

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 23, 1976/Chaitra 5,
1898 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Iron Ore of Bailadila Mines

*242. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether little less than two tonnes of iron ore of Bailadila Mines can produce one tonne of steel;

(b) the prices of iron ore and steel in the market; and

(c) the reason of exporting iron ore instead of manufacturing steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prices of iron ore and steel vary considerably, depending on the grade/type of the material. A broad indication of the present range of variations is given below:—

(i) Iron ore:—f.o.b. prices vary from about Rs. 75 to Rs. 160

per tonne, depending on the Fe-content, lump/fines, etc.

(ii) Steel:—the prices fixed by the Joint Plant Committee for different items of steel products vary from Rs. 1,033 per tonne in the case of rails, to Rs. 2,559 per tonne in the case of C.R. sheets.

(c) The setting up of steel plants in order to augment the indigenous capacity of steel production necessarily involves financial outlays of large magnitude. Consequently, lack of adequate financial resources has been the main constraint responsible for our exporting iron ore instead of manufacturing steel. Even so, there is an increasing trend in our exports of pig iron and steel, both in terms of quantity as well as value. However, considering the large reserves of iron ore in the country and the pressing need to earn foreign exchange, exports of iron ore are necessary and advantageous to the country.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: In view of the fact that our country faces a heavy loss by exporting iron ore to foreign countries I would like to know, whether the Government proposes to expand the existing steel plants and to set up new steel plants by foreign collaboration or assistance from the World Bank and export finished steel.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: This view cannot be taken like that that the iron ore should not be exported because we are not getting, as the hon. Member feels, proper price. Really speaking, we are trying our best that we should export steel as much as possible and this year by

this time, we have registered orders for two million tonnes of steel in terms of quantity and Rs. 285 crores in terms of money in comparison to Rs. 18 crores in the previous year. We have a very comprehensive plan for the expansion of the steel industry. It depends, however, on the availability of resources with the Government and even this year, the budget shows very clearly that a considerable amount is going to be spent on the expansion of Bhilai, on the completion of Bokaro. The Government has also asked the Steel Authority of India that they should make a proper and comprehensive study and submit a report as to what would be the requirement of steel by the end of the century for our country. How much money will be required for that, etc. Therefore, the Government is seized of it, but till we reach that stage, it is necessary for earning foreign exchange that we should contribute to exports as iron ore exports are one of the important things through which we earn foreign exchange.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: According to the statement of the hon. Minister, one tonne of iron ore earns only from Rs 75 to 160 whereas one tonne of steel gets us from Rs. 1033 to 2559. So, instead of exporting iron ore, we can better export manufactured steel and get more foreign exchange.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: We cannot make comparison like that. You know, Sir, setting up one steel plant needs hundreds of crores of rupees.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: I do not object to export of iron ore. But at Bailadilla, the hon. Minister knows huge stocks of fines have accumulated. Hills of iron ore have been completely taken out and huge stocks of fines have accumulated. So, if a pelletisation plant can be put up, pellets would get us more price than the fines. What is the thinking of the Government in this regard?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I am in agreement with the hon. Member that in Bailadilla we have got seven million tonnes of fines. Government has asked MECON to make a study and report whether we can have a pelletisation plant and what would be the conditions. In its preliminary report it has suggested certain steps. Those steps are being considered by the Government. We are also negotiating with certain parties and given the favourable situation, it may come through. It also depends upon the availability of resources whether we would like to go in for a pelletisation plant.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: My supplementary will relate to part (c) of the statement given here in respect of pig iron

Is it a fact that in West Bengal there is a big demand for pig iron by the foundry-owners and the prices of pig iron have also gone up. But the difficulty there is that so long they were getting their supplies from the Durgapur Steel Plant. Now from the Durgapur Steel Plant pig iron is exported and the West Bengal foundry-owners have been asked to get their supplies from Bokaro. As such extra money will be required to bring the pig iron to the factories from Bokaro. My question is why do the Government adopt this sort of practice by which customers are put to difficulty?

MR. SPEAKER: What practice? Export of pig iron.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: My question is: there is pig iron in Durgapur Steel Plant and Durgapur is nearby.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The question does not relate to this. This relates to Bailadilla. I may say that it is wrong to say that. All the steel plants management is under HSL. If

a particular foundry needs a particular kind of pig iron which is produced in Bokaro, only that might happen. Anyway I will look into that matter.

Incentives for Family Planning

*243. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are finalising the guidelines which will be commended for adoption by the States in regard to family planning; and

(b) if so, whether family will be chief determining factor of entitlement for building loans, allotment of D.D.A. and Government flats and assistance for setting up small scale industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Some proposals for intensification of the family planning programme are being considered by the Government of India. Some State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have already adopted certain measures of their own.

(b) The Delhi Administration has adopted certain incentives and disincentives under which those with smaller families will receive preference in these matters.

श्री राज देव सिंह : आप के माध्यम से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप ने कौशचन के फर्स्ट पार्ट के उत्तर में यह कहा है कि कुछ प्रयोजन हैं जो गवर्नमेंट के समक्ष हैं और गवर्नमेंट उन पर विचार कर रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट के सोचने का प्रयत्न खत्म हो गया है या अभी इसमें और वक़्त लगेगा ?

आप ने यह भी बताया है कि कुछ स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स इन डिप्लेक्शन में कार्यवाही कर रही है—प्रगर इस सम्बन्ध कुछ खास बातें हों तो मंत्री महोदय हमको बतवायें ?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : जहाँ तक केन्द्रीय सरकार की विचारधारा का प्रश्न है, अब बहुत विस्तृत विचार के बाद हम शिखर तक पहुँच रहे हैं और आशा है कि इसी संवाद के दौरान मैं एक वक्तव्य पौपुलेशन पालिसी पर करने वाला हूँ जिन में जनसंख्या के संबंध में हमारी जो विचारधारा है, वह स्पष्ट हो जायगी।

जहाँ तक राज्य सरकारों का प्रश्न है—सात राज्य सरकारें तथा दिल्ली प्रशासन ने बहुत सारे कदम उठाये हैं जिन का व्योरा इस समय मेरे पास है। ये राज्य सरकारें हैं—महाराष्ट्र, उत्तरप्रदेश, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, गुजरात, हरियाणा, पंजाब तथा दिल्ली प्रशासन। इन्होंने जो कदम उठाये हैं वे इन की क्षमता के भीतर हैं, इस लिए हम उसमें हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकते।

श्री राज देव सिंह : उत्तर के दूसरे भाग में आप ने लिखा है कि दिल्ली ने कुछ इन्सेन्टिव्स और डिसइन्सेन्टिव्स एडाप्ट किये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो इन्सेन्टिव्स और डिसइन्सेन्टिव्स दिल्ली प्रशासन इस आन्दोलन को तेज़ करने के लिये जनता के सामने लायेगा, वे क्या हैं? साथ ही यह भी बतलायें कि क्या यह अच्छा होगा कि कानून का सहारा लेकर या लालच देकर हम लोगों को मंज़ूर करें, कोकत करें या यह अच्छा होगा कि हम एजुकेशन के बल पर लोगों को समझायें ?