

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 27, 1975/Phalguna
8, 1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO THE MONGOLIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming Mr. Tsedendambyn Gotev, M.P., Secretary of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic and the hon. members of the Mongolian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests. The other members of the delegation are:

1. Mr. Dendeviin Oidov, MP.
2. Mrs. Gochogiin Dulma, MP.
3. Mr. Sharavdorjin Jadanbaa, MP.
4. Mr. Luvsan Rinchin Officials
5. Mr. Otogom

The Leader of the Delegation arrived yesterday evening and the other members of the Delegation arrived this morning and will be in India till the 5th of March. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the
2064 LS-1.

Parliament, Government and the People of Mongolia.

Durgapur Steel Plant

*141. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Durgapur Steel Plant has been working below its capacity;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b). The main reasons are:—
 - (i) Adverse industrial relations;
 - (ii) Deterioration in condition of coke oven batteries.
 - (iii) Lack of adequate maintenance of various items of equipment in the past; and
 - (iv) Inadequate availability of power during 1973-74 and the early part of 1974-75.
- (c) Close and constant liaison is maintained with the Ministry of Energy and the authorities of D.V.C. to ensure maximum supply of power. Similar liaison is maintained with the Ministry of Railways to ensure that difficulties in regard to rail movement do not hamper production in any way and with the Department of Coal to ensure adequate and timely supply of coking coal to the steel plant. The question of augmenting

the captive power generating capacity in the steel plant is under examination. A number of long term measures are already in hand to bring about an improvement in production and these continue to be implemented. These include provision of balancing facilities required to correct existing imbalances in production facilities capital programmes involving addition, replacements etc, improved maintenance aimed at better equipment availability and planned procurement of spares and refractories and other essential materials. A new half coke oven battery is under construction and a programme has been drawn up for the re-building of the existing coke oven batteries. Concerted efforts also continue to be made to improve industrial relations and to enlist the corporation of workers in maximising production.

श्री एम० एस० पुरतो : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि दुर्गापुर इस्पात संयंत्र की उत्पादन क्षमता में कितना कम उत्पादन 1973-74 में हुआ ? मंत्री जी ने अपने विवरण में बताया है कि उत्पादन में ह्रास होने के कारण मालिक मजदूरों के संबंध अच्छे नहीं होना, कोक ओवन बैटरीज की हालत खराब होना, विभिन्न एक्विपमेंट्स का ठीक ढंग से रख रखाव न होना, और बिजली ढंग में उपलब्ध न होना। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह सब कारण दुर्गापुर संयंत्र में कब से मौजूद हैं और कब तक यह कारण दूर किये जायेंगे और उत्पादन में वृद्धि लायी जायेगी ?

इस्पात और स्लान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव) 1973-74 में दुर्गापुर कारखाने में स्टील इगट्स का प्रोडक्शन 7 लाख 75 हजार 849 टन हुआ और सेलेबिल स्टील का 3 लाख 76 हजार 753 टन हुआ। और इस साल 10 महीने के जो आकड़े जनवरी तक के हैं उनके अनुसार 6 लाख 64 हजार टन स्टील इगट्स और सेलेबिल स्टील का प्रोडक्शन 4 लाख 31 हजार 300 टन हुआ है।

कारणों के बारे में जो माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है यह कारण पिछले 5, 6 वर्षों से विशेष रूप से हैं और इसके कारण जो जवाब दिया गया उसमें माफ कहा गया है कि मुख्य रूप से तीन, चार कारण हैं। पहला तो यह कि पिछले 6, 7 वर्षों में जो सबंध थ्रॉमिक यूनियनों से वे बहुत खराब हो गये थे, बहुत सारी हड़तालें पिछले दिनों में हुईं और उन हड़तालों का स्टील प्लांट पर बुरा असर पड़ता है। एक दिन ही हड़ताल में बहुत से एक्विपमेंट्स पर, खानकर कोक ओवन बैटरीज पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ता है और फिर काफी दिन लग जाते हैं उत्पादन को उस स्तर पर लाने के लिये। इस प्रकार 1967-68 में हमने 10 लाख 80 हजार 540 मैन आवर्स खोये। 1968-69 में 5 लाख 15 हजार 809 मैन आवर्स लूज रिये। और इसी तरह में 5-6 साल की फिगर्स देखें तो लगाना बड़ा हड़तालें हुई हैं जिन का उत्पादन पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है। लेकिन यही एक मात्र कारण नहीं था, पर सबसे बड़ा कारण था। इसके अलावा बहुत से कारण सामने आये उनको जांच की गई। जो देख रेख होनी चाहिये थी मशीनों की अच्छे ढंग से नहीं हुई। दूसरे प्रबंध के अन्दर भी कुछ गड़बड़ियाँ थी जिन के बारे में कुछ कदम उठाये गये हैं। और इस वकन में माननीय सदस्य को विश्वास दिवाना चाहना है कि हमने कुछ फौरी कदम और कुछ लम्बे अर्थ के लिये क्या करता है इसके लिये योजना बना ली है। उस पर कारगर तरीके में कदम उठाना जा रहा है ताकि हम इस कमी को दूर कर सकें।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER I want to know whether it is not a fact that Hindustan Steel Employees union affiliated to CITU and officers associations DSP submitted constructive suggestions on expansion schemes and to improve production to make the plant viable and these were not accepted by the authorities? Is it not a fact that 700 contractors' workers have not yet been taken back inspite of the categorical assurance

given by the hon. Minister Chandrajit Yadav on the floor of the Lok Sabha last session? This assurance was not honoured by the management. Is it not a fact that at the plant level, at the shop level, etc the three tier committee set up by the West Bengal Labour Minister, Dr. Gopaldas Nag could not function due to opposition and non-co-operation from the INTUC union? Apart from the answer given by the Minister in reply to the main question and supplementary question, I have mentioned these factors. Are these reasons not responsible for the poor performance of the Durgapur Steel Plant?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV. So far as the first part of the question is concerned, namely that some memorandum was submitted by the CITU Union and the Officers' Union for the improvement of production and industrial relations, those suggestions have been received and they are getting our due consideration. This is also a fact that in the last two years a concerted effort was made to improve industrial relations. I must say that all the unions functioning at Durgapur co-operated at that stage and a meeting was held with the Labour Minister of West Bengal, the management and the representatives of the trade unions in the Durgapur Plant. On 9th May, 1972, an agreement was reached that tripartite committees at three levels—the floor level, the plant level and the State level should be formed. These committees were formed and all the unions working there, whether affiliated to the CITU Union or AITUC or INTUC, have agreed. The Plant Committee was also formed, and it started functioning well. There was no agreement as to what should be the nature of the participation at the floor level committees. So far, the floor committees could not be formed. At the State level some meetings were called and certain agreements were reached, but later on certain difficulties arose because of inter-union rivalries. Local problems are there, I am not denying that, and we are seeking the co-operation of all the

people saying that we should sit together and try to resolve these problems.

So far as the 700 contract labourers are concerned, this problem of contract labour is there in almost every plant. Certain procedures were also evolved as to how to absorb most of the contract labour. One criterion was fixed that workers in works which are of a permanent nature may be made permanent, but with the consent of the representatives of all unions. Unfortunately, the union representatives themselves did not agree on the specific works which are of a permanent nature, and that is the only difficulty. Otherwise, we stand by that principle, we want to implement it.

So far as the 700 workers are concerned I told the management also, categorically and issued instructions to the management also that all those workers who are willing to come back and who are not involved in any violent activities should be allowed to come back, except the 20 workers against whom there are police cases, but the CITU Union itself is insisting that those 20 workers should also be taken back and that unless and until they are taken back, the workers will not join. In spite of that more than 50 per cent have already joined, and further efforts are being made. I want to assure the Members again that I have told them not to insist on our taking back the 20 workers against there are cases of violence. We will consider their cases later on. Others are welcome to join, but it is the CITU Union which is preventing them from coming and joining the work.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: On this issue we made a representation to the Minister only a few days ago about these 700 contract workers, and we had some talks. He told us he would also see that all were taken back.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I am very sorry. Whatever I told you I am saying on the floor of the House again.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: You said you had asked the General Manager to come to Delhi and have talks with you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Let us have a half-hour discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have it.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: In reply to part (b) the minister said: "Lack of adequate maintenance of various items of equipment in the past."

I would like to know (a) who is responsible for the poor maintenance of equipment and what are the various items of equipment in the plant; (b) whether the coke oven plant which was supplied by the British consortium as the time of its construction early in 1953 was not of the capacity as it was originally mentioned and it started giving trouble from the very beginning of its commission; (c) whether the half battery of the coke oven is being constructed by the same firm and (d) when the rebuilding of the existing coke oven batteries would commence and when it would be completed.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: When we found that production was falling and appreciable improvement was not taking place, two committees were formed to go into the details and identify the reasons for low production and bad maintenance. One Mr. R. K. Chatterjee was working there first as Assistant General Superintendent and then as General Superintendent and then as General Manager. We fixed the responsibility on him. He was demoted. Later on he made a representation against that but ultimately he had to leave the plant. Some action was taken against Shri C. S. N. Raju, General Superintendent. I would assure the hon. member that

all possible measures are being taken for proper maintenance of the plant. We are quite aware of the weaknesses managerial or departmental and as when they came to our notice we take effective steps. Some short-term and some long-term schemes have been prepared and steps are taken. About the same question whether the same company has been given the work of rebuilding the half cokeoven battery, I want notice

DR. RANEN SEN: In the statement it is said-

"The question of augmenting the captive power generating capacity in the steel plant is under examination...

A new half cokeoven battery is under construction"

The power crisis is 5 or 6 years old and the need to have a new power plant felt nearly 4 years ago. May I know why in spite of the fact that four or five years have elapsed, this is still under consideration? What is the reason for this delay?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Actually, the installed capacity of the captive plant is 20 MW. The firm generation capacity is 15 MW. The total requirement of power for the existing installed capacity of the steel plant is about 60 MW. There were serious power cuts and power interruption during 1973-74 and also in the first few months of 1974. But, during the last four or five months appreciable improvements have been made. We have quite close liaison with the DVC and the DVC has met the requirements of the plant. We want to be sure that the captive plant, whose installed capacity is 20 MW, will produce the maximum. Therefore, certain steps have been taken to maximise the production of the captive plant. It is a fact that for the last four or five months there has not been any shortage of electricity. The situation has improve considerably, and we hope this situation will continue. So far as the half coke oven battery is concerned, it is under construction.

Action is being taken to complete the re-building of the coke-oven battery as quickly as possible.

Faulty Mining of Iron Ore by Private Parties

*143. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Iron Ore Board has discovered faulty mining of iron ore by private parties; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD). (a) In the course of some studies based on available data, the Iron Ore Board have observed that mining in some areas in the private sector mines is not carried on in a proper and scientific manner.

(b) The Iron Ore Board, therefore, constituted two committees to study and suggest the integrated development of iron ore deposits in Barajamda sector and Bellary-Hospet sector. The report of Barajamda Committee has been received and action is being taken to implement its recommendations. The report of Bellary-Hospet Committee has yet to be received.

DR. RANEN SEN. Last year in reply to question by Shri P. M. Sayeed in November 1974 the setting up of the two committees was mentioned. Later on, we learnt that one of the committees of the Iron Ore Board has expressed serious concern at the misuse of iron ore leases by private parties. The report goes on to state that the Board has come out with the finding that the private sector, which was earlier contributing a substantial portion of the iron ore, was now only cornering them without exploiting them

further. Since this iron ore is very necessary for our steel production and for export purposes, may I know what particular steps the Government of India is going to take, or has taken, to see that there is control over the private companies who are cornering and misusing the iron ore, if not completely taking over all the iron ore mines held by the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): It has been stated in the main answer that certain deficiencies in the exploration of these mines were brought to our notice and we felt that certain steps are necessary for the improvement of the iron ore mines. Therefore, the Iron Ore Board was formed, which is making a study of these problems. It had appointed two committees. The report of one committee has already been received. That committee has made certain suggestions. To implement one suggestion a certain investment is necessary in the Barajamda area—about Rs. 12 crores for developmental works and about Rs 3 crores for the central screening and crushing plant. The private mine owners have also agreed for the investment. But they want an assurance that whatever iron ore they will mine will be exported and that the MMTC should be able to export that iron ore. It should not lie on the pit-head. These questions are being examined very carefully.

While granting lease to private mine-owners, the Government is always very careful to see that only those mines are given to private mine-owners which are not amenable to large-scale mechanised mining or which are export-oriented. For example, Goa has its history. Goa is the main area where private mine-owners exist. It has a history. They have been doing business for quite a few years. We do not at the moment feel any necessity to take over those private mines. Effective steps are being taken and will be taken when