

18.00 hrs.

RE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Tomorrow I will have to crave the indulgence of our friends on the opposite to sit a little longer because very important pieces of legislation are going to be introduced.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Why not mention what it is ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I will come tomorrow. We are having two calling attention notices. Therefore we have to sit a little longer and finish this Vishwabharati Bill and also other pieces of legislation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has promised the ladies to bring anti-dowry Bill. But he is feeling shy.

18.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (Contd.)

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 122/84—Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1984 together with an explanatory note regarding increase in the export duty on coffee from Rs. 530/- per quintal to Rs. 640/- per quintal, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—8328-A/84].

18.02 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Increase in losses in Steel Authority of India Limited

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House will take up the half-an-hour discussion, Mr. Lakkappa.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : This discussion is arising out of a starred question raised in this House. But before I start the discussion I would like to bring one thing to your notice. Half-an-hour discussion is such an important discussion. But many times I have observed that the half-an-hour discussion is not covered in the press and other media. I, therefore, request you, Mr. Chairman, to see that our proceedings in the House, whether it is at the fag-end of the day or during the day, should be properly covered by the Press and other media.

There is a shocking revelation. My dear friend, Mr. Salve is a steel man and I know he is not producing cosmetics but steel. On that day, he has given out the heavy losses of the Steel Authority of India, losses paradoxical in the history of steel industry because as per the facts and figures available today it is a loss of Rs. 300 crores. It is not that I am making this shocking revelation. It is no other person than the Chairman of SAIL has said it. I would like to read it.

“The Steel Authority of India is understood to have incurred a loss of Rs. 300 crores during 1983-84. Claims of record sales of domestic products, drastic cut in imports, heavy reduction in inventories—in spite of all that, last year they have anticipated it but they have not given the correct figures and they have not even compiled the statistics—it is over 200% higher compared with the Rs. 100.5 crores loss during 1982-83.”

This is the press note issued by Mr. Samarapungavan, the Chairman. He has admitted the loss and asserted—this is another shocking revelation—that the losses were within the budgeted figure of Rs. 320 crores.

“Final estimate of the loss had not been computed”.

Steel and power are really basic for the development of our country. Steel Authority of India is the highest apex body in controlling the strategy of

estimate, production and distribution. What is the result? It is further shocking to note :

“A huge quantity of steel-pile in the stock yard is our unsold stock. There is a great burden of more than Rs. 100 crores a year. The SAIL has borrowed Rs. 940 crores from Government; Rs. 710 crores from the Steel Development Fund”.

How can these losses be eliminated ?

My hon. friend, Mr. Salve may be making his best efforts. Let us take 1976-77. In 1976-77 there was Congress rule. After 1977, during the 2½ years, the decline had started. In 1976-77 there was a record production and there was no price increase. I think the Chairman at that time was one Mr. Billimoria or someone else. How is it that the steel mills were not functioning after 1977. Even today, due to the ineffective production and distribution policy of the SAIL, it is incurring heavy losses although adequate stock of steel is available in this country. Even with the best efforts of Mr. Salve in cutting short the import bill by several crores of rupees, still, the stockpile in the Steel yard has not been lifted. Take for instance the organised sectors like the Railways, Electricity Boards, Defence and other organisations. They are supposed to lift the steel stocks. But, they have not yet lifted. I would here like to give the information. The Defence, Railways and the State Electricity Boards used to take bulk quantity of steel from the SAIL. Now, the Defence and the Railways have cut down their demands by 55%. The State Electricity Boards have declined to lift. They have cut down from the 60 to 65% of lifting of the stocks to 55% or so. Why such a huge quantity of steel is now being imported into the country? How we have lost the foreign exchange in this country? We have got adequate stocks of steel in the yards to meet the requirements of our country but, still, the prices have gone up. Today, the imported steel

price is much less than the domestic steel. What is the strategy that the Government of India in the Ministry has adopted for meeting this situation? Government should try to do something to bring down the price of steel in our country. Shall we compare India with Japan and Korea? India is a great country. I think this is the tenth biggest industrialised country in the world. We are producing three-fourth of raw materials. We are supplying ores to Korea and Japan. And, we are importing steel at a cheaper price than the price of Indian steel. Is there any dearth of experts in India. India is one of the greatest countries producing experts, engineers, traders, marketing strategy and we are giving technical know-how to many countries but what happened in so far as steel is concerned? In 1980-81 there was a profit of Rs. 1.01 crores; 1981-82 it became Rs. 39.17 crores but in 1982-83 there was a loss to the tune of Rs. 105.76 crores. What are the main reason for such a huge loss and what is the strategy that this Ministry has adopted to reduce the losses and earn profit.

Sir, a very heavy expenditure is being incurred on maintenance of guest houses and also on foreign trips abroad. What have you achieved from these foreign trips? Has any new technology been evolved to minimise the loss and improve the quality of steel. My friend, the Hon. Minister, is finding out market outside. The negotiations with Russians on import of steel from India are going on. Is it still under consideration or any agreement has been concluded? What is the position of our steel market outside? What is the market strategy that we have adopted? What is the quality of steel we are producing in this country and why are we buying steel from outside?

Sir, there are large-scale manipulations in accounts. Have any experts gone into the method of evaluation? Public Accounts Committee and the Estimate Committee

of Parliament have submitted their reports. A number of inquiries have been held but lakhs of rupees on maintenance of guest houses and foreign tours are being spent. Crores of rupees have been spent without any results.

Sir, this organisation is one of the most important organisation. The country's industrial development and economy is based on steel. Today steel is not available at a reasonable price. Exorbitant prices are charged. Private parties are not buying steel from our mills. Private parties are being permitted to import steel. The imported steel is cheaper and quality-wise also good. India should produce quality steel and also check escalation of prices. Price tariffs should be got examined by the experts and there should be indepth study in the activities of the management of this organisation.

Sir, the Hon. Minister is expert on accounting and financial aspects. To wipe out the steel imbalance in the South the Vijayanagar Steel Plant should come up early. On the one hand we want more production .. We want more production to meet the demand of the domestic consumers. At the same time we find that the Mills are not running to capacity. There is no modernisation, no technology, no wisdom, no reason. Heavy losses are there while the country's inflation is going on. SAIL has not taken cognisance of the reasons for such huge losses. I ask, why Mr. Salve has not taken care about the Vijayanagar steel plant. You are not moderning the existng plants. You have already provided certain things, you say you have all sympathy for Karnataka, but you have not come out with the programme and the strategy to have more new integrated steel plants. There is no such integrated steel plant at Vijayanagar where one of the best ores in the world is available. We are supplying to the whole world because the ore is excellent. We have to increase the

production. But we find that there is no strategy of marketing. There is no strategy of introducing improved techniques. There is no strategy of modernisation of the steel plants. No regular accounting system is there. What happens to the Administration? Who are at the helm of affairs? Who are running the steel plants? Is there any responsibility fixed on the persons responsible? Modernisation and reorganisation is a necessity because things are in a bad shape. May I ask a few questions on this subject? The prestigious steel plants of our country, namely, Durgapur Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant are incurring losses every year to the tune of crores of rupees. Why has Government not fixed up the responsibility on anybody? All the Divisional and General Managers and Managing Directors are inexperienced in the field of steel and thus there are huge losses. Why has not the strategy of appointing technocrats to guide the destinies of these mills been undertaken? Why cannot you do away with import of steel altogether? Why are many captive organisations and public sector organisations like Electricity Boards and Railways and other organisation not lifting the steel. What are the bottlenecks? Will the Minister have a thorough probe into all these things? Will the Minister have a high level expert examination and introspection for improving the situation at an early date? Will the Hon. Minister give an assurance on this subject?

With these words I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am indeed grateful to the Hon. Member for raising a discussion on this point. I am also grateful because of the fact that although he has come very heavily on the steel industry in the public sector, for me personally he has been quite charitable. That shows the importance that Shri Lakkappa attaches to friendship. There are certain facts which

have been raised by the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member has made certain assumptions in the question that he has asked and it is better that I clear those assumptions.

A year back, way back in April 1983, the steel industry in India looked so gloomy, so dark; we had very heavy stocks, we had heavy accumulated inventories, we had very large over-drafts of the banks, large heavy indebtedness on to our heads and worst of all there was a terrible recession in demand, because of which it was not possible to sell our goods. Today the situation has changed completely. It is not paradoxical that we are incurring losses. I would explain the reasons for that, but since the Hon. Member has used the word paradoxical, I am saying that. It is in fact in conformity with the steel industry all over the world that we are incurring losses; not that I derive any satisfaction out of it. But there is some special built-in resilience in our economy as a result of which we have been able to turn the corner. Last year the USA steel industry suffered a loss of six billion dollars, Rs. 6,000 crores; the British Steel Corporation sustained losses of about 1700 million pounds, and in Japan and Germany the steel industry is functioning at fifty to sixty per cent of its capacity. The steel industry has thus been in shambles, and a year ago, it appeared that if we continued the way we were continuing, we would be in a terrible soup. But the situation has changed very drastically. Whereas our aggregate stocks, stocks in plants, home sales and stockyards, were 1.54 million tonnes on 1st April, 1983, they have come down to 0.77 million tonnes on 1st April, 1984. Quite a lot of efforts have gone into it. We have adopted new marketing strategies and have taken other measures as a result of which in a year when the entire world steel industry is in the midst of recession, we have been able to sell our goods and reduce our stocks. Our over-drafts have come down from over Rs. 800 crores to over Rs. 500 crores.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : You are producing steel which is not needed in this country. If you are exporting those items, at least I could understand that. Why should you produce what is not needed ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : His anxiety is something which I share. I was coming to that.

Why have we been able to achieve this ? It is as a result of some important measures that we have taken. We have re-oriented the entire the production to better match the demand. Our motto has been to produce what we can sell and sell what we will produce, and we have adopted several stringent measures. If the plants produce something which is not sold, the plants become liable for the failure of the plant to produce goods which are not being sold. But that is a different aspect... (*Interruptions*).

Our sales are going up and stocks have gone down. Out sales are one of the highest in the midst of recession. Is it possible to bring down the stocks to 0.77 million tonnes from over 1.50 million tonnes by producing something which people will not buy ? Therefore, I would submit to the Hon. Member to bear with me and make an objective evaluation. I have nothing to hide from this House; I have nothing to hide from the Hon. Members. These figures are open, and if we make losses, I am answerable for that.

One strategy that we have adopted is that we must have our production which is oriented to gear the demand and as a result of that our stocks have come down. The Hon. Member said that there is a premium in the market on certain items. It is most unusual. I have just returned from America etc., but those items have not been sold for 3-4 months even at the official price. Even on the official prices we had to give a discount of 1 per cent, 2 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent to be able to sell. Now, all that discount is

stopped and all our goods are on the move at official prices and people are buying from us and making a premium on it. It is not achieved by magic. It is achieved as a result of deliberate, cool and calculated effort to produce such goods as could be sold in the market.

Now, I will come to imports. I am grateful for the concern shown by the Hon. Member. But Sir, if he had asked me for the figures, he would not have been so concerned. Because in the year 1982-83, the imports were 1.32 million tonnes. In 1983-84 they have come down to 0.568 million tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In what terms ? In rupees, what are the figures ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I have not got the figures. But the quantity has drastically come down. For 1984-85, our expected imports would be 0.36 million tonnes. All this is possible only because of our import policy. It is a very stringent import policy and we are not importing steel unless it is strictly needed by the industry, because we do not want our industry to be starved and famished for the steel which we do not produce.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How is it imported ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I have given the figures. In 1982-83 it was 1.32 million tonnes and in 1983-84 we brought it down to 0.568 million tonnes. I think in 1984-85, the projected imports would be 0.36 million tonnes.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : When there was growth, there was glut...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is answering all your points one by one.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The Hon. Member is a very knowledgeable person and he is kind also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN
(Hajipur) ; You are mistaken, Sir.

(Interruptions)

श्री एन.के.पी. साल्वे : माइनाइजेशन का तो बड़ा इम्पोर्ट पहलू है ।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : इसको आप लक्कपा जी के ऊपर लागू कीजिए ।

(व्यवधान)

श्री एन.के.पी. साल्वे : माइनाइजेशन के बगैर हमारे प्लान्ट्स चल नहीं सकते हैं ।

The Hon. Member is very much concerned over the losses. He is worried because of the losses incurred and let him be agitated. I am answering all his points. Certain other things are also raised. Heavy stock piling is no longer there. It has come down to normal level. Then he has referred to the heavy imports. There are no heavy imports. We have drastically reduced the imports. We have reduced it to one-third. Now I come to the strategy for improving. The Hon. Member has observed that we are not modernising our plants. I have to concede before the House that it is true. So far as modernisation and re-vamping of plants are concerned, we should have taken a little more care than what we have taken. The five integrated steel plants in the public sector are invaluable. We have to do the modernisation at a cost of five thousand and odd crores of rupees for these five integrated steel plants, so that the plants could have a rated capacity of twelve and odd million tonnes and the cost was I think 30/40/50 thousand crores. Therefore, We cannot allow these assets to be deteriorated.

Recently for Duragapur we have been working day and night. Re-vamping and modernising a steel plant is not like repairing a rickshaw or a motor car. This itself is a tremendous

exercise. And for one whole year we will carry on this exercise. I am pleased to inform the Hon. Member that PIB has cleared our proposal for modernising the Durgapur Plant and I am making a statement on the floor of the House that we are going to give top priority to the proper maintenance, modernisation, and re-vamping of the existing steel plants.

Sir, there is one more thing regarding Vijayanagar Steel Plant. All over the world, the capacity is 100 per cent more than what it was, including India. The Vizag Steel Plant is coming up with 3 and odd million tonnes capacity. As it is our capacity is more than enough for the steel that we need in the country today and we have to bear in mind this important aspect. Now, we have got the Daitari Plant, we have got the Vijayanagar Plant.

Now, the technology is being changed drastically. We cannot go on with the old conventional blast-furnace technology. We have to get new technology and we are working on it. The Government has not revoked its decision to have the Steel Plant either at Vijayanagar or at Daitari.

Why are the losses incurred? In this very reply, I have given the reasons. I have shown why the raw material costs, the stores, the spares, the power, the salaries, maintenance, depreciation and interest exceed the higher prices which we have received. In the years 1981-82 and 1982-83, nearly Rs. 600 crores we have received by way of augmented prices. As against that, nearly Rs. 750 crores we have spent on these items. We do not increase prices indiscriminately because this is basic to the core of the economy of the country; and any increase in steel prices is bound to reflect itself and have an overall effect in the economy of the prices structure. We are very slow to increase prices. If we could act the way the private sector acts, easily we would increase the

prices. Even the BICP has been recommending an increase in prices. We could straightaway with a stroke of the pen increase them, and there will be no losses. But that is what precisely we do not want to do. The budgetted losses are Rs. 300 crores, with this heavy recession in the market, heavy interest and the very heavy depreciation for the unused side of the plant. More than anything else, our inability to sell as fast as we were selling caused this loss. Therefore, we budgetted the loss on a rational basis. I cannot say now what these losses are going to be, because there is still a dialogue going on with the different Ministries as to what would happen. But still we are contributing to the SDF, i.e. the Steel Development Fund. We are contributing to it at the rate of Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per tonne, when we are incurring losses. If that itself is kept in abeyance, perhaps we will be making no loss. This is a tribute to the resilience of the economy of this country viz. that we have been able to turn the corner, and I think we will perform much better in 1984-85. But unless I increase the prices to cover my cost, losses will be sustained. This is the basic, elementary rule of economics. There is no other answer.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The public sector units are not lifting their estimated quotas—Railways, Defence and Electricity Boards. There have been phenomenal changes in their performance also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You spoke about recession. The demand was less.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The Hon. Member has asked an important question. Prices have increased, undoubtedly. They have increased year after year. But there is one important point which I made, viz. that the increases were very marginal, because if we had increased the prices higher than what we did, it was likely to have an adverse effect on the economy. I am fighting for it. I would want my cost

to be covered ; but then, Government functions jointly. I cannot be allowed to increase the prices to an extent where it adversely affects the economy. I would rather draw from the Consolidated Fund of India, and see that the overall economy does not get destabilized in any manner whatsoever.

One more thing I want to point out, and I have done. So far as the staff management and all that is concerned, we have not recruited any new staff. They are old people. It is not as though a new recruitment has taken place, as a result of which there is massive inefficiency. They have been working, and trying to do their best. I submit that nobody in the plant dare take losses for granted. We are going to scrutinize every rupee that we lose. And unless there is a reason about which we are convinced, we are certainly going to hold the person concerned accountable. Accounts have to be finalized. They will come. We will not leave it ; we do not want our officers in the public sector to feel that their accountability to Parliament can ever be taken for granted. No. If I am not convinced, we will take action against the officers concerned. But if the trade conditions are such, if the overall economy is such where we are compelled not to increase prices to cover our entire cost of production, then I would crave the indulgence of this House to take a charitable view.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The other point on which Mr. Lakkappa wanted information was administrative expenses. Are you thinking of any economy there ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : So far as economy in expenditure is concerned, talking of guest houses or the trips abroad, if he were to bring to my notice an expenditure of Rs. 10/- which could have been avoided, I will be very happy. This sort of an allegation can be made against any public sector undertaking.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur) : But this 5-star culture must be eliminated.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I entirely agree with you. There is no 5-star culture. You come and stay with me in the guest houses sometime. I invite you to come and stay in the guest house of a steel plant ; and you will find that there is no 5-star culture. There, the basic, minimum comforts will be available. It will be what is there in your house-my house may be, less than what is there in Mr. Lakkappa's house.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी (हाथरस) : माननीय सभापति जी, हमारे देश में यह कैसी विडम्बना है कि जितने भी सरकारी क्षेत्र के कारखाने हैं उनमें से अधिकांश घाटे में चलते हैं और निजी क्षेत्र के कारखाने फायदे में चलते हैं। आज सरकारी क्षेत्र का कारखाना किसी बनिये को दे दीजिये, वह उसको प्राफिट में चलायेगा। मैं तो केवल एक ही नतीजे पर पहुँचा हूँ कि बनिया जो कारखाना चलाता है अपना समझ कर चलाता है, वक्त आने पर झाड़ू भी लगा सकता है, छोटे से छोटा काम भी कर सकता है, लेकिन पब्लिक सेक्टर के कारखानों में जो नौकरशाही बैठी हुई है उसको इन बातों से कोई मतलब नहीं है, कारखाना फायदे में चले या नुकसान में चले, लेकिन उसके ऐशो-आराम में फर्क नहीं आना चाहिये। जापान हमारे यहां से कच्चा लोहा खरीदता है, समुद्र के रास्ते जापान ले जाता है और वहां फिनिशड माल तैयार करके समुद्र के रास्ते यहां पर लाता है, फिर भी उसका माल यहां के मुकाबले सस्ता मिलता है। आज भारत में पब्लिक सेक्टर का कोई कारखाना ऐसा नहीं है जो घाटे में न चलता हो और यही हालत स्टील अथॉरिटी आफ इण्डिया की है। उस का कोई भी प्लांट, चाहे राऊरकेला हो, भिलाई हो, दुर्गापुर हो, ऐसा नहीं है जो प्राफिट में चल रहा हो। यह जो दिन-प्रति-दिन लास में जा रहे हैं, अरबों रुपयों का

घाटा हो रहा है—इसका क्या कारण है ? इस सम्बन्ध में मैं चन्द सवालालात माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ—

1. क्या यह सही है कि सेल के कारखानों में बना हुआ माल विशेषकर स्ट्रक्चरल्स जैसे एंगल्स, चैनल्स, बीम्स, आदि, अच्छी क्वालिटी के नहीं होते हैं, जिसकी वजह से ग्राहक उनको खरीदने की अपेक्षा टाटा का बना हुआ माल खरीदना पसन्द करता है ?

2. क्या मंत्री जी को यह जानकारी है कि सेल का अधिकांश डिफेक्टिव माल डम्प कर दिया जाता है और बाद में उसे टेण्डर या आक्शन द्वारा 40 परसेन्ट तक की रिबेट देकर बेचा जाता है, इससे भी भारी नुकसान होता है ?

3. क्या यह भी सच है कि हम अभी तक सेल के बने हुए माल के लिए विदेशों में बाजार नहीं तलाश कर पाये हैं ?

4. सेल के प्लांट्स का और अत्याधुनिक बनाने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ? इन प्लांट्स को पूरी तरह कम्प्यूटराइज करने की दिशा में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

5. क्या यह भी सच है कि भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण में बड़े-बड़े पदों पर नियुक्तियों तथा पदोन्नति में बड़े पैमाने पर भाई-भतीजावाद तथा पक्षपात चलता है और ईमानदार तथा कुशल अफसरों की अपेक्षा कर गैर-ईमानदार, भ्रष्ट तथा अकुशल अफसरों को वरीयता दी जाती है ?

6. भ्रष्टाचार, रिश्वतखोरी, फिजूल-खर्ची तथा अकुशलता के आरोप में पिछले

तीन साल में अब तक कितने अफसरों के खिलाफ क्या-क्या कार्यवाही हुई है ?

श्री रामविलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, इस पर काफी चर्चा तो नहीं हुई है, लेकिन समय कम है इसलिये बहुत ज्यादा नहीं कहूंगा। कुछ ही मिनटों में अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा।

सबसे पहले तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ—मंत्रीजी बहुत चुस्त हैं, दुरुस्त हैं, लेकिन सबसे बड़ी खामी जो हम को नजर आती है वह यह है—आपके यहां “लैक-आफ-प्लानिंग” देखो को मिलती है। मैं एक्सपर्ट नहीं हूँ, लेकिन विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में जो समाचार निकले हैं उनसे ऐसा लगता है कि आपके यहां प्लानिंग नहीं है। यदि आपके यहां प्लानिंग होता, घाटा या मुनाफा होना बहुत बड़ी चीज नहीं है, लेकिन एक ही चीज जो आपके यहां बन रही है, उसी चीज को इम्पोर्ट करना—यह आपके यहां लैक-आफ-प्लानिंग को दर्शाता है। 14 दिसम्बर, 1983 के “नवभारत टाइम्स” के अनुसार 12 लाख टन इस्पात नहीं बिक पाया, जहां तक कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन की बात है, ऐसा नहीं है कि वह किसी से कम है, दूसरी जगहों की अपेक्षा हिन्दुस्तान में कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन दुगनी आती है। हमारे यहां बोकारों प्लान्ट है। बोकारो प्लान्ट का 1980 का लक्ष्य 4 मिलियन टन उत्पादन का था लेकिन यह आपकी प्लानिंग का दोष है कि उतना उत्पादन नहीं हो पाया। इसी तरह से आपके पास कोई नक्शा होगा, जिसके अनुसार 1984 तक इसका उत्पादन 10 मिलियन टन हो जाना चाहिए था लेकिन 1984 में उत्पादन हो रहा है 2.5 मिलियन टन। ऐसी स्थिति क्यों है, यह आप बताएंगे।

फिर समाचार पत्रों में आता है कि पावर फेल्योर इसका कारण है लेकिन आप को देखना चाहिए कि पावर फेल्यो : क्यों होता है । आप का प्लानिंग इसके लिए होना चाहिए । क्यों कोयले की कमी के कारण आपका उत्पादन कम होता है । अभी पिछले दिनों यह बताया गया था कि 12 लाख टन कोकिंग कोल आयात करने की परमिशन सरकार ने दी है । अब यह जो कोल आयात किया जाता है, इसकी कीमत लगभग 1 हजार रुपये प्रति टन आती होगी और अगर भारत में ही ठीक से इसको करें, तो इसकी कास्ट 300 रुपये पर टन से अधिक नहीं बैठेगी । इस तरह से आपकी जो प्लानिंग है, वह सही नहीं है । इसके लिए प्लानिंग सही होनी चाहिए और एक दूसरे से काआर्डिनेशन होना चाहिए, जिसका अभाव दिखाई पड़ता है ।

ठेकेदारी के सम्बन्ध में भी आपका ध्यान खींचा गया है । ठेकेदारी के बेसिस पर काम कराए जाते हैं और मैं यह समझता हूँ कि यह भी एक कारण है, जिससे आपको नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है ।

एक बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आमतौर पर यह देखने को मिला है कि जब भी प्राइसेज में वृद्धि की जाती है, तो बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर मैन्युफेक्चरर्स स्टील खरीद लेते हैं । पिछली दफा दो-तीन बार प्राइसेज में इन्क्रीज हुई है और पता नहीं कैसे यह लीकेज हो जाता है और उनको खरीदने का मौका मिल जाता है और सरकार को घाटा उठाना पड़ता है ।

एक आखरी प्वाइन्ट कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करूँगा । अभी अखबारों में रिसेन्टली निकला था कि दुर्गापुर प्लान्ट

के माइनेराइजेशन के बारे में यूनाइटेड किंगडम के साथ कोई बात हुई थी और अभी रिसेन्टली यह निकला है कि जापान के साथ उसके माइनेराइजेशन के बारे में डिस्कशन हो रहा है । तो इसके बारे में क्या प्रोग्रेस है, इसको मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें । मैंने जो प्वाइन्ट्स उठाए हैं, उनके बारे में मंत्री जी जवाब दें ।

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR :

I am also taking one or two minutes. From the Hon. Minister's reply it is very clear that loss in the steel industry is a global phenomenon, like price rise, corruption and deterioration in law and order. Everything in the Government's opinion is a global phenomenon, So, the Government has to do nothing. In fact, it is never liked by the people. We have a capable Minister and we expect that he will do something. He should do something that steel industry does not incur losses as most of the public sector industries are running in losses. Once we try to find out the reasons we should be able to say why they are incurring losses. Generally it is said that these losses are due to general industrial climate, labour problems, power shortage, and un-availability of raw material etc. It is not known what the real reasons are. While the actual reasons are—these are also the reasons, no doubt—the main reasons are inefficiency, corruption, maladministration etc., about which my friend Shri C.P. Shailani has spoken, Prices of steel are every year being increased by the Government, perhaps in this year the Hon. Minister has not done it. For that I must thank him. But still the industry is incurring losses. Because, as Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan has said, the cost of production has become double to that of other countries of the world. And we are also importing steel, affecting our indigenous productions. It seems, our trade unions have protested against the import of steel, because we can also produce certain type of steel which we are importing from other countries.

I do not know whether this is correct. I understand that our trade unions have protested against this. They were telling that we can also produce this steel in our country. However,, still our steel plants are not working according to their installed capacity. Shri Chandrajit Yadav, our ex-Minister for Steel, he was telling us that from 1974 to 1977 when he was the Steel Minister, the production of Bhilai Steel Plant was 102 per cent.

That was really very significant achievement. I do not know what is the situation at the moment. If the Hon. Minister can give us percentage of production in various industries, I will be grateful to him.

Our coal contains more ash. Because of more ash content, its calorific value is very low. If we set up a number of washeries, we can supply better quality of coal to steel plants. But the point is that we are importing coal from outside. How long can we do that? Will we set up more coal washeries? Is it not a fact that coal is in short supply in our steel plants resulting in less of production?

Lastly, is there any conflict between SAIL and various steel plants on the question of deciding prices, wages, distribution policy etc.? I would also like to be educated about workers' participation in management in various plants.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : स्टील अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया को 1983-84 में तीन सौ करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हुआ, इसी पर हम बात कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि—

क्या क्षति का कारण बिजली की कमी तो नहीं है? अगर हां तो इस कमी को दूर करने की कौन-सी कार्यवाही की गई?

क्या सरकार इस्पात कारखानों को सुचारू रूप से चलाने के लिए कैप्टिव पावर प्लांट खड़ा करने का विचार रखती है?

लोहे की खदानों में क्या श्रम संबंधों के ठीक नहीं रहने के कारण भी उद्योग को क्षति उठानी पड़ रही है? यदि हां, तो श्रम सम्बन्धों को सुधारने तथा मजदूरों की कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए कौन-सी कार्यवाही की गयी है?

क्या प्रबंधन में मजदूरों को हिस्सेदारी प्राप्त है? यदि हां तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और नहीं तो क्यों? क्या उत्पादन के लक्ष्यों एवं प्राप्ति में मजदूरों एवं उनके संगठनों से सलाह-मशविरा लिया जाता है? यदि नहीं तो क्यों? मेरा तात्पर्य प्लान बनाने में सलाह लेने से है।

क्या यह सच है कि बोकारो इस्पात कारखाने में उत्पादन क्षमता का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा रहा है? यदि हां तो क्यों? उत्पादन क्षमता क्या है और वास्तविक उत्पादन का ब्यौरा क्या है?

हर मंत्री यही बताते हैं कि विश्व की स्थिति यही है कि इस्पात के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, इंग्लैण्ड में बढ़ गये, अमेरिका में बढ़ गये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या किसी समाजवादी मुल्क में भी इस्पात की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है? यदि हां तो वह कौन-सा समाजवादी मुल्क है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन० के० पी० साल्वे) : सभापति जी, सबसे पहले मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब हम विश्व से घटने और बढ़ने के बारे में तुलना करते हैं, एक जगह घाटा है, दूसरी जगह घाटा नहीं है तो इससे हम तसल्ली नहीं कर लेते। लकप्पा

जी ने कहा था कि हिन्दुस्तान में नुकसान एक पैराडोक्स है, मैंने उनके जबाब में कहा था कि पैराडोक्स नहीं है? साथ ही साथ मैंने निवेदन किया था कि एक साल भर में किस तरीके से हमने इस मुल्क में, विशेषकर इस्पात के मामले में काम किया है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में जो इस्पात के कारखाने हैं उनको लेकर, विक्री को लेकर, स्टॉक्स को लेकर, इंपोर्ट्स को लेकर, कीमतों को लेकर किस तरीके से स्ट्रेटजी को कामयाब बनाने का प्रयास किया है और किसी हद तक कामयाब हुए हैं। घाटा क्यों हुआ, इसके बारे में मैंने निवेदन किया है। निजी क्षेत्र की आप बात करते हैं, हमारे यहां से जो 5 हजार रुपए के हिसाब से लोहा खरीदते हैं, उसको वे 7, साढ़े 7 हजार के हिसाब से ब्लैक में बेचते हैं। हम या टाटा वह नहीं करते। 5 हमारे कारखाने हैं और एक टाटा का है। टाटा का भी अच्छा इसलिए चल रहा है कि जो कीमत तय होती है निर्धारित कीमत पर ही वे बेचते हैं, ब्लैक नहीं करते। अगर वही नीति हम अपनाने लें, जिसका अभी आपने जिक्र किया तो हमारे यहां लोहे के कारखाने सोने के कारखाने हो जाएं। हमसे लोहा खरीदकर लोगों ने अरबों रुपया कमाया है और हम लोग मुसीबत में हैं। मगर इसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि हमारी जो आर्थिक व्यवस्था है उसके ऊपर जो परिणाम होने चाहिए, उसकी पोषक नीति जो होनी चाहिए, उसी तरीके से रहनी चाहिए। इसी तरीके से हम चलते आए हैं। इसलिए नुकसान हुआ। हमारा जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन है, जो उत्पादन क्षमता है, उसके अनुसार पूरा उत्पादन हम नहीं कर पा रहे हैं यह सही है और जापान से जैसा आपने कहा कि दुगनी कीमत है, दुगनी कीमत नहीं है हाट मेटल

की, मगर थोड़ी ज्यादा है। मगर उनकी कैपेसिटी है 110 मिलियन टन और हमारा है 12 मिलियन टन। तो कुछ तो फर्क होगा ही। फिर जापान हर चीज बढ़िया से बढ़िया इंपोर्ट करता है। कोयले के बारे में भी आपने बताया कि उसमें 29 परसेंट एश कंटेंट है। हमारे जो ब्लास्ट फर्नेस हैं वे 17 परसेंट से ज्यादा एश कंटेंट ले नहीं सकते। जब बाहर से हमारे एक्सपोर्ट्स आते हैं और देखते हैं कि इस कोयले से हम काम चला रहे हैं तो वे कहते हैं कि भारत में किस तरीके के जीनियस हैं जो इस कोयले से लोहा बना रहे हैं। हमें शौक नहीं है कि हम इंपोर्ट करें और कीमत ज्यादा दें। सौ-दो सौ रुपया पर टन अधिक देना पड़ता है जो हम अफोर्ड नहीं कर सकते। मगर मजबूर हैं इस वजह से हमें इंपोर्ट करना पड़ता है। आपने बजा फर्माया कि हमें वाशरीज लगानी चाहिए। हम प्रयत्नशील हैं और हम इसको कर पाएंगे।

आपने और बताया कि 40 परसेंट रिबेट में डंप करके सेल में माल बेच देते हैं। यह बिल्कुल नहीं है। हम माल की बहुत इज्जत करते हैं। इस तरीके से बेचते नहीं हैं। जो माल बहुत पुराना हो जाता है, 6 महीने से ऊपर हो गया, दो-दो साल तक पड़ा रहा, उसको एक, दो, तीन परसेंट देकर निकाल देते हैं और वह भी तबकी बात है जब मंदी थी, कोई खरीदने वाला नहीं था। आज तो वह बात भी नहीं रही। अब माल में इस तरह का डिस्काउंट हम नहीं देते।

दूसरी बात भ्रष्टाचार की और इनएफिसिएंसी की की गई। अगर मैं यह कहूं कि बिल्कुल भ्रष्टाचार नहीं है तो यह

ठीक नहीं होगा। आज समाज में कौन-सी ऐसी जगह है जहां भ्रष्टाचार नहीं है। मगर यह सिर्फ पब्लिक सेक्टर में है और प्राइवेट सेक्टर बिल्कुल साफ हैं, यह अनुचित बात है। पब्लिक सेक्टर के समर्थक जो लोग हैं, उनको इस चीज को देखकर चलना चाहिए। लेकिन आप कोई भी एग्जाम्पल बताइए और फिर देखिए कि हम किस तरह से उनके पीछे पड़ जाते हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग किसी भी घाटे को, किसी भी खर्च को या कोई भी ऐसी चीज जिसकी वजह से विपरीत परिणाम हों, उसको कभी भी चुपचाप मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं हम खोजबीन करते रहते हैं, माने-टर्निंग करते रहते हैं। यही वजह है कि सालभर में कुछ न कुछ किया है। ज्यादा नहीं किया है, स्पेक्टेकुलर नहीं हुए, लास को प्राफिट में कन्वर्ट नहीं कर सके, क्योंकि हम जानते हैं कि बगैर कीमतें बढ़ाए हम कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन को कवर नहीं कर पाएंगे। इसलिए यह किया गया। तो कृपा करके घाटा क्यों है, किस वजह से है इसको देखा जाए। अगर आप सोचते हैं कि आर्थिक नीति गलत है तो वह दूसरे पहलू पर हम चले जाते हैं, दूसरे स्तर पर चले जाते हैं। जब तक हमारी कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन के हिसाब से प्राइसेस नहीं आएंगे तब तक कभी प्राफिट नहीं हो सकता। मैंने निवेदन किया है कि जिन हालातों में से हम गुजरे हैं, जो ब्याज हमने दिया है, जो जबरदस्त डेप्रिसिएशन दिया है और साथ ही साथ 4-5 सौ रुपए पर टन स्टेचुटरी डेवलमेंट फण्ड कांटीब्यूट करते आए हैं, नुकसान हो रहा है और वह दे रहे हैं। अगर स्टेचुटरी डेवलमेंट फण्ड को स्थगित कर दें, जब तक नुकसान है तो शायद मुमकिन है कि नुकसान न हो। ऐसे हालात में मेरा निवेदन यह है कि जैसा यहां पर

कहा गया कि भाई-भतीजावाद है, लोग निकम्मे हैं, यह गलत चीज है। लैक आफ प्लानिंग का जिक्र किया पासवान जी ने, हो सकता है किसी हद तक इन्वेस्टमेंट प्लानिंग, प्रोडक्शन प्लानिंग में कुछ खामियां होती रहती हैं, उसमें हम सुधार कर रहे हैं। हम लोग देखते हैं कि किस तरीके से आगे काम बढ़ाना चाहिए और लगातार कोशिश करते हैं कि प्लानिंग एक को-ऑर्डिनेटेड प्लानिंग हो, उसके अच्छे परिणाम हों। ठेकेदारी के बारे में भी जिक्र किया गया है। कुछ काम ऐसे होते हैं जो ठेकेदारी पर करवाने पड़ते हैं। हमारे यहां के श्रमिकों को बहुत अच्छा वेतन मिलता है। ढाई हजार से ऊपर तक के फ्रिज बेनीफिट मिलाकर उनको मिलते हैं। चार साल में हमारा एग्रोमेंट होता है। शास्त्री जी ने श्रमिकों के साथ ताल्लुकात के बारे में कहा था। प्लानिंग वगैरह में मदद लेते हैं या नहीं? बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्टर्स में लेबर से लिए हुए आदमी हैं। हम तो लेबर का पार्टिसिपेशन चाहते हैं। चार-चार साल के एग्रोमेंट का एक फार्मूला हमने बताया है, उसकी वजह से लेबर के साथ बहुत अच्छे ताल्लुकात हैं। किसी तरह की कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : खान की लेबर के बारे में बताइए।

श्री एन० के० पी० साल्वे : अभी हमने बहुत कुछ करना है। यह जरूर है कि हर चीज जैसी आनी चाहिए, बैसी नहीं आई है। लेकिन प्रयास कर रहे हैं। स्टील इंडस्ट्री के लिमिटेडशन्स दूसरे नहीं हैं। समाज में जो हम सबके हैं वही हैं।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : जापान के साथ क्या चल रहा है ?

श्री एन० के० पी० साहू : जापान की टेक्नोलॉजी सर्वोत्तम और अच्छी मानी जाती है। उनसे भी बातचीत चल रही है। सवाल पैसों का होता है। जापान की मिल जाए तो बहुत अच्छा है नहीं तो इंग्लैंड से भी बात हुई है। हमारा माइण्ड ओपन है। बढ़िया से बढ़िया और सस्ते से सस्ते दाम में लें, यह हम चाहते हैं। शास्त्री जी ने आयरन-ओर के लेबर प्रब्लम की बात की थी। शास्त्री जी मुझे लिखकर देंगे तो मैं अवश्य उत्तर दूंगा।

18.56 hrs.

CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the House is aware at about 14.53 hours to-day, a visitor calling himself Usman Gani, son of Shri Hafiz Mohammed Akbar, shouted some slogans from the Visitors' Gallery. The Watch and Ward Officer took him into custody immediately and interrogated him. The visitor has made a statement, but has not expressed any regret for his action.

I bring this to the notice of the House for such action as it may deem fit.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN) : I beg to move :

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Usman

Gani, son of Shri Hafiz Mohd. Akbar, who shouted some slogans at about 14.53 hours to-day from the Visitors' Gallery and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that the said Usman Gani, son of Shri Hafiz Mohammed Akbar, be sentenced to simple imprisonment till 6.30 P.M. on Wednesday, the 9th May, 1984, for the aforesaid contempt of the House and sent to Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi."

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Usman Gani, son of Shri Hafiz Mohammed Akbar, who shouted some slogans at about 14.53 hours today from the Visitors' Gallery and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that the said Usman Gani, son of Shri Hafiz Mohammed Akbar, be sentenced to simple imprisonment till 6.30 P.M. on Wednesday, the 9th May, 1984, for the aforesaid contempt of the House and sent to Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

19.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Tuesday, May 8, 1984/Vaisakha 18, 1906 (Saka).