

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Monday, July 15, 1996/Asadha 24, 1918 (Saka)  
(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

PROF P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister has stated in Madras that the Congress was supporting the Government because there was no choice to it. (Interruptions).

MR SPEAKER Prof Kurien, this is not the time. This is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

PROF P.J. KURIEN It is an insult to 140 Members supporting this Government. He should withdraw his statement and apologise. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North East) Do not tolerate this incident. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) As you sow so shall you reap. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) They should withdraw the support. (Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

### INTRODUCTION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

[English]

MR SPEAKER Hon Members I have great pleasure in introducing to the House the new Secretary-General Shri S. Gopalan.

11.01½ hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Re-structuring of Coal India Limited

61 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended re-structuring of Coal India Limited,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other recommendations made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices to improve the efficiency of the coal industry; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

[Translation]

\* THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) to (d) The following interim recommendations made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) in 1992 related to restructuring of the Coal India Limited and to improve efficiency of the coal industry :-

- (i) Decontrol of prices of coking coal and A and B Grades of non-coking coal.
- (ii) Transfer commitment to be discharged at the related price and disparities in coal prices across companies should be over.
- (iii) Charging of 'efficiency price' in respect of coal from fully linked mines.
- (iv) Rationalisation of over-staffing in Coal India Limited.
- (v) Autonomy to Coal India Limited in choice of Coal Projects, and
- (vi) Subsidies on sale of soft coke should not be in CIL account.

The first three of the above recommendations have been implemented by Government. With regard to the fourth recommendation, it is an on-going process in Coal India Limited and action thereon is continuing. Regarding the fifth, Coal India Limited already enjoys autonomy regarding choice of coal projects, subject to observance of procedural formalities pertaining to investment decisions laid down by Government. The sixth recommendation has not been accepted by Government.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am speaking for the first time in the Lok Sabha. I would therefore, request all the hon. Members to extend their cooperation to me.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Mr. Speaker, Sir, to make the coal industry viable, BICP, among other recommendations had called for re-organisation of Coal India. I want to know from the Minister why the BICP report has not been implemented so far? Regarding the loss of Rs. 2500 crore, where did this amount go? Will the CBI inquire into this?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH What the hon. Member is asking, has already been implemented. The first notification was issued on 9.1.96, according to which the entire coal output from Ramagundam Open Cast Project-II, was supplied to N.T.P.C., it has been allowed additional coal at Rs. 216.78 per metric tonne. The second notification was issued on 22.4.96.

under which Rajmahal Open Cast project was allowed to charge Rs. 143 per metric tonne of coal from N.T.P.C.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister as to who is responsible for the loss of Rs. 2500 crore. How many persons have been arrested. Why no C.B.I. inquiry is being conducted? China's production was equal to ours. But its output has increased fourfold. And we are lagging behind. There are scams every where in Bihar....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I am drawing the attention of the Chair, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot do that all the time. It is the right of the Member to put his second supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After the Member has asked his second supplementary, you can ask a question

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I want to know from the Minister, as to how many officials have been suspended so far? It was reported two days ago that 276 officials are facing corruption charges. Will the CBI conduct an inquiry into this or not? Where did Rs. 2500 crore go?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provisional profit of Coal India for 1995-96 is Rs. 501.43 crore. There has been no loss. (Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, corruption is rampant in Coal India. I have said earlier also that the genuine consumers do not get coal from Coal India. Every month, 5 to 7 thousand tonnes of Coal are allotted to bogus consumers. They have no unit for allotment. I have full information on W.C.L. I had demanded a CBI inquiry into it. The genuine consumers do not get coal. We are importing coal whereas the total coal reserves in Vidharba region are sufficient to meet country's requirement for 50 years. In spite of that we spend so much foreign exchange on coal imports. Why do you import coal? Will the Government inquire into the all pervading corruption in Coal India? If not, why? What is the difficulty? There is corruption among the officials. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The hon. Member's contention regarding the allotment of lakhs of tonnes of coal is that linkage of coal by Coal India is done only according to the recommendation of the State Governments. (Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : This is wrong, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I seek your protection. States' role

in linkage comes later on. Prior linkage is done by Coal India. Reply to it. If you do not have the answer, then ask the question to be put again. Linkage is done before. The Industry Centre's role comes later on. After the grant of linkage from your side, it becomes binding on them. That has to be registered.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : We give only on the recommendations of the State Governments.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : You find it out from your officers. Linkage is done directly by Coal India. A heavy price is demanded for this. And linkage is given only thereafter. For your information, let me tell you this racket is going on there. You get it enquired; it is a full fledged racket there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a suggestion. The Minister may find out about it later on.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : It is very important. Corruption worth thousands of crores of rupees is involved in it. (Interruptions) It is such a stupendous scam that it is unmatched. Do not take it lightly. I need your protection in the national interest. The way it is being side-tracked, is wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not treating it lightly. You have pointed out

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, not like that. What I have said is that the hon. Member has pointed out the present practice of linkage.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not listening to me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The Minister does not come prepared. (Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : She is misleading the entire House.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : There are several coal mines in my constituency. What Purohitji is saying is correct. The Minister should have that information with her. The problem of linkage is there. There are vast coal deposits in the rural regions of Maharashtra specially in Matay Sangh of Nagpur in Ramtek. Whether all these recommendations have been implemented there or not? Corruption is rampant there. Thousands of people bring linkage from Calcutta and coal is taken by the bogus allottees. You should have it enquired. How? You may have departmental enquiry or get it done through the CBI.

The print media is reporting this corruption daily. We expect from you that you will fix responsibility in the coal scam. In the Umred mine in Ramtek, coal mines are on fire above ground. But mining has not started. Last time, the Umred mine at Ramtek had earned a profit of Rs. 84 crore. Mining work has come to a standstill in two-three mines there. Are you going to begin mining operation at the earliest or not? This year, the mines are going to earn a profit of Rs. 151 crore. I myself had gone there. I told the officials that they were not giving employment to the local people. Corruption is rampant there. Regarding these two or three things, you talk to the officials.

MR SPEAKER: You ask your question?

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr Speaker, Sir, these recommendations have so far not been implemented in that region. Regarding the rampant corruption prevailing there, are you going to get it inquired? Are you going to give jobs to the local people there?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I have said that three of the recommendations/suggestions have been implemented. And the fourth recommendation, under which work is being given continuously.

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Please listen to the answer.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: How can the Minister give a wrong reply? Our voters are aware and ask us questions. Reply to what I have asked. If you do not know, then say so.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr Speaker, Sir, regarding the question raised by him, I am saying what I know which is based on what we have implemented. If the hon. Member is not satisfied, he can talk to me whenever he so desires. I am here for that.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr Speaker, Sir, the sixth recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices indicated that subsidies on sale of soft coke should not be in CIL account. This recommendation has been rejected by the Government.

May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister what are the causes inspiring the Government to reject outright the recommendation of the Expert Committee?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Since soft coke is consumed by the people of the weaker sections, it was not accepted.

### Indo-Pak Talks

\*62. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan made an unconditional offer recently for resumption of Indo-Pak talks

(b) if so, the details of the offer and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government had proposed Foreign Secretary level talks with that country to solve various bilateral issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to resume bilateral talks with Pakistan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (e) In her message of felicitations to our Prime Minister on his assumption of office, the Prime Minister of Pakistan urged that India and Pakistan should sit across the table in a search for lasting peace. In his reply, dated June 8, 1996, PM suggested that the two countries undertake a wide-ranging and comprehensive dialogue and resume the Foreign Secretary level talks. PM underlined that bilateral approaches and agreements which have been devised earlier could guide future exchanges on all matters, including those on which the two countries might have differing perceptions. PM also emphasised that efforts should be directed towards pulling down the barriers which have made people-to-people interaction between the two countries difficult and to encourage the promotion of trade, economic and cultural contacts. Pakistan's response to PM's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is awaited.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr Speaker, Sir, this is for the first time that the Pakistan Government has proposed to resume talks with Indian Government. A mention about the election manifesto of the Janta Dal which is an ally of the United Front, has been made in the greetings sent by the Pakistani Prime Minister Shrimati Benazir Bhutto to our Prime Minister. She has felt encouraged by it. She has said that her Government has been encouraged by the mention made by the Janta Dal in its election manifesto that talks over the issue of Kashmir would be resumed, keeping in view the feelings of the people of the state. In 1994, the secretary level talks were discontinued and Pakistan was held responsible for that because of its rigid stand. Pakistan was not