

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 29, 1971/Sravana 7, 1893
(Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Labour trouble in Rourkela Steel Plant

*1443. SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is labour trouble at present in the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action which Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA: Sir, if he means that labour trouble has not affected production, he is right, but I seek your indulgence to place before the hon. Minister the fact that there has been labour agitation for the last one year and now it has taken a very serious proportion. I produce the newspaper *Samaj* of Orissa where the Chief Minister of Orissa has expressed his concern about the fact that the Rourkela steel authorities are going to declare a lay-off in the steel melting shop where there has been a devastating collapse of the roof measuring about 10,000 square metres.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is about labour trouble.

SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA: Is it a fact that the Rourkela authorities are going to declare a lay-off in the steel melting shop, which is going to create serious labour trouble?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: So far as I am aware, there is no proposal before the management of the Rourkela steel plant to layoff any workers in consequence of the collapse of a part of the roof of the steel melting shop.

SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA: As a corollary to this question I want to place before the hon. Minister the fact that in his last statement in the House he said that the collapse was due to rain waters, but I have to produce a photograph, which I have procured with great trouble, from which you will find that this was due to accumulation of iron dust on the roof coupled with rain water, which could not pass through the rusted pipelines. That was the real cause for the collapse.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. This question is not about the collapse. There is another question on it, coming later on. . . (Interruptions). I am not allowing it. You asked about labour trouble and he said, "No". Now you have gone to the roof collapse and all that.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, although you have disallowed it, there is an implication in the question which is not correct. The Member has implied that I have said that the collapse was due to rain. I have not said so. I do not know the reasons for it.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: In view of the fact that the major breakdown of the steel melting shop will take quite some time to be restored to its working order, may I know whether all the employees and workers, who have been affected by this lock-out, will continue to hold their services and are given alternative jobs for the time being?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: There is no lock-out in Rourkela at all. So far as the workers are concerned,

we are confident that they will do work other than the usual work available in the Plant and help us to restore production at as early a date as possible and, in this way and as a result of their cooperation, we shall be able to avoid any form of lay-off whatsoever.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the number of workers who are involved in this particular melting shop? He says that they are not going to be laid off. I am glad to hear that. I would like to know what is the number of workers who will be involved as a result of closing of the LD converters and the blanking of the blast furnaces and what type of alternative work in a steel plant can be offered to them.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I am afraid I will have to have notice for that.

श्री आर०बी० बड़े : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि राउरकेला स्टील प्लांट में लाकआउट या हड़ताल नहीं हुई। लेकिन वहां पर हड़ताल हुई थी। वहां के मजदूरों ने कहा कि कन्ट्रिक्टर ने ठीक काम नहीं किया था, फाउन्डेशन कच्चा था और छत पर डस्ट पड़ी हुई थी। इस लिए वहाँ पर हड़ताल हुई और दो मर्डर भी हुए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने कहा है कि यह ठीक नहीं है।

Request from Kerala for check on Quality of Bonemeal and Take-over of its Trade

*1446. **SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Kerala requesting a check on the quality of bonemeal and take-over of all trading in bonemeal;

(b) if so, whether the demand has been considered by the Government; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) to (c). A

statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A memorandum has been received recently.

(c) (i). **Quality Control:** Specifications of bonemeal (Raw and Steamed) have been included in the Schedule to the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1957 with a view to ensuring quality control thereon. Sale of sub-standard bonemeal is an offence punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State Government who are administering the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order are competent to institute prosecution proceeding against the offenders. The Government of Kerala has, therefore, been requested to look into the matter.

(c) (ii) **State Trading:** This Ministry does not consider it necessary to introduce state trading in bonemeal.

SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN: Sir, it is stated in the statement that the sale of sub-standard bonemeal is an offence punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the State Government who are administering the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order are competent to institute prosecution proceedings against the offenders. But is it not a fact that almost all the factories producing bonemeal are situated outside Kerala? So, it will be difficult for the State Government to take action against these concerns. Will the Government take action against these concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): Any distributor who distributes sub-standard material is not necessarily a manufacturer who will be located in Kerala. Any distributor or dealer who distributes material which is sub-standard and which is not in conformity with the Fertilizer (Control) Order can be prosecuted and, therefore, the State Government is competent to take action.

SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN: Considering the fact that farmers will have to pay abnormal prices during cultivating season, will the Government reconsider their stand and introduce State trading in bonemeal?