

concerned with the question of maintaining the existing plant in good condition.

श्री गुलशन : क्या राउरकेला में उत्पादन की कमी का एक कारण यह भी है कि वहाँ के उच्चाधिकारियों में गुटबन्दी है ?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. **Shri Tantia . . .** Next question. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia.**

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : श्री टांटिया का एक प्रश्न और भी है— 420 ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर हम कोशिश करेंगे तो आहिस्ता आहिस्ता उस तक भी पहुँच जायेंगे ।

Financial Assistance to Coal Industry

+

*410. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited fresh applications for the grant of financial assistance to the private sector coal industry from the utilised portion of the loan of Rs. 16.87 crores obtained from the World Bank; and

(b) whether Government have analysed the reasons for non-utilisation of loan during the last two years?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Presumably the reference is to the unutilised portion of the World Bank Loan. It is a fact that Government advised the private sector of the coal industry to put in fresh applications for the issue of licences against this loan.

(b) The last date for the utilisation of the loan is 30th September, 1965. The progress of utilisation has, however, been slow. In the initial stages, it is stated to have been due to the

industry experiencing difficulties in securing the necessary matching rupee finance. Necessary facilities were created to overcome this difficulty. But latterly there has been a certain reluctance on the part of the industry to make heavy investments on the import of machinery because of the slackening of the demand for coal.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The hon. Minister has said that the demand of coal is less than the production. May I know whether the bottleneck at Moghul Sarai Station is one of the reasons for this less consumption of coal is less than the production. May I think of removing that bottleneck and preparing more roads?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: At present, I can assure the hon. Member, there is no bottleneck in transport.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether the World Bank have recently set up a committee to examine the cost of production in Indian coal-mining industry; if so, whether they have given any report or whether they have given further loans?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: This is only regarding the utilisation of loans. That does not arise out of this.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : वह ऋण अभी तक प्रयोग में नहीं लाया गया है और ताजी अखियाँ मांगी गई हैं । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की आशा है कि पूरा ऋण उस में लग जायेगा ; यदि नहीं, तो सरकार इस ऋण की रकम को किस प्रकार से इस्तेमाल करेगी ।

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: We are trying to help the private sector by this loan. We will take all steps to help them.

Shri P. Venkatasubbiah: In view of the fact that the private sector of the coal industry has failed to utilise the World Bank loan, may I know whether Government propose to take

over this industry in the public sector?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: There is no proposal.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether one of the causes for the non-utilisation of this loan is that the private sector people have got fragmented holding of coalmines and are not able to utilise the financial assistance given by the World Bank and whether the Government is trying to amalgamate small collieries and make them viable so that these loans may be utilised?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: No, Sir. I said in the answer itself that the problem is the difficulty of finding rupee finance. That is the main difficulty. Of course, some smaller units are also there and that is perhaps partly responsible.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोयला उद्योग को कितना ऋण दिया गया है और इस में से अभी तक कितनी पूंजी लग चुकी है ?

इस्पात और खान मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री प्र० च० सेठ) : जैसे उन की दरखास्तें करीब 20 करोड़ रुपये की आई थीं। उस में से 14 करोड़ रुपये के आर्डर प्लेस कर दिये गए हैं, लेकिन अभी पांच छ : करोड़ रुपये के आर्डर प्लेस नहीं हुए हैं ।

Shri K. C. Pant: May I know if the Government is examining the feasibility of diverting the unutilised portion of the loan from the coal-mining industry to the industry based on coal?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: No, Sir; the proposal is not before the Government.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether it is a fact that the private industry has pointed out that the lack of demand of loan is because of the lack of demand of coal itself?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: The lack of demand of coal is of a recent origin. This loan has been there for some time now. Perhaps, at present the lack of demand of coal has also contributed to it.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. **Shri R. G. Dubey.**

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What about Q. 411. Sir?

Mr. Speaker: That has been transferred.

Extension of Service to Senior Officers of the Railway Board

*412. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman and some Members of the Railway Board have been granted extension of service beyond 58 years;

(b) whether they had earlier been refused leave preparatory to retirement; and

(c) how this policy of granting extensions to senior officers conforms to the reported recent decision of Government not to grant extensions of service to senior officers beyond their date of retirement?

The Minister of Railways (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The Chairman, Railway Board, who attained the age of superannuation on 8-8-1964, has been granted extension of service for one year.

(b) The Chairman and two Members of the Board were refused leave preparatory to retirement earlier in the year.

(c) There has been no such recent decision.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know whether there was any exceptional circumstance or reason for giving this extension?