. Taking into account the capacity of the main producers and secondary producers in these years, a gap of 2.07 million tonnes of finished steel and 1.81 million tonnes of pig iron was indicated for the year 1973-74. Similarly, in the year 1978-79 the gap was expected to be 6.42 million tonnes of finished steel and 2.98 million tonnes of pig iron."

[Shri Manoharan]

How are we going to bridge the gap is the question. According M/s M. N. Dastur—of course, they have given a detailed project report about the Salem steel plant—

“A forecast of the country's steel requirements for the Fourth and Fifth Plan periods will be :

8 million tons of finished steel in 1965-66, 14 million tons in 1970-71 and 21 million tons in 1975-76 corresponding to 11, 18 and 28 million ingot tons respectively.”

The report on page 5 says as to how they are going to remove the difficulties and how they are going to bridge the gap. It says :

“Setting up of additional capacity in steel in 2 or 3 new steel plants is also under the consideration of the Government.”

This Government has been considering setting up of three plants for the past so many years. Still the report claims that it is still under the consideration of the Government. “A decision on the location is expected to be taken shortly.” It is an utterly irresponsible statement of the highest order. For the past so many years on behalf of my Party and on behalf of Tamil Nadu we have been clamouring for a steel plant at Salem. The Ministry's report says, ‘A decision on the location is expected to be taken shortly.’

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Why do you say that it is irresponsible to clamour for a steel plant ?

SHRI MANOHARAN : So, Sir, about the Salem steel plant I want to say something because thereby the entire Parliament can understand as to what is happening. In 1962 a feasibility report was submitted by a technical Committee appointed by the Government on the basis of which M/s M. N. Dastur & Co. was asked to prepare a detailed project report. That report was submitted in 1964. Not being satisfied with that report, the Government thought it fit—of course, I think, rationally to consult a Japanese consultancy firm. A team consisting of five

technical people of that firm visited India. They visited almost all parts of the country. They visited Neyveli. They visited Salem. They visited Kanchamalai which was the location recommended by M/s Dastur & Co. They have submitted a report in which they have exactly endorsed the view of M/s Dastur & Co. But the detailed project report departs on a very broad point in the sense that it departs from a conventional integrated steel works which employ blast furnaces because this particular place does not possess the metallurgical coal which is required for manufacturing iron. So, sophisticated method have been adopted and suggested. So, that report is still in the cold storage of the Government of India. The late Chief Minister of Madras, Thiru C. N. Annadurai was in Japan and while he was there, the industrialists there asked the Chief Minister of Madras “What happened to your Salem Steel Plant?” This is what he replied. I am reading from the news item. It says :

“Mr. Annadurai who was talking to newsman about his month long foreign tour, said that the Japanese industrialists were amazed why the Salem plant had not yet been started. One firm, he stated, offered to take Salem iron-ore and in return give foreign exchange.”

It again says :

“The Chief Minister of Madras, Mr. Annadurai said here today that the industrialists in Japan, with whom he had discussed the Salem steel project were keen on collaboration with India and were prepared to extend assistance as far as foreign exchange was concerned.”

The second thing is this : The most important, leading Iron and Steel company of Japan, Jawata Iron and Steel Company' had agreed to help us in the setting up of a steel project at Salem and it is interested in associating itself with the project and it is closely watching the developments. The Director of the Company, Mr. Y. Limura was in Madras some years back and he said : I quote the news item :

"Mr. Y. Limura, Director and General Manager of Yawata, told newsmen here today that though their discussions with the Government in this connection had led to no immediate results, his company would be willing to collaborate if and when a decision to set up the plant was taken. In this sense the matter was 'pending' he observed."

So, either the Government must come forward to do it or give licence to the Government of Tamilnadu to have a plant at Salem but unfortunately nothing was done. While I demand and say that we want a Salem Steel Plant, for Heaven's sake, let me not be misunderstood as a parochial man. I think, Sir, considering the requirements of steel and the future expansion of steel needs and the industrial programmes that we have, the steel that we are producing is not enough and what I say is that we may have a dispersal of steel industry all over the country. While we start a steel plant technical considerations precede regional considerations; I do agree with that, but let us not forget rectification of regional imbalances. That is one of the important items or aims in Planning and that is why we have been demanding the setting up of the Steel Plant at Salem. It is not a big project. When Dastur and Company submitted the report they have quoted the amount involved as Rs. 95 crores. Whether it is a wise or unwise decision of devaluation that was done, I don't know, but after that it has shot up to Rs. 110 crores. The steel plant of Bokaro has already eaten into the vital sectors of the economy of the country and it has already eaten upto the tune of Rs. 900 crores. According to Mr. K. C. Pant, I am told, it would shoot up to Rs. 1200 crores. I have no grouse about it. Of course, if it is a must, we can have it. But let not the Government say we don't find the money and allow the Salem Steel project to get itself rusted.

I only make this request my hon. friend and Minister Shri K. C. Pant. For the past 10 or 15 years you have been testing the feelings of the people of Tamilnadu. The rosy dream of Tamilnadu must come true. I

have no objection—if Andhra has one and Mysore gets another one, it will be a happiest day for the country. (Interruption) I don't know about Kerala, but if Kerala has facilities let them have, one. Another important point is that these industries must be allowed to function.

Another misleading conception which is deep rooted in the minds of the Government of India and their thinking is this. If anybody wants to start a steel plant, I think they are thinking like this that coal must be here; iron-ore must be here; water supply must be here and electricity must be here. This is an antediluvian theory. This is out-of-date. Take for example Japan. It imports iron-ore and also coal. But, still, they are exporting finished steel products. Japan is considered to be the largest steel producing country in the world. The quality of steel is also wonderful and the price is very cheap. The Government should come out of this rut of their past thinking and must see the light of day.

I request the Cabinet Minister of Steel here one thing. I tell him here that unless and until the demand of Tamil Nadu and the integrated demand of the people of the South is met, I am sure that the floodgate of revolution would be opened. I hope they will do it.

Two more points, and I have done. These are most important points. My friend, Shri Ghosh rightly said that there is autonomy regarding the public sector undertakings. But autonomy does not rule out accountability. These people think that they can do anything they like and get away with that.

I am talking about H. S. L. H. S. L. has its own Chairman. I would like to say that the present Chairman is one Shri Chandy and I think Shri Ghosh might have talked about this gentleman. He said that for 25 days he was out. My understanding is that for 27 days he was out and for one two days he is in Delhi and in Calcutta. He is all in the H. S. L. I request the hon. Minister to consider this absolutely bad concentration of all powers which have been completely at the hands of this gentleman, Shri Chandy.

[Shri Manoharan]

Not only that. He has created a lot of troubles to the General Managers of all these Steel Plants of the country. For example, it has come to my knowledge that one Shri Bhayya who was a General Manager in the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur was transferred from there and brought to Calcutta in the sales section. I have come to know that the Chairman is still trying to throw him out from this place also there by depriving it of the services of an efficient officer. Let me quote another example. Shri Sinha, General Manager of Rourkela Steel Plant is also being harassed by the Chairman. And efforts are being made for shifting this man.

Bhilai Steel Plant has shown remarkable results. Nowadays there also the General Manager, Shri Jagapathi is being harassed by the Chairman and is being forced to leave the job.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member has exceeded his time. He should now conclude.

SHRI MANOHARAN : I shall conclude. Let me tell you something on the commercial side of it. The job of the Chairman is to supervise the administration of the plant. But this man completely monopolises the whole lot even in regard to fixing the price, in regard to appointment of people and even in regard to appointment of chaprasais. He has taken the whole lot on himself. These must receive the consideration of the Government.

Sir, before I conclude my speech—the hon. Prime Minister if here. I hope that some historic announcement will be made by the Prime Minister to-day. I expect that before she leaves for Tamil Nadu. I think that if that announcement is made she will be treated there as a queen.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) May I say, Sir, that the time for the queen and the king is over? I must be rather treated as a human being.

The Fourth Five Year Plan has a provision of Rs. 110 crores for the development of new steel plants during the current Plan period. Government have decided that work should be started during this Plan period on two integrated plants for the production of mild steel, and the third one for special steels. Various alternative sites have been examined for this purpose both from the point of view of techno-economic suitability and from that of regional development.

Taking into account the advantages of locating a steel plant in the proximity of a port, which should facilitate the export of steel products as well as the import, to the extent necessary, of the required raw materials, Government have decided that one of the new steel plants which is to be taken up during the Fourth Plan period should be located in the coastal region of Visakhapatnam.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : We are very grateful and thankful to her.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI There are vast resources of iron ore of high quality around Hospet which in the absence of a steel plant in the area are, at present, being utilised only partially for export purposes. To use this raw material resource adequately, and at the same time, to develop the industrial potential of the area, it has been decided that a steel plant should be constructed in the Hospet area in the State of Mysore.

The proposed plants at Hospet and Visakhapatnam will mainly produce mild steel. There is, however, a considerable demand in the country for special steels and a good deal of this demand is from the States of Tamil Nadu and Mysore, where there are a large number of consuming units for such steel, engaged in the manufacture of engineering goods, including automobiles and automobile ancillaries. To meet this demand, and also to encourage further industrial development of the area, Government have decided to locate a special steels plant in the District of Salem based on the local iron and Neyveli lignite.

Government propose to initiate the necessary preliminary work on these three steel plants within the Fourth Plan Period and with the utmost expedition.

AN HON. MEMBER : When does the Fourth Plan start ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : It has already started.

As the new steel plants are to be designed by Indian engineers and the equipment is to be manufactured in India, the programme of construction and erection will have to be suitably drawn up to fit in with the availability of technical personnel and the manufacturing capacities of the engineering units which would be called upon to supply the bulk of the equipment for these plants.

With the growing strength of the country's industry and economy, the demand for steel will progressively increase in future. On a modest estimate, it is expected that the capacity for steel-making will have to be doubled every ten years. New steel plants may, therefore, have to be erected apart from the three now decided.

As regards the location of future steel plants, we are fortunate in having a number of other sites which are *prima facie* suitable for such development. These will be taken into consideration in the process of rapid development of the steel industry which we now envisage.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : What about Orissa ?

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA (Cuttack) : They will export iron ore from there outside ?

SHRI S. KUNDU : We have been writing letters and making representations. There is cheap labour available. There is a big port, Pradeep. Orissa is a most backward State. Still no mention is made about a steel plant there.

SHRI TENNETI VISHWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam) : On behalf of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore, may I convey my congratulations and thanks to the Prime Minister and also to Shri Swaran Singh

and Shri K. C. Pant on this quick decision they have made ? Although late after 8 years, still it is a decision on which we congratulate here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not customary to have a debate or questions after a Minister has made a statement,

SHRI S. KUNDU : Clarification.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In this case, the Prime Minister has only intervened to make an announcement. The Minister in charge has yet to reply.

I hope all your points will be met at that time.

SHRI S. KUNDU : You will understand our agony. I want a little clarification from the Prime Minister. She said other sites would be considered in the Fourth Plan. There are sites in Orissa at Nayagarh and Boni. Let her say whether she will consider them. We want all these steel plants to be based on economic and national interest. There should not be any political interest. I can bet that any steel plant in Orissa will be only on economic consideration and nothing else. It will be cheaper than all the steel plants in India.

SHRI MANOHARAN : What about Rourkela ? That is not in Orissa ?

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : You cannot expect to get ore and manufacture there.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : He has made his point. The Minister will reply to him.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur) : The production of the steel plants in the Fourth Plan has shown slight improvement, but against our rated capacity of 5.9 million tonnes, the actual production this year is a little less than 4 million tonnes. That means that the plants are working at the rate of 66 per cent efficiency. Thus, in the public sector we are utilising two-thirds of the capacity leaving one-third unutilised, while in the private sector the efficiency is about 99 per cent. This is the main reason why Hindustan Steel is not able to make any profit and is incurring losses. When you are producing



[Shri S. R. Damani]

one-third less than the rated capacity, how can the plant make any profit?

Let us see the reasons why production is so much less and who is responsible for this. According to the Report, the main trouble is that labour is not cooperating. This is evident from the fact that in Rourkela 1,72,592 man hours have been lost during the year. In Bhilai 31, 885 man-hours were lost. In Durgapur it is shocking and the figure is 3,84,760 man-hours lost. If there is so much loss of production, how can the steel plants make any profit?

Not only during this year, but from the very beginning, from the time the plants came into production, the labour non-cooperation trouble has been continuing. On the one side, our friends in the opposition are criticising the loss on the steel plants, on the other side they are not co-operating in increasing production, but are always trying to create some trouble. The management is losing its energies in solving the labour problems. If one problem is solved, a second one comes up and if that is solved, a third one comes up. This has become continuous and the managements are always busy in solving the labour problems, and as such up till now the steel plants could not achieve their rated capacity. This is a national loss.

There is acute shortage of steel. If the plants had worked to capacity, the country would have produced at least 1.9 million tonnes more of steel. Because of acute shortage, the country had to import Rs. 100 crores of steel.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He can continue on Monday.

15.59 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS  
SIXTY-FIRST REPORT

SHRI M. G. UIKEY (Mandla) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with Sixty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th April, 1970."

16 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th April 1970."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.01 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: UNEMPLOYMENT  
PROBLEM—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall take up Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's Resolution now. We have allotted two hours to this Resolution but we have already taken 2½ hours. Quite a number of Members want to speak and some of them are from parties which have already spoken. I think we should first give a chance to Members from parties which have not spoken. Mr. Abraham is to continue his speech but he is not there.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : Our amendments are there ; we want to say a few words on them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall come to that later on. Shri Samar Guha—he is not there. Shri S. C. Jha.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : While I accept the importance of this resolution, I may point out that we have exceeded the time allotted for it, namely, two hours ; we have actually taken 2½ hours. If we can conclude the discussion on this resolution, before 4.25 p. m. and allow two hours for the resolution of Mr. P. Ramamurti I think that my resolution which is the third in the order paper will have some chance of being taken up and discussed. Therefore, I want you to allow me at least a minute or two just to move my resolution ; otherwise it is very difficult to come on the order paper again as it will lapse today. The chances of its coming up again are highly improbable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall consider the rules and see if rules permit it.