

Block 'C'

Acc. No. 2554

Date 11.3.2015

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

4677

4678

LOK SABHA

Monday, 9th April, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-30 A.M.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION LTD.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Sir, on behalf of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Board of Directors of the National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., for the period ended the 31st December, 1955 [Placed in the Library. See No. S-129/56].

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, Shri Kanungo is here. Then, why is the Deputy Minister of Finance doing it?

Mr. Speaker: He must have been previously instructed.

DELAY IN DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF CERTAIN MINISTRIES

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, on Friday I drew attention to the fact that the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and of Law have not made available to us copies of reports on the working of the Ministries for the last year, and I ventured a suspicion, a charge, that, because their demands have not been listed for discussion before the House, it has induced a sort of laxity in the Ministries which
1—39 Lok Sabha.

has been responsible for the non-production of the reports in time. It is fortunate that the Ministers concerned are present in the House today. I would request you to ask them why there has been such delay in the production of the Annual Reports, considering the fact that all the Ministries whose Demands are to come before the House have made their Annual Reports available to us well in time. These two Ministries—the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Law—have defaulted because, I suppose, their Demands for Grants will not come before the House for discussion. I request you to see that in future the Demands for Grants of these two Ministries also come before the House. Those Ministries must also be more vigilant and more careful about submitting to the House the Annual Reports of their Ministries. The Law Minister has supplied only a summary, rather cursorily and half-heartedly, and the Ministers will have to explain why their Ministries have thus defaulted in this matter.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): First of all, may I say that there has been no delay in this matter? Generally speaking, reports are presented to the House just a little before, and as early as possible, before the particular Grant is taken up by the House. We were informed by Parliament that this year our Grants would not be taken up. In our anxiety to give the latest information to the House, I have directed that before the Demands for Grants for the Ministries are all over, we might make our Report up-to-date, that is, upto 31st March, 1956, and submit it to the House. In fact, the Report will be distributed to the hon. Members today, and this will be the only Report which will be most up-to-date. It will cover the period up to 31st March, 1956. In fact, we would have got it probably on Saturday, but there was a delay of a day or two. If the Chair is pleased to direct that the Report should be presented by a particular date, we will certainly try to present it by that date.

[Dr. Keskar]

Generally speaking, the convention that has been followed has not been contravened in this respect.

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): My only point is, the hon. Member is always anxious to find fault with us. He should have made enquiries before he put up these questions before the House. As a matter of fact, the Law Ministry circulated the Report long in advance.

Shri Kamath: Only the summary.

Shri Biswas: Yes; the summary, and not the Report. In fact, they do not publish a 'Report' as such. A Report means obviously a nicely bound copy with a very excellent cover but if that is the kind of Report that is required, then we shall have to spend much on stationery and otherwise incur expenditure, to produce an admirable volume for the hon. Members!

Shri Kamath: For the House you should not grudge that.

Shri Biswas: If that is so, that is not the principle which this Ministry has followed so far. The Law Ministry followed the usual practice which has been in vogue for the last few years, and it did circulate a summary in ample time. I find that the summary was sent to the press on the 18th February, and so, it must have been in the hands of the hon. Members at least in the month of March.

Shri Kamath: I meant the Report. There is no Report at all.

Shri Biswas: Whether you call it a summary or Report, it was sent out in time. Perhaps if the summary had been padded we might have called it as a Report!

Mr. Speaker: In future, whatever the contents of the Report, or the size of the Report, let the Reports be submitted to the House in time. A summary always implies that there is a bigger Report yet. Whatever it is, the Ministry—in this case the Law Ministry—should give whatever it wants to give to the House. Let the Minister call it a Report or a summary; the name does not matter. It does not matter whether he gets it typed or printed.

Shri Kamath: I rise on a point of further clarification. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting said that the Report would be available today. I want to know whether he had instructed his Ministry to make available to us, the House, the Annual Report of the Ministry well ahead of time or well in time—before the Finance Bill is taken up. Or, is it because we have raised this matter in the House that the Report is being expedited?

Mr. Speaker: They will be distributed to Members. They are in the notice office.

Dr. Keskar: The Report will be distributed today.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research. Out of 3 hours allotted for the Demands of this Ministry, 2 hours and 33 minutes have already been availed of and 27 minutes now remain.

Shri N. M. Lingam will now continue his speech, and be as brief as possible. Then I will call upon the hon. Minister.

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore): I was referring the other day to the question of copper mining in the country. Our country is short of copper. The need for copper by about the end of the year 1960 is fixed at 22,000 tons whereas we produce only about half the quantity now. Copper is being mined at present only in the Singhbhum area of Bihar. We understand that copper is available in Khetri and Sikkim and also in some areas in the South. The House would like to know from the Minister the programme for copper mining in the next Five Year Plan period so that our country may be self-sufficient in this important metal. The Minister has also to tell us what programme the Ministry has with regard to the exploitation of minerals in the South, especially regarding the minerals such as bauxite, magnetite and chromite. These minerals are found in abundance in the Salem district of the Madras State. We do not know whether the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was in favour of exporting these minerals or of exploiting them by

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.