

Manganese and Iron ore Mines in Orissa and Bihar

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*995. { Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Steel, and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production in manganese and iron ore mines in Orissa and Bihar has gone down during 1963-64;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri Thimmaiah):

(a) The production of iron ore in Bihar and Orissa has been increasing during 1963-64. There was a small fall in the production of manganese ore in the first ten months of 1963-64 compared with the production for corresponding period in 1962-63.

(b) The fall in the output of manganese ore was due to the lack of demand from abroad for manganese ore. The discontinuance of mining operations in some of the mines, the leases for which were not renewed by the State Governments of Bihar and Orissa, also affected the output.

(c) To provide relief to the manganese mining industry, the Government have given freight concessions on manganese ore intended for export. As a measure of export promotion, exporters of manganese ore are permitted to import mining equipment and machinery for the improvement of their mines to the extent of 10 per cent of the foreign exchange earned by them through the export of manganese ore. A Committee has also been set up to study the problems relating to the manganese ore industry.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: May I know whether the committee has submitted any report to Government

relating to the problems of the manganese and iron ore mining industries in Orissa and Bihar, and if so, the recommendations made and the reaction of Government thereto?

Shri Thimmaiah: The report has not yet been submitted.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: Are any difficulties being experienced by the mine-owners of Orissa and Bihar in regard to importing machinery and equipment for improvement of mines? If so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

Shri Thimmaiah: No difficulty has been brought to our notice. We have allowed them to import machinery to the extent of 10 per cent of the earnings of foreign exchange out of their exports.

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena: It is a fact that iron ore has been accumulating in several mining areas in Orissa and Bihar because of non-purchase by STC? If so, what are the reasons for the non-purchase?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): I do not think that there are any stocks built up because STC has not purchased them.

Shri L. N. Bhanja Deo: Steel barter was permitted to a certain extent against the export of ore. Is that being stopped or is it being still continued?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Generally, I am against this barter arrangement, allowing import of steel or other articles and selling them at very high rates to make up for the losses. If there are losses, they should be straightway subsidised. We are putting down this practice of allowing import on the basis of barter and then selling it at black-market rates here.

Shri Shashi Ranjan: Is the short-fall in production due to non-availability of adequate transport facilities to the mine-owners there?

Shri Thimmaiah: No, it is due to the closure of certain mines for non-renewal of licence by the State Government.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Are Government aware of the fact that because of the lack of proper facilities to exploit high-grade iron ore in these two areas we are not able to compete in the foreign market so far as the price of iron ore is concerned? If so, what arrangements do Government propose to make to facilitate exploration of this type of ore as quickly as possible?

Shri C. Subramaniam: To the extent necessary for the purpose of export, we are already producing sufficient quantities. Therefore, when the export needs increase, to that extent it would be possible for us to increase the production also.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: How far has the industry responded to the directives issued by Government for introducing innovations in equipment and machinery in respect of iron ore?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as possible, we are doing it in the public sector; we are trying to introduce modern methods of mining. In the private sector, when there are small mine-owners, it is not possible for them to bring mechanisation or introduction of innovations there.

Shri D. J. Naik: Is it a fact that several manganese mines have closed down? If so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri Thimmaiah: One of the important mines in Bihar has been closed down because the State Government did not renew their licence.

Shri Ranga: Why?

Shri Thimmaiah: Another mine was closed because it did not have the facility of siding.

Single Ballot Box System in Kashmir

***996. Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have approached the Election Commission for introduction of single ballot box (marking) system for conducting the elections in the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Misra):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या भारत सरकार का ध्यान शेख अब्दुल्ला के उस स्टेटमेंट की तरफ गया है जिसमें कल उन्होंने कहा है कि काश्मीर में फेक इलेक्शन हुए हैं। इम्पैशियल और फेयर इलेक्शन नहीं हुए हैं? यदि हां, तो क्या यह भारत की संवैधानिकता को चुनौती देने का मामला नहीं है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका सवाल तो बैलट बाक्स के बारे में है, उसके बारे में सवाल कीजिए।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : उसका ताल्लुक इलेक्शन से है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ताल्लुक तो बढ़ते बढ़ते बहुत बढ़ जाएगा। जो आपका सवाल है उसके मुताल्लिक पूछना हो तो पूछिए।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या माननीय मन्त्री बतला सकेंगे कि अब तक दो तरीके क्यों रहे? भारत में अलग तरीका रहा और काश्मीर में अलग तरीका रहा तो यह दो तरीके क्यों रहे?

श्री कछवाय : वहां का प्रधान भी अलग है और निशान भी अलग है।