

clarification of two three things basically. Firstly, Vividh Bharati was brought to Delhi in 1958 because at that time, the orientation of Vividh Bharati was mostly on the basis of original programmes broadcast by the main stations, and since the library of such programmes existed in Delhi, therefore, we had to shift the unit here and keep it in Delhi. It was a very small unit then. Now, the orientation has changed. It is generally film-music based, and film music is generally available in Bombay itself. . . .

SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN : But the records are available here also.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : But we have to keep ourselves in contact with them as well.

More than that, the second difficulty is limitation of the availability of space. In Bombay, we have got available now about 11 studios. In Delhi, we had only two studios, and they were also in temporary barracks, and they are now fit for demolition only, and we are unable to invest more money in constructing more studios here. Further, one building is lying vacant in Bombay.

Even then, keeping in view the difficulties of the people working in Vividh Bharati, we have taken two decisions. One is that in principle, nobody drawing less than Rs. 400 will be transferred to Bombay. So, nobody has been transferred in that category except eight persons who were recruited on the specific condition that they were being recruited for Bombay itself. So, under the agreement which they had signed, those eight persons would go there. Only 47 transfers have taken place, and all these 47 transfers are on the basis of those people who are drawing above Rs. 400; others have been absorbed in stations here and around here. Out of 109—hon. Members would excuse me if my figures are wrong, because my mathematics is very weak—about 62 persons, I believe, have been absorbed in the local stations. We are also keen to assist those persons whose special circumstances are such that they cannot go. We are very sympathetic and we shall always be willing to consider their difficulties also.

श्री शशि भूषण : यह 400 रुपये मासिक के ऊपर तनखाह पाने वाले व्यक्ति हैं उनको आज के हालात को मद्देनजर रखते हुए कोई ज्यादा पैसा नहीं मिलता है कि इस तरह से वह बम्बई से दिल्ली जायें और फिर यहाँ से

वापिस बम्बई चले जायें और उन्हें दिक्कत होती है इसलिए वह जो आप ने 400 रुपये की लिमिट रखी है उस को और बढ़ा दें तो ज्यादा अच्छा है। ज्यादा मुनासिब तो यही होगा कि आप इसे दिल्ली में ही रखें क्योंकि दिल्ली से ले जाना कुछ अच्छा नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : May I clarify one thing? Service in AIR is subject to transfers. Since it is an all-India service, we cannot give an assurance that every body serving in an all-India service will stay in Delhi. Transfers are inevitable; otherwise, you cannot run an all-India organisation. Therefore, I hope the transfer of 47 persons will be taken in the correct spirit. Even those not in Vividh Bharati are subject to all-India transfers.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is the office being shifted from Delhi to Bombay because though Delhi is the political capital of India, Bombay is the cultural capital?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : There is a variety of culture. Bombay has a very good speciality in certain aspects of culture.

Complaint regarding shortage of Raw Materials by M/s. Burn & Co., Braithwaite & Co., and Jessop & Co.

*46. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that even after having secured the contract for construction of the second Hooghly Bridge, the three principal member firms of the Bhagirathi Bridge Construction Co., viz. M/s. Burn & Co., Braithwaite & Co., and Jessop & Co., continue to complain of shortage of raw materials and components resulting in under-employment of labour, under utilisation of capacity, and lack of working capital; and

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated the actual financial and working conditions of these concerns?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The contract for the construction of the Second Hooghly Bridge has been awarded to M/s. Bhagirathi Bridge Construction Company. The total tonnage of steel to be fabricated for this work is 12,000 tonnes. The share of structural work to be allocated to each member firm, namely, Braithwaite & Co., Burn & Co., and Jessop & Co., would be relatively small as compared to the total capacity for structural fabrication available in these companies. Moreover, this fabrication work is scheduled to commence in the middle of 1974. The award of the Bridge contract will not, therefore, absorb fully or substantially the capacity of these companies so far as structural steel fabrication is concerned. In so far as the capacity of these companies for the manufacture of wagons and other products is concerned, the available workload may be regarded as satisfactory but the companies are facing problems relating to shortage of matching steel and components to execute the orders on schedule.

(b) Jessop & Co., is a Government majority company and the Management of Braithwaite & Co., was taken over by Government in March 1971. The actual financial and operating conditions of these companies are, therefore, constantly under review by Government. So far as Burn & Co., is concerned, Government of West Bengal have recently brought to the notice of the Government of India facts relating to its unsatisfactory working and suggested that appropriate remedial action be taken. The matter is under consideration of the Government of India.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : My question was not that these three concerns should be fully employed only because they have got the contract for the Hooghly Bridge. What I meant was that even after having secured the contracts in addition to other orders which, I believe, into crores of rupees, this is the state of affairs. Arising from the statement, I would like to ask the Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in the case of two of these companies which are among the biggest structural fabricators in the country, Jessops and Braithwaites—both of which are practically Government—run concerns now—the position is so bad that a spokesman of Jessops told newsmen two days ago—I am quoting from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*—

“The company’s assets are pre-

cariously low with no reserve. Its losses are met by borrowings. It has no money to spend for modernisation while its depreciation funds are only used for hand-to-mouth replacement. Steel, including matching sections, that was imported on user’s licences is being unutilised”.

I believe the situation at Braithwaite’s is almost as bad. In view of the fact that crores of public money is at stake, what action do Government propose to inquire into the causes of this state of affairs and take steps to remedy them ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : As the hon. member mentioned, these two companies, Jessops and Braithwaites, are under Government management. The main difficulty has been that these concerns were not properly maintained when they were under private management. The modernisation process has not taken place. Therefore, we have not only to modernise but also diversify production because the production pattern was such that it does not meet the needs of present day requirements as, if I may say so, this was based on the requirements of the previous century. Therefore, diversification has to take place. We are sinking a good deal of money, crores of rupees, in these concerns. At the same time, we find some labour problems also. Unless that is also properly solved, no amount of injection of money would avail. In that respect, the hon. member can help us in bringing about better industrial relations. As far as we are concerned, we are prepared to consider all the legitimate demands of labour. But what is important is that production should pick up and there should be better industrial relations. I want to assure the hon. member that we will take all possible steps to inject a new dynamism in these two concerns because they are among the biggest engineering companies in India.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am not satisfied with the reply; anyway, as far as the third company is concerned, Burn & Co., in view of the fact that it is one of the companies coming within the group whose erstwhile managing agents were Martin Burn and now Martin Burn are calling themselves their secretaries, and also in view of the fact that recently the Government has taken over the Indian Iron and Steel Co. and one of the grounds has been financial mismanagement,

will they consider also holding an enquiry into the affairs of Burns which are not able to pay even the wages and salaries of their staff regularly? They have come to this state of affairs in the last few months. So, I would like to know what is the kind of things which have been brought to the notice of the Government as stated in this statement, by the West Bengal Government and what type of enquiry and remedial action they propose to take.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There also, there are difficulties with regard to production labour trouble and financial mismanagement also to a certain extent. So, we are going into it, and if any action is called for, certainly we will not hesitate to take action.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I wanted to know whether there is any proposal also to take over the management of Burn and Co.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We are examining it. We are not going to take it over unless there are grounds for taking it over. Therefore, the matter is under consideration, and when all the facts are available to the Government, we will be able to take a decision on it.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : The Minister has stated that there has been some dynamism put into the working of the two companies, Jessop and Braithwaite. May I know when these companies were taken over by the Government and what steps have been taken since then to diversify the activities to which the hon. Member was referring?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member knows the state of affairs of Jessops. As a matter of fact, this was taken over in 1958, if I remember right, and since then, very many steps have been taken. If the production figures are gone into, the hon. Member would find that there has been considerable improvement, even though, due to the general malaise from which West Bengal is suffering owing to labour troubles and all those things during those days, not only Jessops but other concerns also went down in production. But the diversification has taken place to a very large extent, and therefore we are expecting that there would be quite a good future for Jessops. Braithwaite has been taken over about a year ago, and there also, steps are being taken to diversify.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us specifically the reason for giving this contract to M/s. Bhagi-

rathi Bridge Construction Co., which is in the combined sector, public sector and private sector—you call it the joint sector—in preference to a wholly public sector concern, the EPI? Secondly, in your statement, you have said that “so far as Burn and Co., is concerned, the Government of West Bengal have recently brought to the notice of the Government of India facts relating to its unsatisfactory working and suggested that appropriate remedial action be taken.” What are the unsatisfactory working conditions? Will you kindly tell us in the main what are the things mentioned against Burn and Co.?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There has been a loss of production there. They do not have sufficient finances. They are in financial difficulties. All these matters are under consideration. Recently, there also, production has picked up, but as I already stated, it is still under the consideration of the Government. We are not in a position to take a definite decision whether this can be taken over or not. It will take some time.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : My question was, why was this contract given to them?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I thought you wanted an answer only for the other company because Burn and Co. is also a partner in that. As far as that is concerned, I should like to have notice. It is not this Government which has ordered it; I think it was some other agency. If a separate question is put, I shall give an answer.

Clash between Jan Sangh and Congress Workers in New Delhi

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*47. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA :**
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether clashes between Jan Sangh and Congress workers took place as a consequence to demonstration staged by the Congress workers before the Jan Sangh Office on the 5th July, 1972 in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). A statement is being laid on the Table of the House.