

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 29, 1996/Bhadra 7, 1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, it is said that justice delayed is justice denied. But in the case of the riot victims of 1984, justice has not been completely denied. 93 persons have been sentenced to five years, rigorous imprisonment. We need to have a discussion on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us first complete the Question Hour. After that you might take it up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is a very important issue.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, it is the first question of the day?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Shri Madan Lal Khurana deserves congratulations for this. It is because of his initiative that legal action could be taken and the culprits have been awarded imprisonment.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All the 93 accused persons have been sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Bauxite Reserves in Bihar

*381. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The quantity of bauxite reserves in Bihar, location-wise;

(b) whether a sufficient quantity of bauxite is available for setting up of an Aluminium Plant in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an Aluminium Plant or propose to invite foreign companies to set up the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The district-wise recoverable reserves of Bauxite in Bihar is given below :—

District	(Unit : 000 Tonnes)
Monghyr	813.00
Palamau	3323.20
Rohtas	1300.00
Gumla	37132.50
Lohardaga	12120.50
Dumka	6415.00
Total :	61104.20

(b) The Alumina Refinery of Indian Aluminium Company Limited is already located at Muri in the State. Any new capacities can be created on establishment of additional reserves in the State to justify setting up of such a plant.

(c) and (d). The Government at present has no such proposal. However, to encourage private sector investment in the aluminium sector, aluminium metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. Further, to attract foreign investment, aluminium has been included in the list of industries where automatic approval of foreign equity participation upto 51% is available.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Birla Group of Industries have set up an Aluminium Plant in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar has adequate deposits of Bauxite required to produce Aluminium. The Government of Bihar had given lease to Birla Group on the condition that they would set up Aluminium Plant in Palamau District. But Birla Group of Industries have not set up the plant even after lapse of three years. I, therefore, want to ask as to why their lease should not be cancelled?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, there is a bauxite recovery unit in Bihar. Bihar holds sixth position in regard to bauxite reserves in the country. There is already one unit in Bihar and another unit in Uttar Pradesh and both these units use bauxite that is recovered from Bihar only.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : An agreement was signed between the Birla Group and the Government of Bihar. I, therefore, want to ask as to why the plant has not been set up even after lapse of 3 years whereas entire bauxite goes to Uttar Pradesh from Bihar and a plant can be set up there.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : The Government will examine it. This practice is not readily available with us.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : May I know from the hon'ble Minister names of industrial groups who have sent proposals to set up Aluminium Plant with names of places, where they propose to set up the same?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : In the aluminium industry, about six tonnes of bauxite is required to produce one tonne of aluminium. There is proposal to set up the aluminium industry. After the new Mineral Policy, both foreign and domestic parties have been invited to set up the aluminium industry in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is learnt that a large number of foreign proposals regarding investment have been received in respect of every state under the new economic policy. But Bihar is the only exception in respect of which no proposal for any significant investment has been received so far. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any proposal from abroad has been received in respect of Bauxite and Aluminium and whether any such proposal has been received from Bihar?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : There is no foreign investment proposal received by the Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : My question is 382.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Who will give answer to 382.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I have to ask a question.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have passed to the next question.

[Translation]

I had called twice-thrice but no one raised his hands.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I had raised my hand but you did not bother.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anyway, now the train has left.

Telephone on Demand under National Telecom Policy

*382. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to provide telephone connections on demand in the Metropolitan cities by April, 1997 under National Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made so far in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone connection on demand by 1997. This was to be accomplished with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of Government. The waiting list of the Metro districts as on 31st March, 1995 and 31st March, 1996 the targets for providing telephone connections during 1996-97 and the achievements during 1995-96 and upto 31st July, 1996 are given in Statement. Waiting period for telephone has gradually reduced. Availability of telephone on demand will depend upon the growth of demand the extent of participation of private sector in providing this service.