

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

6779

6780

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 7th May, 1954.

*The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-05 A.M.

DEATH OF SHRI B. L. TUDU

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the House of the passing away of Shri Bharat Lal Tudu, who was a sitting Member of the House. His age was 57. He passed away last night and I understand that the funeral service will take place at the church near Parliament House at twelve o'clock and the funeral will start at about 12-30 p.m. We mourn the loss of Shri Bharat Lal Tudu, and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to his family. The House may stand in silence for a minute.

I understand that it has been agreed that the House will rise at 11 a.m. today to enable Members to attend the funeral in case they wish to do so.

**MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL
OF STATES**

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of

160 PSD

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Children Bill, 1954, which has been passed as amended by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 28th April, 1954."

CHILDREN BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay the Children Bill, 1954, as passed by the Council of States, on the Table of the House.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
SITE FOR LOCATION OF NEW STEEL PLANT**

Shri Anirudha Sinha (Darbhanga East): Under rule 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Production to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"(i) The Minister of Production in his reply to the debates on the Demands for Grants stated in the House that the memorandum of the German experts for the location of the new Steel Plant were sent to all the four claimants, namely, the Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, to elicit their opinion and views.

(ii) That the Government of Bihar did not forward their views and as such the representative of that Government was not invited

[Shri Anirudha Sinha]

at the conference for final selection of site for the location of the new Steel Plant.

(iii) The Industry Minister of Bihar, on the other hand, has retorted the statement of the Union Minister of Production and has asserted in a statement before the State Assembly on 14th April, 1954, in reply to the Union Minister's remark that the Government of India had not invited the views of the Bihar Government on the German experts' memorandum nor the State Government was ever invited to join any discussion relating to this even at earlier stages."

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): The House might recollect that I referred in the course of my speech during the debate on the Demands for Grants of the Production Ministry to the circumstances under which the Bihar Government were not invited to join in the discussions leading to the decision to site the new steel plant at Rourkela. A Press report of the statement made by the Minister for Industries, Bihar, in this connection in the local Legislature has been brought to my notice. It seems to me that unfortunately there is some misunderstanding. I welcome, therefore, this opportunity to clarify the position.

In the course of the statement of the Minister of Industries, Bihar, it is pointed out that what I stated in this House must create the impression that the case of Bihar went by default due to the neglect on the part of the State Government.

I do not see why what I had said should lead to such an impression. I desire to make it clear that Bihar presented its case and pressed its claims vigorously on several occasions.

Under the Technical Consultants' Agreement signed at Delhi on the 21st December, 1953, the German firms of

Messrs. Krupp and Demag were required to recommend to the Government of India the most suitable site for the location of the new Steel Plant. After studies conducted on the basis of scientific data and the material submitted by the States Governments and after a visit to the various possible locations including Sindri in Bihar, the firms submitted a memorandum to the Government of India recommending the site of Rourkela in the State of Orissa. The Ministry of Production sent copies of that memorandum to the Governments of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

No comments on the document were specifically asked for from any of the State Governments. The Governments of West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, however, sent memoranda contesting the validity of some of the data on which the selection of Rourkela had been recommended by the German experts. In view of this it was considered desirable to discuss and clarify at Cabinet level the points raised by those State Governments. The discussions were held on the 14th of February after which the decision on the location of the Steel Plant was finally taken as recommended by the German experts.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the Bihar Government did press its claims and that the views and the memoranda of the concerned State Governments including that of Bihar were fully considered before a final decision was taken.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE
STATEMENT RE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
PAKISTAN ON PROBLEM OF EVACUEE
PROPERTY

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding recent negotiations with Pakistan in regard to the problem of evacuee property. [Placed in Library. See No. S-156/54.]