

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, September 11, 1991/Bhadra
20, 1913 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri Ravi Narayan Reddy.

Shri Reddi was elected to the First Lok Sabha in 1952 from the Nalgonda Parliamentary constituency of the erstwhile State of Hyderabad. He again represented the same constituency in the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-66. In between he was a Member of Andhra Pradesh Legislature during 1957-62:

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Reddi joined the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-34 while he was still a student.

A renowned social and political worker, Shri Reddi was deeply associated with the various programmes of the upliftment of the peasantry and other weaker sections of the society. He was a leading light of the famous peasant struggle in Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Reddi lost no opportunity to focus the attention of the House to the problems faced by the peasants and the deprived sections of the society.

Shri Reddi passed away on the 7th September, 1991 at Hyderabad at the age of 83.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri Ravi Narayan Reddi and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Cement Production

*776. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cement Corporation of India has achieved record production of cement in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose

to take some measures to ensure that other Public Sector Undertakings also follow suit;

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken; if not, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to keep the tempo of production of C.C.I. at a still higher level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) & (b). There has been improvement in the cement production of Cement Corporation of India (CCI) in the recent past. The year-wise details for the last three years are as follows:-

	<i>(in lakh (MTs.)</i>
1988-89	24.77
1989-90	27.66
1990-91	28.67

During April - August, 1990 and April - August, 1991 CCI achieved a production of 11.64 MT and 11.94 MT respectively.

(c) to (e). Different public sector units have different kinds of infrastructure. manpower, marketing and management problems. The performance of PSUs is reviewed at regular intervals. MOUs are signed between Government and selected PSUs. To improve their performance, continuous efforts are being made to improve infrastructure facilities, diversify product-mix, upgrade technology, improve maintenance and management practices and so on. In some PSUs which show promise of turn around, financial re-structuring is also undertaken.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: In the state-

ment, measures mentioned to improve the performance of other public sector undertakings are the infrastructure facilities, diversify product-mix and so on. But I do not think, it has addressed to the main problem, which is the man behind the machine. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any such norms have been undertaken to appoint officials in the public sector undertakings. And secondly, I would like to know whether the complaint about the corruption have been received from MPs and whether any action is being taken to see that the correct officials are appointed at the correct places.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: There is a system which is being following for the selection of officers in the public sector undertakings. The selection for the higher posts is made through the Selection Board of Public Sector Enterprises.

As regards the second part, whenever we get such complaints, we go through it and appropriate action by appropriate authority, as advised, will be taken.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: My second supplementary relates to the problems faced by the cement industry. One of the major problems being faced by them is the quality of coal supply and also the quantity. I would like to ask the Ministry, whether due to this problem, the CCI had to suffer loss of production and units were required to be closed down. If si correct, then, what measures the Government is taking to ensure that the production processing is uninterrupted?

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: It is a fact that for want of appropriate power supply, for want of coal and because of certain other constraints, CCI had to suffer the losses and there is difficulty of producing more. So far as the action that we are trying to take for improvement is concerned, it is a matter of continuous effort.

In southern part of our country particularly, in Andhra Pradesh, where our factories are there, we are facing lot of power problems there and we are continuously trying to

improve the power situation by keeping in touch with the respective authorities who supply power to us. Also, we are trying to see that - as in other private companies - captive power is provided, if our financial condition improves. Once we are able to enhance the captive power position in our respective factories, the production will improve.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I appreciate that that public sector undertaking is doing well in spite of several constraints. I would like to ask one basic question and that is about the selection procedure of the heads - Chief Executives of the Public Sector Undertakings... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to the cement production and you are going to the public sector undertakings as a whole.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: No, Sir. This is a fundamental question, because several major undertakings are headless. I would like to suggest to the Government to follow the procedure of Public Service Commission for selection. There should be a definite time bound programme and if there is a vacancy within three or six months, the Chief Executive should be selected. This is very important. As suggested earlier, the man behind the machine is a very important person and the Chief Executive certainly is a pivotal person. There is no chief executive at all for a very long time in many public sector undertakings. The Prime Minister is here and he can answer this. Will the Government consider the proposal of selection of the Chief Executives of public sector undertakings on the pattern of the Union Public Service Commission?

SHRI P.K. THUNGO: As stated already, we have a system and the selection is done by the Selection Board of Public Sector Enterprises.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: That is obvious. My specific question is that there has been a delay and many undertakings are functioning without any head, I would like to know, whether the Government would

consider the proposal of selection on the pattern of Public Service Commission or not.

MR. SPEAKER: He said the pattern being followed is selection through Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Sir, my question is also related to the management. For the past few years the production level in C.C.I. has been consistently high. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the improvement in the working of C.C.I. is due to the changes at the manageable and senior levels and if so, whether it is necessary to do the same in other industries also?

[*English*]

SHRI P.K. THUNGO: To some extent it is right because there was a change at the top executive level and after that the company started showing improvement. As a result, you will be glad to know that this company which was suffering cash loss, last year has got Rs.10 crores cash profit. Coupled with this, the cooperation of the workers and other officers there who unitedly put their hard work had made it possible.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I would like to know from the Minister whether in spite of the production of cement being a profitable enterprise for the Government, shares of such enterprises are being sold out to private companies at unbelievably low prices. I am referring particularly to the cement factory at Dalla in UP. I would like to know if this is so, why this is happening, whether the Government would stop this process of privatisation in these public undertakings and CCI will consider take over.

SHRI P.K. THUNGO: All cement factories are not with us. So far as taking over is concerned, as I have already stated, in fact those factories which are not within our control, I would not be able to say anything.

So far as the take over is concerned, when such proposals come and if the Government feels that such a proposal has to be looked into, we will certainly look into it.

SHIR K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: The hon. Minister has said that due to coal and power shortage, the CCI is not getting profit. In Andhra Pradesh, similar problems are faced by the private industries. There are a number of private cement industries in Andhra Pradesh. In 1988 their share value was Rs.5, now it has gone upto Rs.25 and their production from 25% level to 100% level during these two-three years. The hon. Minister has said, first year 24 lakhs, next year 27 lakhs and the third year 28 lakhs. That means they have not achieved even 5% or 10% growth over the previous years.

My question is, whether the hon. Minister would enquire into the functioning of the public undertakings with respect to the infrastructure, man-power and marketing. Private industries are achieving one hundred per cent production with all the difficulties and the public undertakings are not even achieving 10% growth every year in their production. Therefore my submission to the hon. Minister through you is, whether the Minister will constitute a Committee to enquire into these two parallel organisations and catch the culprit, that is the management.

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be a question which is not questionable.

SHIR K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Kindly you understand and put it to the Minister.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: He wants you to frame the question and put it to me. Anyway, I could understand the question and I will try to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: The sum and substance of his question is whether you are going to help the public industry.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: After comparing these two, take some remedial

measures, so that public undertakings also will become competitive with the private industries.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: Sir, as I have already stated, there is certainly a slight difference between the achievements of some - not all - of the private sector cement factories and some of our public sector cement factories. There is some difference.

But as I was saying, we face certain problems which they do not face. For example, they have captive power. It means that they have captive power generation in their own factory. Due to the regular supply of power, their factory is not affected. But we are dependent mostly on electricity supply from electricity boards and other organisations. Therefore, we do not have captive power and our production suffers. This is one of the major reasons.

The other aspect is that our factories are located in far-off places where private factories do not come forward. I mean, private companies do not come forward due to the reason that we have social responsibility also. We are required to take up certain factories in remote areas also which are said to be not viable by the private companies. There are such instances and there are factories, - we have established, which are beyond the rail head. We have to carry our raw materials and finished products all through by roads which is much more costlier. These are certain aspects.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not asking whether the public sector is working or not working. He is asking whether you are going to supply coal and all those things.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: I am coming to that. Keeping in view all these problems, what the hon. Member wants me to look into is to have a committee. Why is the private sector making more profits or doing better? Why is the public sector not doing so? As we already know, the difficulties we face and what are

the facilities they have or difficulties they face, I do not think any committee is required in this regard.

Computer Based Sanskrit Studies, Education And Research

*777. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sanskrit institutions have undertaken computer based Sanskrit studies, education and research;

(b) the manner in which each centre is being assisted by some advanced technological institutions;

(c) whether these projects are being implemented satisfactorily in terms of objectives and targets; and

(d) if not, the arrangements made to provide necessary continuous technical assistance for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir, A few Sanskrit institution have initiated computer based Sanskrit studies, education and research under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) Programme of the Department of Electronics.

(b) Under the TDIL Programme, resource centres for computer assisted Sanskrit teaching and learning have been established. They are expected to provide assistance to the Sanskrit institutions. The computer assisted Sanskrit teaching and learning programme has also been initiated for the benefit of Sanskrit Scholars.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages of the world. Sanskrit is the mother of many other languages. Therefore, the Government's primary duty is to strengthen this language and thus make it more useful for the country.

Sir, the Government has given grants to some computer institute for the development of Sanskrit software. I suggest that specialists in this field be made available to them. Presently, good computer specialists are not joining Sanskrit institutions. So, computer specialists should be sent on deputation from the Electronics Research and Development Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question. If you have any suggestions you can give them in writing.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, the research institutions which have computers do not have specialist staff for imparting trading training. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to send specialists to such institutions either directly on appointment or on deputation basis?

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the main thrust of the training programme in Sanskrit for computers is to get computer scientists to study Sanskrit and Sanskrit scholars to accept computers so that there can be a synthesis of the two. This programme has been launched and we are funding various institutes in this country for this programme so that experts could be produced for carrying out the programme further.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, it is necessary to link all the Sanskrit