

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): One thing remains.....

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central) rose—

Mr. Speaker: The matter is closed.

Shri A. M. Tariq (Jammu and Kashmir): As you are aware and as hon. Members of this House are aware, this magazine *Time* has got a world-wide circulation and it is being taken as a very serious journal. Whatever is put down in that journal is being taken as correct information.

Now, after I wrote a letter to the Magazine, it was not published completely. Only a portion of it was published. It was the duty of the Editors of the Magazine and their correspondent in Delhi to say that they regretted this error, when my letter was published. Now, I do not press that they should publish this letter in their paper, but they must publish in a box this regret about the error they made in respect of their comment about the Speaker of the Indian Parliament.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Normally, I would have agreed entirely with the suggestion that you have made that the matter be dropped after this apology from the correspondent concerned. But I have read the passages, not only the one which you have read out but the entire text which is a rather stupid but nonetheless irritatingly patronising piece of contemptuous comment in regard to the working of Parliament in this country. In view of that, I feel that since we are very particular in regard to matters where our privileges are infringed—if a journalist in this country had defaulted in this way, surely he would have had to publish the apology in his own paper—without any kind of assurance from the correspondent that he is going to have this apology published in *Time* so that all the world knows that the reflection upon the Indian Parliament and the hon. the Speaker has been

withdrawn, has been apologised for, till that is done, some step ought to be taken here against this man who is abusing the hospitality of Parliament and of this country.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): No, Sir. The matter should be closed.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the general impression is that the matter should be treated as closed. Whatever occurs in this House will have the maximum amount of publicity outside. It will appear in all the papers. I am sure that in view of the unconditional apology that he has tendered, he won't commit any such mistake in future. So far as this matter is concerned, I believe the general sense of the House is that we drop further proceedings in the matter.

Shri A. M. Tariq: I want to draw your attention to a correction to be made in the record....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should not take this opportunity to say anything more.

Shri A. M. Tariq: Yesterday you mentioned some name.

This paper had not mentioned any name. It had only said 'friends of the airline management'. So I wanted to correct the record.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. That correction will be made.

—
12.09. hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

MINING OF COAL BY PRIVATE SECTOR

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance

and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

The reported change in the policy of the Government regarding the latitude given to the private sector in mining coal.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The basic policy in regard to coal production, which was adopted during the second Plan and had the approval of the Parliament, was to assess the total requirement of coal in our national economy and then to apportion responsibility between the Private and Public sectors to achieve this production according to their capacity. The policy still remains the same. Our main objective being to produce all the coal that is needed, the allocation of the respective shares of the private and public sectors cannot be on the basis of a pre-determined target for each. The proper course is to make an assessment of the capacity of each and then to work out what contribution it should be called upon to make in order to achieve the total production needed. This has been our approach in deciding the part that each of these sectors has to play in the third Plan. Our estimate of coal requirements during the third Plan works out to 95 million tons, exclusive of an extra 2.5 million tons required for the projected fourth steel plant at Bokaro. This means an additional production of 35 million tons over the target of 60 million tons in the second Plan. A Working Group comprising the Coal Controller, the Coal Mining Adviser attached to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and a representative of the coal industry was set up recently to invite offers from individual units, through the Joint Working Groups of the industry in regard to the additional production they were capable of achieving during the third Plan. This Working Group after securing the necessary information from the industry and scrutinising the individual offers from the point of view of feasibility made an assessment of the total capacity of the private sector. The final estimate of the said

Group is that the private sector is capable of producing about 4.87 million tons of coking coal and about 11 million tons of non-coking coal, thus making a total of 16 million tons approximately. Of this total, about 12 to 13 million tons are estimated to be produced from the existing workings in the collieries in question and the rest from areas adjacent to them as well as from non-contiguous or proximate areas. This estimate can be considered fairly realistic, based as it is on an examination of what individual units are capable of producing. The figure has turned out to be the same as was tentatively mentioned in the draft outline as the private sector's target. Similarly, the capacity of the public sector comprising the National Coal Development Corporation and the Singareni Collieries has been estimated at 19 million tons. This assessment is again based on a careful examination of what the public sector is capable of achieving, taking into account such important factors as the availability of the necessary equipment, man-power and technical know-how.

The intention, however, is not to treat these allocations as rigid. These have been laid down for the present for the purpose of programmes to be drawn up by the various units, and the evaluation of performance from time to time. It is proposed to keep a close watch on the progress of each unit that is participating in the programme of additional production, and if shortfalls are noticed in one sector, adjustments would be made in the programme of the other sector, the basic objective being to ensure that the total production planned for is actually achieved.

The above policy is fully in accord with the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. That resolution stipulates that all new units in the coal industry will be set up by the State. But this does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when

[**Sardar Swaran Singh**]

the national interests so require. The role that has been assigned to the private sector I have just mentioned does not involve a general relaxation of the Industrial Policy Resolution itself. A realistic assessment having been made of the optimum production that can come from existing mines and areas immediately contiguous to these mines in the private sector, our intention is to give special permission to individual units to work new or non-contiguous areas where the raising of coal from such areas has to be ensured to make up the total production required. This is quite in consonance with what the Industrial Policy Resolution states, namely, that where the national interests so require, private enterprise may be allowed to expand.

Another important aspect of coal policy pertains to coal prices. In this regard we have adhered to a policy of holding the price line. It will be recalled that sometime ago Government had constituted a Coal Price Revision Committee which went into the entire price structure of coal and besides recommending an economic price for coal made certain other recommendations, the object of which was to create the right conditions for the expansion of coal production and assurance of supplies to consumers. These recommendations were accepted by Government and are being implemented. A very important one among these is the introduction of a scheme of subsidy to collieries which are handicapped by adverse factors such as presence of gas, very deep workings, difficult geological conditions, excessive accumulation of water, etc. and which cannot be worked economically at the existing coal prices, although it is in the national interest to keep them in production. Another important measure is the raising of the ceiling for stowing subsidy from 75 per cent. to 85 per cent. to 100 per cent. Government are also going ahead with the scheme to put up Central ropeways both in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields for extraction of sand from the river beds and distribution to individual collieries. The

scheme is expected to be put into effect by the end of the first quarter of 1963. All these schemes will benefit the private and public sectors alike.

To sum up then, there has been no radical change in Government's policy on coal. It is based on what the national interests require, and is entirely within the scope defined by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Sir, may I put a question? Since the Minister has, time and again, referred to the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, may I, for the information of the House quote the relevant portion of the Industrial Policy Resolution? It is:

"This does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require."

The Resolution never says that the new units should not be allowed to be set up. It says:

"All new units in these industries, save where their establishment in the private sector has already been approved, shall be in the public sector."

May I know whether Government is prepared to have an interpretation of these words through a Judge of the High Court or of the Supreme Court, whether this will allow the establishment of new units in other sectors.

Sardar Swaran Singh: This House is wise enough to interpret this provision. It is only a statement of policy. It is not a statute. The policy is always laid down here. We can alter a policy. I have stated my interpretation. The Industrial Policy Resolution, I have ventured to submit, is not opposed to our present policy. (Interruptions).

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): There cannot be two opinions that every step should be taken by Government to fulfil the Plan targets. What we are afraid of is that—as he has indicated—there is a gradual modification of the Industrial Policy in a sense. When such a thing is happening and the Government thinks it necessary that it should happen, at least the House should be informed that this is what is happening or what is being done. He used the phraseology, 'contiguous areas could be exploited by the existing mine owners in the private sector'.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow a discussion on this. Of course, hon. Members know that they must apply.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Yes.

—
12.18 hrs.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL
—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Nityanand Kanungo on the 15th November, 1960, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Naushir Bharucha was in possession of the House.

I may inform the House that the hon. Deputy-Speaker told me that yesterday, at about 2.50 p.m. or so, it appeared as if the debate would collapse. Even the Minister was here; no hon. Member was willing to speak. Now, I find that as many as 12 or 13 hon. Members want to speak. Probably some more also. Every hon. Member wants to choose his own time and makes it impossible for the Speaker to adjust. I cannot adjust unless I prepare my own

list, and unless the hon. Members who want to speak are here from time of the start of the debate right up to the end. I will note down their names. They cannot force their own time and convenience upon me.

Sometimes some hon. Members write to me, 'I am anxious to go by this train; I have got an appointment: I want to attend a cinema—some thing like that. Though it is not a cinema, it is something like that. They say, 'I want to attend a marriage party; I have to go; I have fixed up a meeting I want to address'. All these are very embarrassing. All that I can say is that I am trying to give as much latitude to the hon. Members as possible, not preventing any hon. Member from expressing his views.

Today it is impossible for me physically to apportion the time amongst the 13 or 14 Members, every one of whom will, I am sure, be contributing something to the debate.

Shri Naushir Bharucha will conclude in 3 minutes; he has already taken 27 minutes.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): I will conclude in 5 or 7 minutes.

Dr. Samantsinhar (Bhubaneshwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, has any Member actually said that he wants to go to the cinema and, therefore, time should be adjusted accordingly?

Mr. Speaker: No; something like that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The newspapers such as *Statesman* should not write editorials on us; they have already written several editorials.

Mr. Speaker: A man must be devoid of all sense of humour if he takes up every small matter that appears here and then writes editorials upon it. Of course, they may be lighter matters but they may be important from their point of view. It is not important