

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 16, 1963/Sravana 25,  
1885 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Bokaro Steel Plant**

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Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri Y. N. Singha:  
Shri Buta Singh:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:  
Shri P. R. Chakravarti:  
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri Morarka:  
Shri Ravindra Varma:  
Shri Inderjit Gupta:  
Shri Sarjoo Pandey:  
Shri Mohan Swarup:  
Shri Kolla Venkaiah:  
Shri G. Mohanty:  
Shri P. K. Ghosh:  
Shri Kapur Singh:  
\*61. Shri Gulshan:  
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:  
Shri Sham Lal Saraf:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Harish Chandra  
Mathur:  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
Shri Jashvant Mehta:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri P. K. Deo:  
Shri D. D. Mantri:  
Shri Maheshwar Naik:  
Shri Tridib Kumar  
Chaudhuri:  
Shri J. B. S. Bist:  
Shri Bishwanath Roy:  
Shri V. B. Gandhi:  
Shri Kajrolkar:

Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) what progress, if any, has been made towards the setting up of Bokaro Plant in the Public Sector with the assistance of the Government of U.S.A.;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre has decided to set up an entirely new Company to run the proposed Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(c) if so, what will be its organisational set up?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of **Steel and Heavy Industries** (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Preliminary steps necessary for the setting up of the steel plant which are not dependent on large foreign aid i.e. acquisition of land, arrangements for water, power, raw-materials and their transport etc. are already being taken.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या अमरीका के अलावा किसी और देश से भी इस मामले में बातचीत की गई है ?

Shri P. C. Sethi: No, Sir.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि अगर सरकार सो-काल्ड समझौदा

से पहले स्टील को सोचती तो अब तक यह कारखाना बन जाता ?

**Shri P. C. Sethi:** It is a hypothetical question.

**Shri Daji:** Has the Government decided upon any date till which we shall wait for the pleasure of the American Government or shall we leave the entire matter to the sweet mercies of the US Government and let them decide as to when and if they will give the aid or not?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No comments like this.

**Shri Daji:** I want to know whether we are entirely dependent on them.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is the last date?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** We cannot fix a date particularly in regard to the proceedings before Congress. Just as this Parliament is a sovereign body, the US Congress is a sovereign body. We cannot dictate terms.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Is it a fact that the American Government is reluctant to give us financial aid in view of our high cost of production in public undertakings? If so, what do Government propose to do to bring down the cost of production in the country?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It is not correct.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Is it a fact that the US Government has given an indication that if this project is taken up under the private sector, they will be able to help?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I have not received any such indication.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Has Government come to some sort of a decision regarding the management of the plant, and if so, is that decision agreeable to the USA?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No, that stage has not yet arisen.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** May I know how the position has emerged now after protracted correspondence and negotiations and what would be the immediate future of the project?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The matter is under consideration of the US Congress now.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Is Government aware that there is a complete misunderstanding among the American public as well as among the Senators about the public sector in this country? If so, have any attempts been made to make them understand the real position of the public sector in this country or is it being left merely to poor Mr. Galbraith?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We are also trying to do our best. After all, this is nothing new—the public sector and private sector. But we have to take note of the prejudices in certain minds with regard to the public sector.

**Shri Hem Barua:** What are the specific reasons for the USA delaying offering financial aid? Are the reasons technical, economic, political or ideological?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Perhaps to a certain extent all these factors are there for the delays. But ultimately, as I stated, the Congress will have to take a decision with regard to this. As hon. Members are aware, the Sub-Committees of the Congress are just now considering this matter.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Has Government's attention been drawn to the report of Prof. Galbraith's testimony before the Senate Sub-Committee in which he is reported to have said that if US aid is not forthcoming, then in his view this plant cannot be set up? Does Government agree with this view or does it adhere to its previous assurance that it will go ahead whether American aid is forthcoming or not?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I have given Government's attitude more than once before this House that if American aid is not forthcoming, still we will proceed with the building up of the Bokaro plant.

**श्री राम सेवक यादव :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बुकारो स्टील प्लांट के लिए सहायता मिलने में इसलिए देरी हो रही है कि वह सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में है ? क्या भारत सरकार ने अमरीका को यह बता दिया है कि चाहे जमशेदपुर का निजी उद्योग हो या रूरकेला के या इसी तरह के दूसरे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्योग हों, उन में कोई फर्क नहीं है, सब एक ही जैसे हैं ?

**Shri P. C. Sethi:** As far as the public and private sectors are concerned, even the private sector in India has said that Bokaro is feasible.

**श्री बड़े :** आप तो हिन्दी में बोल सकते हैं, हिन्दी में जवाब दीजिए ।

**श्री प्र० चं० सेठी :** जहां तक सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र और निजी क्षेत्र का सम्बन्ध है, निजी क्षेत्र की ओर से भी यह बात कही गयी है कि अब पब्लिक सेक्टर में ही नया स्टील प्लांट बनाना उत्तम होगा ।

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र और निजी क्षेत्र में गैर बराबरी एक जैसी ही है क्या यह बात भारत सरकार ने अमरीका को बता दी है, क्योंकि रूरकेला के एक हजार अफसर एक महीने में करीब करीब बीस लाख रुपये तनखाह और दूसरी सुविधाओं के रूप में पाते हैं और तीस हजार मजदूर ३० लाख रुपया ?

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह अलग बात है ।

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know whether the attention of the

Government has been drawn to the statement of the Chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee that if they would only ship the steel to India, it would help the United States, and that to manufacture steel there and to give it to India would be more useful to them. Is that the real idea behind their refusing to give us aid?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** After all, there is nothing wrong in Americans looking at it from their own point of view, even as we look at things from our own point of view but ultimately the decision has to come from them with regard to the aid they are to give to the Bokaro steel plant here.

**Shri Morarka:** May I know to what extent this delay in the decision on Bokaro would affect the targets of steel production in our Third Plan?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As I have already stated, it would not be possible to get any production out of Bokaro steel plant during the Third Plan period. To that extent it would be affected.

**श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री :** कुछ समाचार पत्रों में यह प्रकाशित हुआ कि भारत के इस्पात मंत्री अमरीका में भारत स्थित राजदूत और अमरीकी अधिकारियों से भी मिले थे क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि इस बातचीत के परिणामस्वरूप वह किस परिणाम पर पहुँचे । आया हम को सहायता प्राप्त होगी या नहीं, और कब तक इस मामले में अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया जायेगा ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I met the American representatives and they have informed me as to what is happening there now. They have said that Congress is just considering the matter, and we have to await the decision of Congress.