

श्री जांबवंत घोडे : आप तो कांग्रेस के साथ हैं, यू.पी. में भी कांग्रेस के साथ थे...

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : यह बात आप बोलना बन्द करिए...

श्री जांबवंत घोडे : आप भी बोलना बन्द करिए।

मैंने कहा कि उन्होंने यह बात नहीं कही। प्रोसीडिंग देखिए...

समाप्ति महोदय : देखा जाएगा। (व्यवधान)।

Are you closing, or do you want to continue tomorrow?

SHRI DHAMANKAR : At least two minutes more, if you are pleased to give me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you continue tomorrow.

SHRI DHAMANKAR : Thank you.

17-31 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17-32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

PRODUCTION TARGET OF STEEL FOR 1974-75

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are on a very serious matter. The production of steel is almost stagnant since 1965-66, when the saleable steel was to the tune of 4.59 million tonnes. If we were to accept the figures given by the newly-formed authority, if we were to accept those figures given by Mr. Wadul Khan, then probably we would have been left with a target for 1974-75 of 4.45 million tonnes of saleable steel. This means a

reduction in output of steel in spite of our larger investments in such a vital sector of the public undertakings. Planning Commission prodded up to 5.19 million tons.

The irony of India is that we have all the raw materials that we need to make the steel. It is well known that we have invested a large amount of capital not only in the steel plants but in the required capital equipment manufacturing plants. We have even developed a certain amount of technological basis to produce machines for the steel plants. With all that, with all the required raw materials within the reach of the steel plants, namely, iron ore, coking coal, ferro-manganese, dolomite, limestone, feldspar and even these refractories, if we are not to progress in the production of steel, then I am afraid that the economy of the country is and will be seriously affected.

The difficulty runs like this. We now pay in Bombay about Rs. 5000 for a tonne of steel sheets in the open market. This is unheard of in any part of the world. We import about Rs. 200 crores worth of steel annually. One year back, the then Minister in charge of steel Ministry formed the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and it was expected to substitute the civil service culture by the industrial culture. Unfortunately after one year of SAIL operation we find that it has scaled down the target of steel whereas production should have been not less than 8 million tonnes. We are given a number of reasons like the power shortage, transport bottleneck, labour problems, scarcity of coking coal and so on, but the basic fact is lack of utilisation of installed capacity. We cannot criticise the Minister, who took over recently, for the past failures. But we would naturally like him to see that the unutilised capacity of steel plants in which we have invested about 2100 crores of rupees is utilised. This capacity should be utilised to the full or at least 85 or 90 per cent should be utilised, because there are no constraints about steel consumption or production.