

MR. SPEAKER: No adjournment motion can be discussed. It is illogical, irrelevant. You have to come to me. We have to find out a way.
जाय बने पास जाइए फिर बात करणे ।

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: (Gorakhpur): I gave a notice for adjournment motion about the removal of the Director of the National Dairy Research Institute. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed that. There is no point of order, Shri Hannan Mollah. Not allowed. Nothing doing. This is not a matter for adjournment motion. This is an administrative matter. Is this important for this House? Shri Hannan Mollah.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: These administrative matters cannot be discussed here under an adjournment motion. What are you trying to do to this House? Shri Hannan Mollah.

12 29 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED INADEQUATE ALLOCATION AND
SUPPLY OF STEEL AND PIG IRON TO
SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES OF WEST
BENGAL

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uttar Pradesh): I call the attention of the Minister of Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported inadequate allocation and supply of steel and pig iron to the small scale industries of West Bengal leading to dwindling of production and large scale closure of many units."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): As Members are aware, there is a general

shortage in certain categories of iron and steel in the country and Government attempt has been to ensure that adequate allocation and supply of steel and pig iron is made to small scale industries in all States.

As far as allocation of steel to small industries through the State Small Industries Corporation in West Bengal is concerned, the position has been improving steadily over the last few years. Against 20378 tonnes allocated in 1978-79, 32136 tonnes were allocated in 1979-80. This was further increased to 36400 tonnes in 1980-81. In the current year the allocation has been further stepped up to 39200 tonnes. Thus allocations to West Bengal Small Scale Industries Corporation have nearly doubled in the last 4 years.

The projected demand for iron & steel items by all Small Industries Corporations in the country was approximately 1.2 million tonnes in 1979-80. As against this, allocation for all Corporations in 1979-80 was only 5.26 lakh tonnes and actual supplies were 4.51 lakh tonnes. Thus as against projected demand, on an average, supplies to all Small Industries Corporations were to the extent of 43.5 per cent. Allocation to Small Industries Corporation, West Bengal against demand have fared better. The projected demand of State Small Industries Corporation West Bengal was 45000 tonnes for 1979-80 against which allocation was over 32000 tonnes, representing a little over 70 per cent.

It is however noticed that some State Small Industries Corporations have been able to lift a greater percentage of their allocations than West Bengal. For instance in 1980-81, Karnataka was able to lift 27250 tonnes out of an allocation of 29,000 tonnes; Kerala was able to lift 26964 tonnes against an allocation of 27925 tonnes; and Tamil Nadu was able to lift 26285 tonnes out of an allocation of 29035 tonnes. In the case of West

Bengal, the lifting was only 20436 tonnes as against an allocation of 36600 tonnes, which could have accentuated the difficulties of small scale units in the State.

It will therefore be evident that there has been no discrimination against West Bengal in the matter of allocation of iron & steel material although actual supplies to the small scale units through the West Bengal Small Scale Industries Corporation could have been better. It remains the responsibility of the State Government and its Small Industries Corporation to ensure that stocks allocated are lifted to the maximum extent possible.

In respect of pig iron the material is supplied to small units through the respective State Corporations, wherever they are able to handle the material. In other cases, supplies are met through SAIL stock-yards. In allocating pig iron among different States, the established needs of the foundry industry etc. in that State are kept in view. There has been some shortage of pig iron in the country. Representations in this regard have been received from various States. This item is now allowed for import on OGL basis and State Small Industries Corporations can also go in for imports. In 1980-81, out of a total allocation of 472000 tonnes, West Bengal has been allocated 48,000 tonnes.

Government are aware of closure or sickness of some small scale units in various parts of the country including West Bengal. It would not however be correct to conclude that shortage of raw material is the sole cause for this phenomenon; for, several other factors such as power shortage, poor industrial relations, bad management etc. are also contributory factors, particularly in West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah. Only if you dispute his figure you can put some question.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I am sorry to mention that this statement made by the hon. Minister conceals more than it reveals.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He can not conceal to the House.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: That is what you think. He will speak. I am sorry to say that some part of this statement is toally malicious and untrue, with a view to malign the Left Front Government of West Bengal.

During the last several sessions, I asked some questions. Last April I put a question to the Steel Minister—Unstarred Question No. 8671: "What are the actual supplies of steel to each State during the last five years?" The answer was, "Do not arise". Now, I have collected some figures somehow and I would mention those figures and ask the Minister whether they are correct or not. I want to make it clear that we are the champions for the cause that all the States should get their due share. There should be a comparison. There is no scope for thinking why we are mentioning things about other States. We are always in favour of all States getting justice in financial and natural resources. Last year—1980-81—the total number of small scale industries in our country was 3,83,636. In Andhra Pradesh, they have 20,287 units and they got 21,900 MT. Haryana with 14,470 units got 32,747 MT. Gujarat with 24,189 units got 40,663 MT. Punjab with 29,214 units got 55,991 MT. Delhi with 9,732 units got 37,019 MT. West Bengal, with the highest number of units almost three or four times the number of any other State, with 71,116 units got just 20,436 MT.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How much was lifted by the State Government?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: That will be told. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will get it from the Government.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: They are always shedding crocodile tears for the eastern region. The eastern

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

region, with 1,00,696 units, i.e. 26 per cent of the total units are getting only 11 per cent of the steel. The northern zone with 85,000 units or 22 per cent of total units are getting 37 per cent of the total steel. The Western zone with 53,847 units, i.e. 14 per cent of total units, are getting 20 per cent of the supply. What is this? I would ask the Minister whether this is true or not.

Coming to pig iron, West Bengal with 18 per cent of the total units is getting only 7 per cent of the total supply whereas Gujarat with only 6 per cent of the total units is getting 20 per cent of the total supply. These are some of the figures which show that there is a calculated discrimination with a view to destroy the industries in West Bengal. I belong to the Howrah district, called the Sheffield of India, the biggest in Asia, where the largest number of engineering industries are concentrated. These industries have been suffering for want of raw material. I met several owners of these industries and they complained that they had to purchase raw material from Punjab and Haryana at double or triple the actual price. That is why, they were not able to stand in the competition. In this way the industry is being destroyed in West Bengal. So, may I know from the hon. Minister the basis for this allocation?

In view of the wide variations in allocation and supply among various States, which is extremely unreasonable and discriminatory, will the hon. Minister assure the House that the largest quantity of iron and steel will be allocated and supplied to West Bengal as it is having the largest number of small scale industries?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:
First of all, I shall suggest to the hon. Member that he must qualify his statement in one respect. It is not the number of units that determine the requirement of a unit. The size of the unit is very important. As I have

stated in the statement, the allocations are made against the post offtake and the projected demand. If the hon. Member verifies from the State Government the demand projections made by them and compare the allocation made to the State, then he will be able to accuse me of only giving a favourable treatment to West Bengal.

The projected demand for iron and steel items by all Small Industries Corporations in the country was approximately 1.2 million tonnes in 1979-80. As against this, allocation for all Corporations in 1979-80 was only 5.25 lakh tonnes and actual supplies were 4.51 lakh tonnes. Thus as against projected demand, on an average, supplies to all Small Industries Corporations were to the extent of 43.5 per cent. And West Bengal has been given a little over 70 per cent of the projected demand. So, if at all you want to accuse me, the accusation should be that I have shown favour to West Bengal.

The hon. Member has quoted the figures of supply only. He has not apprised the House of the figures of allotment made. Lifting of the stock is not the responsibility of the Central Government. Lifting of stock and its distribution is the direct responsibility of the State Small Industries Corporation. The hon. Member is absolutely right when he says that during 1980-81 the State Small Industries Corporation got only 20436 tonnes. This is against the allocation of 36400 tonnes which the hon. Member conveniently forgot to mention. The hon. Member should find out from the State Small Industries Corporation the reasons for not lifting the stock. I may inform the hon. Member that the State Government or the Corporation approach us to accelerate the supply of any raw material for small scale industries in the State, we give top priority to that. This fact he can also verify from his State Government. In order to strengthen your case when you talk to your State Government, I would like to give some figures of lifting by the different States. Even a distant State like

Kerala has lifted more than West Bengal. In fact, out of the 7 major States the lifting by West Bengal is the lowest, being only 56.14 per cent of the allocations made, as compared to 104.8 per cent by Maharashtra, 96.60 per cent by Kerala, 93.97 per cent by Karnataka, 73.65 per cent by Gujarat, 96.6 per cent by Bihar and 75.75 per cent by Andhra Pradesh. So, I would request the hon. Members to do a complete diagnosis of the problem and then try to come to a conclusion, which I am sure would be a conclusion in favour of the State Government. As far as shortage in allocation is concerned, it is proportionately distributed. I will give the figures for the current year also. If you compare the allocation to the State of West Bengal in the year 1978-79 with that of the year 1981-82, 20,378 tonnes as against 39,200 metric tonnes in the current year, it is an increase of about 100 per cent.

In the case of pig iron, shortage is there. So, we have now started allowing OGL imports for the actual users. Since there is a wide disparity between the imported and indigenous price of pig iron, we are making an effort to have a pool price. I would also like to inform that the supply of inputs to the small-scale industry in any State in the country would never be the sole factor responsible for infant mortality or any mortality among the small-scale units. We have given a special allocation of 10 per cent of the cement supplies to the small-scale industries. It appears there is a communication gap between the hon. Member and the Industries Minister of the State Government. Whenever they have any problem we immediately make an effort to meet their requirements. In spite of that, if there are some cases, we will appreciate it if they are brought to our notice so that we can take immediate action.

SHRI SUNIL MATTRA (Calcutta North East): Either the Minister is ignorant of what is happening or he is deliberately not giving a correct picture because his statement does

not reflect the facts. You say that the allocation to West Bengal was 38,400 tonnes, but West Bengal lifted only 20,436 metric tonnes.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I say it again.

Shri Sunil Maitra: He has made this statement in this way in order to denigrate and defame the West Bengal Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has stated that the State Industrial Corporation has not lifted the stock; not the State Government of West Bengal.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: The Ministry is functioning in such a way that the West Bengal Government and the West Bengal Industries Corporation cannot lift the steel allocated by you. I am reading a letter written by Shri Dip Kumar Sen, Managing Director of the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Ltd. dated 30th May, 1981, addressed to one of the big officer of SAIL:

This is a reply to his statement:

"You may perhaps remember that you said in the course of the discussions that after the rise in price of the iron and steel materials on 8/9-2-'81 your organisation offered to deliver to my Corporation the entire quantities of iron and steel materials which had already been paid for at the earlier rates if my Corporation agreed to make extra payments that became due because of the price revision. You also said that my Corporation did not agree to make the extra payments and take delivery of the entire quantities of iron and steel materials offered and paid for earlier. On checking up with my office I find that what actually happened was the other way about."

What was stated here, Mr. Minister, is, the fact is other way about. What is that other way about?

"My officers approached your office with offers of payment of the extra amounts which became due on account of the enhancement of the

[Shri Sanil Maitra]

prices and with requests to deliver the entire quantities of raw materials specified in your delivery orders issued earlier, but your office did not accept their offers and requests. I give here a specific instance. Your office had issued on 6-2-81 a delivery order for 460 Metric Tonnes of H. R. Coils (SG & JOG) on your sankrail stockyard. Since the delivery could not be effected before the rise in the prices of iron and steel materials, my officers actually carried to your office a cheque for the extra amount that was due to be paid on account of the enhancement of the prices and requested your office to deliver the full quantity of the materials specified in the said delivered order. Your office did not accept the cheque and effected delivery of the materials after making a 20 per cent deduction from the quantity specified in your delivery order. My office wrote thereafter to your office requesting the issue of a fresh offer in respect of the quantities so deducted, but in vain."

This way your officers and your Ministry are creating all sorts of obstacles stating that the West Bengal Industrial Corporation could not lift the stocks that have been sanctioned by your Ministry. And have you done it? Now, you are coming out with a statement on the floor of the House that there is a communication gap. There is no communication gap. If there is any communication gap, it is between yourself and your officers and if there is no communication gap between you and your officers, then you are making a wrong statement and I say that the facts in your statement are not correct.

My second point of submission is this. You have not yet stated what is the basis of allocation.

Now, on 9th of July 1981, barely one-and-a-half months back, in the city of Delhi, the 35th Meeting of the Small Scale Industries Board was held where the hon. Minister himself was

present. In that meeting the Cottage and Small Scale Industries Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Chittabrata Majumdar, made a statement. In the statement he said:

"In a letter to Dr. Chanana in May last year, I drew his attention to this problem. For example, in 1978-79 the Union Territory of Delhi with its 19,128 registered SIDO units was allocated more than 50,000 tonnes of iron and steel materials while West Bengal which then had 63,002 registered SIDO units was allocated a little over 19 thousand tonnes. In reply Dr. Chanana said that as different States adopted different norms for assessing the installed capacity of the small scale unit, allotment of raw materials on the basis of installed capacity will not be correct."

This is what you said. I say that in West Bengal the number of units is more than 71,000. Then you come out with the statement that number only will not give a true picture. It is the rated capacity which gives a true picture. Small scale is a small scale. When you call a factory 'small scale unit' then it is within the definition of small scale factory. Therefore, it would be difficult for you to assess small scale engineering factory's consumption of steel—how much it may need and if there are 71,000 units, then it is difficult for the Ministry of Industry sitting in the Centre to come to some firm conclusion that approximately this will be the requirement. For 71,000 units you cannot calculate what is their requirement. When it is pointed out to you that you are indulging in discrimination so far as West Bengal is concerned, you say that 71,000 units—i.e., the number is not going to give a clear picture.

You have not mentioned in your statement. But here you have said:

"He, therefore, maintained that off-take of a raw material during years of easy availability should be the basis of allocation. But how do

we calculate such off-takes? Before we introduced canalisation of iron and steel materials through the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation, the small scale units in West Bengal were taking delivery of iron and steel materials directly from the stockyards of the steel plants and of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL). Neither the steel plants, nor SAIL, nor the Steel Ministry has separate off-take figures for the large scale sector and the small scale sector. Therefore, allocation made on the basis of off-takes by the State SICs in years of easy availability, i.e., before compulsory canalisation through SICs was introduced is bound to be inequitable." Therefore, again and again, we are asking this question. The question is, will you please re-examine the basis of allocation and supply to the different States? While re-defining the basis of allocation, will you for heaven sake keep it in your mind that there is a State called the State of West Bengal; that it is very much a part of India and that the State has got maximum number of small scale units and small engineering units? They are the biggest in number in this State.

Your Sixth Five Year Plan document says that in 1973-74 the value of output of small scale industries was 7200 crores which rose to 19060 crores in 1979-80. Employment in 1973-74 was 39.65 lakhs and in 1979-80 it rose to 84.60 lakhs. In export it earned foreign exchange—in 1973-74 Rs. 538 crores and in 1979-80 it earned Rs. 1050 crores.

This is the role of the small scale industries in our country. This being so, in West Bengal you are having more than 71000 units. Will you please see to it that you do not conspire to kill them, to murder them, to destroy them. Therefore, my question is, will you please see to it that not only the basis of allocation would be re-examined but also West Ben-

gal's share of steel and pig iron should be adequate, should be sufficient to meet their demand.

SHRI CHHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Member, in fact, unfortunately has been contradicting himself. I would only like to draw his kind attention to the fact that he has to see the figures not only on the supply side, he has to see figures on the allocation side also which I have already quoted in earlier case.

Unconsciously he has made reference to some correspondence between the State Officials and the Steel Authority of India Ltd. and some dispute about payment. In fact that has never been brought to our notice at all. The hon. Member must appreciate one thing. He is talking of the correspondence relating to a dispute on the payments due or the overpayment made or the underpayment made to the Steel Authority of India Ltd. This particular case has never come to our attention at all.

13 hrs.

I am only saying, as I said earlier also, that the basis of allocation of industrial raw material to small-scale industrial units is uniform for the whole country. There is no discrimination against the State of West Bengal. The statistics, in fact, show that there has been discrimination in favour of West Bengal. They should appreciate that also. I have already said that the basis of allocation of steel is the previous off-take. When it is a normal year, it should be the normal off-take. During the shortage period, the off-take might be lesser than that. He is himself saying that the basis was off-take of the year which was a normal year. I would like to update the information of the hon. Member about the supply of steel in the market today. In the last few weeks, the supply position in the whole country is quite easy. He does not know it probably. In fact, the mini steel plants are coming to us saying, there is no off-take from them at all. The hon. Member must take it up once

[Shri Charanjit Chanana]

again with the State Industrial Development Corporation. There is no problem as far as that is concerned.

As far as the number of units in West Bengal State and other States are concerned, the distribution is decided by the State Industrial Development Corporation and the Director of Industries out of the total allocations made to them. I would like the hon. Member to appreciate that it is never done that the total quantity 'X' is divided by the number of units. Each unit has, in fact, a consumption weightage. According to that weightage, the State Industrial Development Corporation is supposed to allocate steel or industrial raw materials to small-scale industries. If there is any irregularity in that distribution, I would only request the hon. Member to approach the State Government and inform us also. I would also, next time, when I will be meeting the Chief Minister or the Industry Minister of West Bengal, mention to him about that also, if that is the problem.

In fact, the facts that I have given do not support the arguments of the hon. Member. I would only like to help the hon. Member's argument about the difficulties of the small-scale units in the State of West Bengal because I do not consider the State of West Bengal as his State only. It is a part of our country. We are very particular about it. If you see my statements in Calcutta, my request to them has always been to make all efforts to revitalise the industrial development in the State of West Bengal which it was and we want it to remain as a vital industrial State of the country.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: That is your statement only.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I have already given the statement there. But it cannot be done only by having an allocation. The allocation have to be

lifted and distributed. The hon. Member must appreciate that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is helping you to make use of this opportunity.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: It is not only the allocations. They are talking of supplies. They never try to build correlation between allocation and supply. They must put pressure on the State Government to lift the allocations made to them. If they cannot lift them, why are they getting allocations made?

I would like to say a few things which are very important. There are other reasons also for the small-scale sector in West Bengal reaching a subsistence level. One of the main reasons is that there has been a shortage of 22-25 per cent in the power requirement of West Bengal.

The requirement in the month of March, 1981, was 19 million units per day as against which, availability was 15 million units per day.

In April, 1981, the requirement was 19.6 million units per day and the availability was 15.3 million units per day.

As against this, the deficit in All-India requirement of electricity energy was only 13 per cent. I think this is an important thing without which the small units or the large units cannot function unless and until the energy is there.

So, these are the core sectors where the hon. Members must put heavy pressure on the agencies working in their State to revitalise the small-scale industrial units. That alone will help us to increase the growth-rate of industry in the State of West Bengal and the benefit will be to the whole country. At the same time, the total growth-rate will be increased.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eleven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI GULSHER AHMED in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—contd.

REPORTED INADEQUATE ALLOCATION AND SUPPLY OF STEEL AND PIG IRON TO SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES OF WEST BENGAL—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Sir, you must have noticed that in the call attention notice given by us we wanted to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Minister to the serious crisis in the field of small scale industries that is now prevailing in West Bengal and we expected that he would at least say something which will go to improve the situation there. But, unfortunately, the statement ends with these lines:—

“...for, several other factors such as power shortage, poor industrial relations, bad management etc. are also contributory factors, particularly in West Bengal.”

Now, may I ask the hon. Minister? Are you really sure of what you have said? Are you in a position to prove that industrial relations are bad in West Bengal? Or, if you kindly permit, I can prove that it is not so in West Bengal. So, industrial relation is not the contributing factor. If you talk of bad management, are you sure that there is good management in the public sector enterprises? This is a thing which is very difficult to quantify. Actually what do you mean by ‘bad management’? After all you have deliberately chosen not to accept the

reality to shield your own Department and to save yourself.

The real trouble in the small scale industries in West Bengal and, for that matter, in the Eastern Region is the policy pursued by the Central Government. Whenever we talk of non-availability of raw material, whether it is steel, pig iron, cement or anything, generally we find that our Minister says that there has been allocation but the State Government has failed to utilise the quota allotted to the State. I say—is it a fact? Is it not abundantly clear from what Mr. Sunil Maitra has said, that you may allocate a thing but for the State Government which has to receive it, there may be difficulties created by your Ministry or some other agencies, to get the thing you have allocated and you have seen how West Bengal Government has been deprived even when it was ready with the cheque to pay for the increased prices. Now you have not answered that question and I want that you should look into it.

The question is that you have never tried to answer this question why so many units are sick in West Bengal. You have never answered the question what is the basis of allocation. I understand that there is scarcity but I do not understand why there should be discrimination. You have tried to say that if there is any discrimination, it is in favour of West Bengal. Well, Mr. Chairman, does the hon. Minister want us to believe that they are supplying raw materials in abundance to West Bengal, that they are taking all the steps but still it is because of the failure of the Government of West Bengal that these industries are sick or some are going out of existence? What are those failures—he has not indicated. So what I would like to say is this. Let us try to understand the problem. When you talk of allocation, may I bring to your notice that only the other day it came in the Press that in UP 40 per cent of these units were bogus units. They had no existence. That came from the

[Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty]

Police report. Where is this steel going which you allocate to these areas? What about Delhi? Are you sure that all these units have real existence or is it a fact that some of the units have no existence at all?

I would like to raise another point. Now you know that in West Bengal these industries were developed because of the availability of steel very near to the area—the proximity of steel. Now because of the freight equalisation it has lost this advantage. That is one factor which is dealing a death blow to these small industries in West Bengal and particularly in the Howrah region. Another factor which is responsible for the acute sickness is also the policy pursued by the Railways because these days these industries do not get orders from the Railways. So it is the deliberate policy of the Central Government which is making these industries sick. I know you will say that you do not pursue a policy of discrimination. I only want to say that the facts speak otherwise.

Now it has already been said how you are depriving the Eastern Region. The Eastern Region comprises of Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. These are the States which are being denied the opportunities because of the discriminatory policy pursued by the Central Government.

I want to emphasize once again that I am next to none in my faith that all the regions of India should be developed. I believe that there should be justice to all the regions and to all the States. But now the facts do speak otherwise. Let us have a look at the facts. Eastern Region—No. of units - 1,00,698. Percentage of total units—26.2. Supply—83,360 tonnes. Percentage of total supply—11.20. Why is it? The region having the largest number of units and having the maximum

requirements is denied the raw material. Is it not a deliberate policy pursued by your Government? Is it not a fact the because of this, some of these units are to purchase the steel and pig-iron from black market?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please put your questions. He will reply.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister these pointed questions. I believe you have sympathies; I believe you have the understanding. But these units cannot live only on your sympathies and understanding. Your actions are not matched by this understanding unless backed by your actions understanding is useless. I would like to say whether the facts given by me are correct or not. If they are correct, then, whether you are going to change your policy or not.

What positive steps are you going to take to see that these small units in West Bengal, and, or that matter, in Eastern region do not go out of existence?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a series of questions. Also he raised a very few interesting questions.

He talked about the number of bogus units in West Bengal. We have not taken any census of bogus units. I would like him to suggest this to West Bengal. This is the job of the State Government to conduct this kind of census of the bogus units there.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: I am not talking of West Bengal. Why are you trying to avoid it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to him.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Forty per cent of the units are bogus.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: This is an instance for interrogation

of the bonafides of the smallscale units. West Bengal Government should be directed by you people to conduct a census into the bonafides of these smallscale units. This may be one of the reasons between the gap and allocation of supplies. They are not genuinely interested because there are no units to consume that. I have no presumption at all. I want you to ask the State Government of West Bengal to indentify the reasons of this gap between allocation and lifting of the materials by the units. If they have any problem in lifting and if the Central Government can do anything please let us know. But, after the allocation is made, lifting of the raw materials or distribution of the raw materials is the function of the West Bengal Government Industrial Development Corporation.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: This is not fair. Wst Bengal Government wanted to lift it but the Steel authority of India has not allowed them to do so. Then why are you accusing the State Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chakraborty, please hear the Minister.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, out of this debate, the truth will come out. Don't be afraid of it. I want to once again emphasise that West Bengal Government wanted to lift them but the Government was not allowed to do that. The hon. Minister is saying that the West Bengal Government should conduct the census. Sir, I seek your protection that the Minister should reply to the point. This is not fair.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: A survey was conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in the year 1979-80. Out of the total number of sick units, one third of the total number of smallscale sector units as on 1-1-80 numbering 6,948 were sick units in West Bengal alone. We are very much concerned about it. In a series of meetings with the State Minister of Industry in West Bengal I have al-

ways told that they must identify these problems of series of smallscale units which are sick and they must tell us as to what exactly they want. I would like the hon. Member to verify this from the State Minister of West-Bengal. We always try to go out of the way to help them in the case of movement of raw materials, in the case of allocation of raw materials or in the case of any problem that has been there with them. I am not referring to the press statement at all I would like him to go and contact them. If you are really interested in the statistical figure, I would give that of course. As far as State Government of West Bengal is concerned, for the year 1980-81, 29,590 tonnes of pig iron were supplied during this year. and against 29,080 tonnes for the year 1981-82 Joint Plant Committee has made allocation to the extent of 48,000 tonnes.

Sir, the hon. Member must appreciate that allocation alone is not enough. Lifting is also very important. If they have financial problems then they must bring up those problems to us. We are prepared to have an inter Ministerial exercise done in the case of any problem of the small scale industries in any State of the country. When the hon. Member is trying to put the whole Eastern region as one then I would like to say that comparison between West Bengal, Nagalana and Tripura would not be the right comparison. Actually the comparison should be between the States of West Bengal and Bihar. Bihar which is equally well situated—maybe slightly worse than West Bengal—they have picked up 96.69 per cent of their allocations. The West Bengal Government must do home work and see why they have not been able to do. As against Bihar the West Bengal government has lifted 56.124 per cent of the iron and steel raw-material allotted to them. I would only like the hon. Member not to be emotionally involved in this factor to find out as to why such a gap is there. We are prepared to help them. We are serious

[Shri Charanjit Chanana]

about re-vitalising the development of small scale industries.

Sir, let us not have only two symptoms to gauge the illness of small scale industry, that is, supply of iron and steel and the supply of pig iron. There are other symptoms which should also be seen. Otherwise my fear is that you might be giving wrong medicine to the ailing person and the ailing person may die sooner than otherwise. Besides the ability of the Corporation there may be other problems in the Corporation to lift the raw materials actually allotted which depends not only on the movement problem but also on their management and financial strength. Further their ability to liaison with the railways to move the allotted raw materials to the required destinations, etc. You first find out the reasons and then the treatment could be found. Power shortage is another important reason. So, with all these things a proper diagnosis is necessary and don't go only with one symptom otherwise you would be doing dis-service to the patient.

PROF. RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, time and again attention has been drawn to the agony of West Bengal. West Bengal is a victim of equalisation in respect of steel although it is a steel producing State. My colleagues have shown through figures that there is discrimination. There are 100 foundries in Punjab and there are 300 foundries in West Bengal but in the matter of....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please put pointed questions. Already these details have been given by other Members.

PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: All right, Sir. Is it not a fact that West Bengal with 300 foundries gets 7 per cent of the approved amount while Punjab with 100 foundries gets 25 per cent? Is it also not a fact that West Bengal had been allotted 56 per cent

of he required quota while Maharashtra has been allocated 114 per cent of the required quota? Will the hon. Minister be pleased to assure this House that in view of his understanding of the problem of West Bengal he will have a census or a survey throughout India to find out the installed capacity of different small scale units throughout the country so as to establish scientific criteria in the matter of allocation of steel and pig iron so that in the coming days there is no discrimination and West Bengal can have the required quota?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in regard to the first question as to whether Punjab has 100 foundries and West Bengal has 300 foundries I would only like the hon. Member to appreciate one thing that a foundry involving an investment of Rs. 2 lakh would have a different consumption needs as compared to a foundry having an investment of 19 lakh though both might be in the small scale sector. So, it is not the number. When you have raised this question I would only request you to kindly re-draft your question and add one column as to the size of the foundry and its previous off-take.

Sir, the second question of the hon. Member is about percentages. The percentage he has talked about is not correct. As against the projected demand on an average the supply to all Small Industries Corporations in the country was to the extent of 43.5 per cent whereas the projected demand of State Small Industries Corporation, West Bengal was 45,000 tonnes for 1979-80 against which the allocation was over 32,000 tonnes which comes to a little over 70 per cent. So, the hon. Member may kindly correct the percentage figures that he has.

Sir, as far as the census of the industrial units and the installed capacity is concerned my hon. friend would know that the small industries are divided into two categories, namely, registered and un-registered. For all the registered units the Director of Industries is supposed to have all the

data. So, my request to the hon. Member would be to kindly get the data from there. But in addition to that I would like the hon. Member to know that we have already started organising the methodology and are conducting a survey of the causes of sickness in the small scale units. It is a very important thing. That survey would be a very important survey. The Development Commissioner in the Ministry of Industry is doing it.

Now, one thing which I have always been mentioning is this: There is one very important input which only you the leaders, can generate in West Bengal, in order to promote and accelerate the industrial development and the economic development of the State, which cannot be imported from anywhere else, and that is, the revitalisation of the industrial development of West Bengal, I can assure you that the Central Government will do anything and everything that the Central Government is capable of doing to promote that.

14. 36 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI SHISHMA NARAIN SINGH), With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 31st August, 1981, will consist of:

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Consideration and passing of:

(a) The Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Bill, 1981.

(b) The Burmah Oil Company (Acquisition of Shares of Oil

India Limited and of the Undertakings in India of Assam Oil Company Limited and the Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited) Bill, 1981.

(3) Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1981-82.

(4) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the State of Nagaland (Amendment) Ordinance, 1981 and consideration and passing of the State of Nagaland (Amendment) Bill, 1981, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(5) Consideration and passing of the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1981, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(6) Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1981-82.

(7) Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:—

(a) The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 1981

(b) The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1980.

(8) Discussion on the Motion by Shri Harikesh Bahadur and others regarding flood situation in the country on Tuesday, the 1st September, 1981 from 5 p.m. onwards.

(9) Discussion on the Motion by the Minister of Finance regarding current price situation on Thursday, the 3rd September, 1981, from 4 p.m. onwards.

धीमती प्रमिता इच्छते (बंभई उत्तर मध्य) : सभापति महोदय, मैं बाने वाले