

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member in this matter. However, this demand is not being made in Ahmedabad alone but throughout the country and other hon. Members also want that the telephone exchanges in their areas may also be converted into electronic exchange because this helps in not only increasing the efficiency of the system but also provides many other facilities. We have chalked out a plan but merely chalking out a plan will not serve the purpose so long as production of necessary equipment does not cope-up with the demand in the country for conversion of these telephone exchanges. Until then it is impossible to say when would the work be completed. But so far his question is concerned, I would like to inform the House that during this Five Year Plan we intend to replace and convert all those exchanges which have outlived their prescribed life of 25 years or those exchanges whose life period is less and they have outlived it.

Land acquired by Bokaro Steel Plant

*147. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired and being actually used by Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether the Government propose to make use of the unused land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made with regard to the rehabilitation of persons displaced and affected following the acquisition of land by Bokaro Steel Plant?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The area of land notified for acquisition for Bokaro Steel Plant is 33,045.35 acres. However, 31,030.47 acres has been taken possession of by Bokaro Steel Plant and the same is being used.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The acquisition of land for the plant and township is in accordance with the planned lay out and construction is taken up in a phased manner, subject to availability of funds. The area which at present is unutilised is kept for dumping of Blast Furnace and Steel Melting Shop Slag, sludge compartment and other plants wasted disposal system, afforestation green belt as a statutory requirement for environment control, construction of further dwelling houses and associated amenities and installation of facilities related to future technology up-gradation.

(d) Rehabilitation of displaced persons due to acquisition of land for Bokaro Steel Plant is basically the responsibility of the Bihar Government. Arrangements for the rehabilitation site have been made by the State Government. However, certain welfare facilities are being provided at the rehabilitation site by the Bokaro Steel Plant. Bokaro Steel Plant have also given preference to the displaced persons in the matter of employment and 14,101 have been provided employment in Bokaro Steel Plant.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister shows that 2.15 lakh acres of land is still unused out of the total land acquired for the Bokaro Steel Plant and this would be used for different purposes in future. May I know from the hon. Minister the number of persons among those displaced persons following the acquisition of land who have not been rehabilitated?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the rehabilitation of the persons who are affected by the acquisition of land is basically the responsibility of the State Government. Of course, we are also cooperating with them. We have also given appointments to 14,013 displaced people in the plant on the principle of 'one family one job'. Though the affected families were 13,000 in number, because of the split in the families, the number of people employed has gone to 14,000. There are certain grievances because certain people have been affected in the peripheral area of the plant. Those grievances are supposed to be looked after by the State Government. We are also doing some other development work from the point of our social obligations, but legally it is the responsibility of the State Government. The amount of compensation which was needed has also been paid totally by the Plant authorities.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the rehabilitation of persons displaced following the acquisition of land is basically the responsibility of the Bihar Government. But in his reply the hon. Minister has stated that arrangements for the rehabilitation have been made by the State Government. If it is the responsibility of the State Government, how has the hon. Minister come to know that arrangements have been made. I want to know the number of affected people who have not yet been rehabilitated. The hon. Minister also said that 14,000 displaced people have been given jobs on the principle of 'one family one job'. There are still 3,000 persons who are to be given jobs. I am witness to it. The hon. Minister has said that this matter is under consideration of the Bihar Government. Many days have passed since the Bokaro Steel Plant reopened and yet 3,000 persons have not been

given jobs. All this leads to extremism. May I know from the hon. Minister the time by which these 3,000 persons will be rehabilitated and one job to one family given?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the first question the hon. Member has asked is: How do I know? I know because there is a policy that those who are living within eight kilometres of the Plant, though they are employees, they are not given accommodation, preference is given to those people who are outside eight kilometres, thereby I know there are about 1,000 employees who are residing in the peripheral area and they have not got certain basic amenities which should have been provided by the State Government. And as a result of that we have interacted with the State Government. We have till now spent about Rs. 2.7 crore. There are more demands from the State Government, we are also interacting with them to see how best we can solve this question.

About the next question that 3,000 people are still unemployed, this is not to my knowledge. Even if it is a fact, because of the embargo on employment and the B.P.E. (Bureau of Public Enterprises) in 1986 had given instruction, that policy of one job to one family is now being restricted and rather withdrawn by the Government. At the moment that policy has not changed. Unless this is changed, I cannot assure that others will be given jobs. But in future, if some employment is being generated there, definitely I shall see that they get preference.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether the Government would get the matter investigated on the basis of the policy formulated by it. How many people have not been rehabilitated and how many of them have not been given jobs?

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act is different from the other land laws. Perhaps the hon. Minister is not aware that under the Land Acquisition Act 461, land acquired for a specific purpose must be used for that specific purpose alone and it cannot be used for other purposes. This is provided in that Act and it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the Act. Is the Government aware that land acquired under the Act by the management of the Bokaro Steel Plant has been illegally transferred to co-operatives and no arrangements have been made for the rehabilitation of displaced people on this land? Does the Government have any information in this regard?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: We are very well aware of the Land Reforms Act of the Bihar Government and everything had been done as per rules which is in vogue in Bihar. If there is any specific instance which is not to my knowledge, the hon. Member can write to me and I will get it examined.

If there is any violation, I will definitely correct it.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Rourkela Steel Plant also, vast areas of land are lying unused.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to Bokaro Steel Plant.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: But the problem is the same. The owners of the land want to get back their land if it is not used. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal with the Government to return the unused land to the owners.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I need a separate notice for this question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is, if the land was not used for the purpose for which it was taken, will it be returned to the owners?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the question of returning the land does not arise because there are certain obligations for the plant in such places. Then, we are also creating some greenbelt around the plant so that pollution does not occur. To my knowledge, there is no such plant where we have excess land.

MR. SPEAKER: You get it examined.

Production of Steel by SAIL

*148. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:**

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a White Paper on production of steel by the Steel Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be issued;

(c) whether the production in many of the Steel Plants of SAIL has fallen due to shortage of coal and power; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Government at present do not propose to bring out such a White Paper.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.