

वे सुझाव क्या हैं, किस तरह के संशोधन वे चाहते हैं रेलवे कानून में ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : संशोधनों का सवाल नहीं है। उनका कहना है कि उन सारे कानूनों को, अधिनियमों को कोडिफाई किया जाये, उनका पुनर्संहिताकरण किया जाये। इसी वास्ते विधि आयोग से प्रार्थना की गई है कि वे दुरुस्त करें और वे लोग मौका पा कर दुरुस्त करेंगे।

श्री अ० प्र० शर्मा : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि विधि आयोग का कहना है कि अभी इस में संशोधन नहीं किया जा सकता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने क्या कोई कारण भी बताया है कि क्यों नहीं किया जा सकता है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : जी हाँ, कारण यह है कि और कानूनों को वे कोडिफाई कर रहे हैं और उनके साथ-साथ अपना समय निकाल कर इसको भी करेंगे।

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether Government have taken into consideration whether the proposed amendment would add to the efficiency of the railway working? -

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, Sir; we shall take this into consideration.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : प्रथम श्रेणी के डिब्बों में यात्रा करने वाले यात्री बहुधा ऐसे होते हैं जो या तो राज्य कर्मचारी होते हैं या फिर बड़े मालदार होते हैं। प्रायः देखा जाता है कि दिन में वे जूता जो पहने रखते हैं, उसको उतारते नहीं हैं और जूते सहित बैठ जाते हैं या लेट जाते हैं जिससे गद्दियों को हानि पहुंचती है। क्या इस चीज को भी अवैधानिक करार दिया जायेगा, जुर्म करार दिया जायेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं मजबूर हूँ, वह जवाब नहीं देते हैं।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : यह क्या बात हुई ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : कानून में तो नहीं है।

Heavy Engineering Corporation Plant, Ranchi

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Shri Hem Barua;
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri;
Shri Vishram Prasad;
Shri Bagri;
Shri Shree Narayan Das;
Shri R. G. Dubey;
*89. Shri Yashpal Singh;
Shri P. R. Chakraverti;
Shri P. C. Borooah;
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla;
Shri Umanath;
Shri P. Kunhan;
Shri D. D. Mantri;

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the salient points about the findings of Justice B. Mukerjee's Committee regarding the fire incident at the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi and its observations about the security arrangements and administrative set-up of the Corporation; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remedy the manifest defects pointed out by the above Committee in this regard.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The salient points about the findings of Mr. B. Mukerjee, Retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court are:

- (i) The fire was an act of sabotage;
- (ii) Although the arrangements for detection of fire were adequate, the fire was not

controlled and put out reasonably expeditiously due largely to inadequacy of personnel and equipment;

- (iii) Security service was both insufficient in number and greatly lacking in efficiency;
- (iv) Genius and capacity to utilise available resources to avert the incident were lacking.

In regard to the administrative set-up, the need for team work and decentralisation of power has been emphasised. It has been suggested that Government should have a second look at the labour laws in regard to public sector undertakings. The re-organization of Heavy Engineering Corporation into a holding company with Managing Directors for each subsidiary unit has been suggested. It was also recommended that there should be a service commission and a central security force for all public sector undertakings.

2. The Chairman of the Corporation is no longer there. Another Director is being relieved of his duties in the next few days. Explanations of both these officers have been received and are under examination. Charge-sheets have been given to the staff of Heavy Engineering Corporation who were found responsible for various lapses pointed out in the report. The comments of Mr. Mukerjee against officers of Bihar Government have been communicated to them for necessary action. The security arrangements have been considerably strengthened and tightened up. Fire fighting organization has been more fully equipped and augmented. Individual projects have been delegated wider powers in various spheres to make them more effective and responsible consistent with the Central policy and direction. Re-organization of Heavy Engineering Corporation is under consideration of the Government as also the establishment of a service commission and a central security force for all public

sector undertakings. The recommendations of Mr. B. Mukerjee regarding labour matters are being looked into with a view to determine whether it is possible to take any action on the lines indicated in the report.

Shri Hem Barua: The enquiry committee report has revealed that the entire administration in this plant was rotten from top to bottom. In that case may I know what are the specific reasons on account of which Government had not sensed this trouble brewing and boiling in the plant before the disastrous fire took place? Is it how the Government manages the public sector undertakings?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): It is difficult to concede that the whole administration was rotten from top to bottom.

Shri Hem Barua: That is what the report has said.

Shri T. N. Singh: What the report has done is that it has pointed out a number of defects and they have been looked into. As a matter of fact even before this report it was known that some things were to be reformed and I find from the files that my predecessor had taken action and something had been done even without the report and reforms had taken place.

Mr. Speaker: I ought not to intervene but really the report is sad commentary on the administration there. The Members want to know, it worries me also, whether some of these things could not come to the notice of Government earlier without the enquiry officer going into all these things.

Shri T. N. Singh: That is what I stated just now. I looked into the papers as to what action is being taken from time to time and I find that the then Minister had already made some very important changes and reforms in the administrative set-

up there. Some proposals were already there which were in line with the recommendations of the enquiry report subsequently and they have been implemented.

Mr. Speaker: These questions were put to me in Czechoslovakia.

Shri T. N. Singh: That is why I have said that steps were taken and some more steps are being taken.

Shri Hem Barua: The report has further pinpointed the fact that there is no co-operation between the management and the State Government. If so, what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure co-operation? Did they take any step before the report pointed out this fact or do they now propose to take any steps?

Shri T. N. Singh: I find that my predecessor had discussions with the State Government and I personally have had several discussions with the Chief Minister and other officers and I can assure you of the position today. If hon. Members will take the trouble to visit that area they will find a great deal of difference.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : पहले भी सरकार ने एडमिट किया है कि इलैक्ट्रिकल फिर्टिंग करते वक्त इनफीरियर क्वालिटी का सामान लगाया जाता है। जब तक इस स्थिति का सुधार नहीं किया जाएगा तब तक इस तरह की घटनायें घटती रहेंगी। इस मामले में सरकार ने क्या किया है कि फिर्टिंग करते वक्त इस बात का ख्याल रखा जाए कि घटिया किस्म का सामान लगने न पाये ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इससे इसका क्या ताल्लुक है।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : सरकार यह मानती है कि जब भी आग लगती है तो इसी तरह से लगती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस रिपोर्ट में बहुत सी चीजें हैं।

Shri Ranga: The hon. Minister is introducing a new mannerism by a reference to his predecessors. It has never been the practice here in this House; the Government is a continuous process. We would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government—before the hon. gentleman came to occupy this office or later—to remedy the situation and assure themselves and the country of better relations between the employees and the staff and also the management?

Shri T. N. Singh: In regard to labour problems, the judge has made a number of recommendations, some of which I doubt whether the House will agree to. They are being looked into. One of the suggestions is that there should be a different labour law altogether for public sector undertakings. That is a very ticklish question and I think the House will agree that no change in the labour laws should be made without fully considering the whole matter. With regard to the relationship between labour and management, we have made very important changes in respect of labour welfare personnel and labour officers as well as in respect of relations between management and labour. I would only suggest, in all humility, that the House may kindly wait for a little time to see the results.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Quite apart from what his predecessor did know or did not know, may I know if my hon. friend has become wiser and more enlightened since his predecessor—that most of the trouble has been due to the fact that there are two rival Congress labour unions there?

Shri T. N. Singh: I would not say there is nothing like a Congress Union in Ranchi. There is the INTUC. There are divisions in the labour union and there are also writ petitions in the high court, and that has created some problems for us in that we have no union with which we have to carry on negotiations. Therefore we have to wait for the decision of the high court before we recognise one of the

unions there, whosoever it is, as the real representative union.

Shri Jaipal Singh: He has mentioned the question of labour unions. May I know which are the unions that are recognised and which are the ones that have yet to be recognised? He said there is no Congress union there. It is in my constituency, and I know what I am talking about. I know there are certain unions which are to be recognised. I want to know which are the unions which are wanting to be recognised.

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Renuka Ray.

Shri T. N. Singh: Sir, we will be committing contempt of court if we say anything now on it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may note that when I have not allowed the question he need not answer it, Shrimati Renuka Ray.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The statement says that one of the suggestions of the judge who has made the enquiry, that a Service Commission as well as a Central Security Force should be established for all public sector undertakings, is under consideration. I want to know concretely what this consideration means. Does it mean that some steps are being taken and, if so, when are these things to be done?

Shri T. N. Singh: In regard to a Central Security Force, it will be understood that it is a matter in which no independent action without consultation and consent of the State Governments can be taken. In any case, we have requested the Home Ministry, and the Home Minister has only very recently had discussions with all the Chief Ministers regarding the setting up of such an organisation.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I also asked about the Service Commission.

Mr. Speaker: "Also"—she should not have asked. Shri P. R. Chakraverti.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In the light of Justice Mukerji's unreserved comments on the administrative inefficiency of Bihar's officers, may I know whether the Minister has yet found any means to take them to task?

Shri T. N. Singh: The statement laid on the Table details the action already taken in this regard.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: I want an assurance from the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: No assurance can be given during the Question Hour.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट इस इंजीनियरिंग कारखाने के प्रबन्ध के प्रति इस लिये उदासीन हैं कि क्लास 1 से लेकर क्लास 4 तक के जितने एम्प्लायी होते हैं वह नान-बिहारी लिये जाते हैं जबकि इंजीनियरिंग कारखाना रांची में लगाया गया है और उसमें बिहार की काफी जमीन और जायदाद की क्षति हुई है।

श्री त्रि० ना० सिंह : कुछ ऐसी शिकायतें थीं जिनके बारे में उचित कारवाई की गई है, और मेरा ख्याल है कि अगर माननीय सदस्य अब वहां जायेंगे तो वहां की आवहवा बिल्कुल दूसरी पायेंगे।

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that there are disputes about the trade unions functioning there and petitions are pending before the court, may I know whether Government are considering the question of granting recognition to a union which has got the maximum representative character by the process of ballot in all the public undertakings?

Mr. Speaker: That would be seen after the writ petition is disposed of; he complains that unless that writ petition is disposed of, nothing can be done.

Shri Nambiar: Not only here, but he said that a policy is being evolved with regard to the recognition of trade unions in all public undertakings, in which case I want to know whether the ballot will be the criterion by which they will do it.

Mr. Speaker: Is he putting this question about Ranchi?

Shri Nambiar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that a writ petition is pending.

Shri Nambiar: Arising out of that, he said that a policy is being evolved with regard to the recognition of trade unions in all public undertakings.

Mr. Speaker: In all public undertakings? That does not arise here.

Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: May I know what action has so far been taken against the officer or officers responsible for such incidents?

Shri T. N. Singh: Some of the action that has been taken is already enumerated in the statement.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: When we put supplementaries, we put them with certain knowledge. In spite of the repeated questions from different Members as to what action has been taken against the officers, the Minister says, it is in the statement. The statement is with us and we have seen it. Mr. Chakraverti, the hon. Member from that area, has come from there. Mr. Sharma also, who is INTUC leader, knows it. No action has been taken.

Shri A. P. Sharma: They are promoted, on the other hand.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: On the other hand, it is the contention that they are promoted.

Mr. Speaker: When I read the statement, I had the feeling that against some officers, some action has been taken it is contained there. If I am mistaken, I will ask the hon. Minister to answer it.

Shri T. N. Singh: The statement really states about a number of officers who have been charge-sheeted. Under the law, when we start action, we have to charge-sheet them and get their explanation. That is the procedure laid down. That action has

been taken. (*Interruptions*). Immediately after the report was in our hands, I issued instructions for charge-sheeting those officers. In fact, one officer is no longer in service in the Ranchi project. He is at another place.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: He has been promoted. That is also action!

Shri T. N. Singh: He has also been asked . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Would they kindly allow me to get this point cleared? The allegation is that the officer who has been charge-sheeted has been promoted and sent to another place.

Shri T. N. Singh: No, Sir. The hon. Member is probably referring to the Chairman.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Yes, yes.

Shri T. N. Singh: I am answering that. Much before the enquiry report was available the Chairman was no longer in the service of the Heavy Engineering Project, he had already gone over to some other job.

Shri Ranga: What is that some other job?

Shri T. N. Singh: Even then, through that particular department explanation has been demanded from that officer. He has only recently, a few days ago, submitted his explanation. It is under examination in my Ministry (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Members are not satisfied, they can seek other remedies.

Shri A. P. Sharma: According to the recommendation of the enquiry committee headed by Justice Mukerjee, is it not a fact that serious allegations have been made against the Director of Finance and the Chairman of the Company? Is it also not a fact that instead of giving some punishment to them they have been transferred to some other government establishment and given higher pay?

Shri T. N. Singh: There is nothing against the Director of Finance as such. I do not think he has been transferred. The Director of Finance has not been transferred (*Interruptions*).

Shri A. P. Sharma: What about the Chairman?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Sir, we seek your protection.

Mr. Speaker: Unless he gives me the opportunity how can I do it? The hon. Minister would kindly just pay attention to this. There is a great deal of agitation. Hon. Members feel exercised that one who was charged with negligence or who did some acts that were not required has been sent from that place to another. Even if he has gone voluntarily to the other place, it is said that he has been given a higher pay when on the other side he has been charge-sheeted and some steps are proposed to be taken against him. Was it done after the enquiry that had been instituted in this case?

Shri Thirumala Rao: There are names of officers mentioned in the report. There seems to be some confusion about the names. The names of officers mentioned in the report are: Shri Nagaraja Rao, Managing Director and Shri Sandilya, Financial Adviser. The hon. Minister says that the Financial Adviser is not there. But it is definitely mentioned in this report that these two gentlemen had serious differences between themselves which percolated down virtually to other sections of the administration and this sabotage was due to that. That has been made clear on the floor of the House.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I would only submit that we might have this discussed in some other form.

Shri Nambiar: The whole matter is fishy.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Since allegations of sabotage have been raised

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against the officers, the Minister must explain the position.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In tabling this question our main intention was . . .

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, I seek your protection.

Mr. Speaker: Another hon. Member is already seeking my protection, how can I give protection to two at the same time (*Interruptions*)? Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My submission would be . . .

Mr. Speaker: I have just announced in the House that I will see that some other opportunity is given for a discussion on this subject. It is for the hon. Members to give notice of that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Half-an-hour Discussion?

Shri Raghunath Singh: We must have at least a two-hour discussion on this.

Mr. Speaker: It is for the hon. Members to suggest and send a notice. How can I say anything before that?

Shri Raghunath Singh: We are sending the notice.

Mr. Speaker: When I receive the notice I can decide it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My submission is that serious charges were levelled against this particular officer, Dr. Nagaraja Rao, both by the authorities and this particular Judge, Justice Mukerjee. At the same time, we are told—and I am sure the hon. Minister knows it because he was in the Planning Commission—that this gentleman has been shifted nicely because of the influence of some Cabinet Minister and is brought to the Planning Commission as one of the advisers.

Mr. Speaker: What does he want me to do?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is known to the Minister. Let him say that. Let that officer resign from the Planning Commission.

Mr. Speaker: The resignation is not in my hands. I have already announced that I will see that an opportunity is provided to this House to discuss it. Next question.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I be permitted to say that. . . .

Mr. Speaker: I have already passed on to the next question.

Fifth Steel Plant

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 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Omkar Singh:
 Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:
 Shri Oza:
 Shri H. C. Soy:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Shri Ram Sewak:
 Shri P. G. Sen:
 Shri R. S. Pandey:
 Shri Alvares:

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

(a) whether the location of the fifth steel plant in the public sector in the country has been decided; and

(b) if not, the specific reasons which are causing this delay in taking a decision?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Mines (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Government have yet to complete an evaluation of the relative merits of the sites proposed in the Goa-Hospet, Visakhapatnam-Bailadila and Neyveli-Salem regions.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether Government are likely to set up this steel plant themselves or in collaboration with some company?

Shri P. C. Sethi: It will be completely in the public sector.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: In view of the fact that the report submitted by

M/s. Dastur & Company was not approved by the Russians in the case of the fourth steel plant, may I know whether the project report for the fifth steel plant will be made in consultation with the collaborators?

Shri P. C. Sethi: That was in the case of Bokaro. In this case it is yet to be decided.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that the report submitted by M/s. Dastur & Company was not approved by the Russians?

Shri P. C. Sethi: That was with regard to Bokaro.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Which are the States which are pressing their claims for the site to be selected in their area?

Shri P. C. Sethi: Almost all the States where the sites have been mentioned are pressing their claims.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What would be the criteria for the finalisation of the site? May I also know whether M/s. Dastur & Company have finalised their report in consultation with the collaborators or not?

Shri P. C. Sethi: This is with regard to the Anglo-American consortium. As far as consultation is concerned, we are handing over the entire matter for reference and suggestion to the Anglo-American consortium.

Shri Alvares: In view of the competing claims of Goa, Madras, Mysore and Andhra for the fifth steel plant, will Government associate Members of Parliament while considering the report of the consultants about the feasibility of location of the project before a final decision is taken?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): No. Government will have to take the responsibility and so the decision also. After consulting every one and taking the opinions Government will come to a decision. Later on, Government would certainly be prepared to place the information before Members of Parliament.