

M/s New Central Jute Mills Co., Ltd.,  
Calcutta

871. Shri Madhu Limaye: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s New Central Jute Mills Co. Ltd., Calcutta have been given big loans by the Central Government and the U.P. Government during the period from 1956 to 31st March, 1967;

(b) if so, the total amount of these loans;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the financial condition of this company is not satisfactory and that this company has not published its balance sheets for some years; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to realise these loans and protect the interests of the shareholders?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) and (b). No loan has been given to this company by the Central Government. The Central Government is not concerned with any loan that the U.P. State Government might have given.

(c) and (d). No information is available regarding the financial condition of the company. It has, however, been reported that the company has not filed its balance sheets for the accounting years commencing from 1st April, 1964. An investigation has also been ordered by the Company Law Board into the affairs of the company under sub-clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-section (b) of Section 237 of the Companies Act, 1956.

12.37 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT-  
ANCE.**

**BULK SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO BIRLA'S  
CEMENT FACTORY AT CHITTORGARH**

Mr. Speaker: Now, we shall take up the calling-attention-notice. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

Shri S. Kundu (Balasore): On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The calling-attention-notice is being taken up. How can there be any point of order now?

Shri S. Kundu: Before you take it up, I want to raise this point of order. I had tabled a very important calling-attention-notice relating to the art silk industry....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. Kundu: Let me be heard.

Mr. Speaker: Unless a calling-attention-notice is permitted, it cannot be raised here. I would not even allow it to be raised here....

Shri S. Kundu: About 20,000 workers are affected....

Mr. Speaker: About a hundred calling-attention-notices are with me. Everyone of them cannot be allowed here....

Shri S. Kundu: It is an abuse of the judicial discretion.

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai): It is a very important question....

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, a calling-attention-notice which has not been permitted cannot be raised in this House. If I allow the hon. Member then I shall have to allow several others to raise it in the same manner.

Shri Hem Barua: We want to submit that you may reconsider the decision....

Mr. Speaker: Not on the floor of the House. Yesterday, I did not allow the hon. Members from the Congress side. I did not even allow them to mention it here. Then, they came and discussed with me inside my Chamber.

**Shri S. Kunda:** About Rs. 28 crores worth of foreign exchange is involved, we are losing it; about 20,000 workers are facing unemployment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.**

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Bhubaneswar):** I call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported agreement of Government, during President's rule in Rajasthan for bulk supply of electricity for Birla's cement factory at Chittorgarh at a concessional rate entailing a loss of about Rs. 30 lakhs to Government per annum."

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** I lay a statement giving the required information on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-307/67].

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** He must read it out.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a statement running to four pages.

**Shri A. B. Vajpayee (Balrampur):** He may give a summary.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I shall give a summary.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister could have placed the statement earlier on the Table of the House so that hon. Members could have read it.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** It was placed on the Table much earlier.

I shall give a brief summary of the statement. In Rajasthan, we have the largest amount of shortage of power in this country now. Particularly in the Kota region due to the fact that there is no water in the Chambal river, there has been a very great cut-down in the power supply there. Practically in that region where the load is of the order of 8 lakh units

per day, we are hardly producing one lakh units per day.

Therefore, a large number of industries in the Kota region have not been working. One of these factories is the Birla factory which has been mentioned in this. It has been completely stopped; the cement factory which has been producing about 800 tonnes per day, has been cut down from the 15th March.

Apart from this, we have been thinking how best to overcome the shortage of power in Rajasthan because this is a very difficult spot unconnected with neighbouring States and its own production is not there. Of course, I am very glad to state that by the end of this year and in the course of the Fourth Plan, it will be a surplus state and there will be a large amount of power generated. But at the moment, we are suffering extremely. Therefore, it is that we thought of various methods to rectify this shortage. One of the methods was connecting it with Delhi, connecting it with the neighbouring State of Punjab and so on. A number of schemes have been sanctioned. They are all under construction. That will take some time.

Meanwhile there is one gas turbine which we have got at Kota which runs on high speed diesel oil where the cost of generation is considerably higher, something of the order of 53 P. because the excise duty levied by Government is very high. At that cost of 53 P. nobody can use the power. Therefore it is that the Government of India have reduced the excise duty by 55 per cent on this high speed diesel oil in order to bring down the cost of the power generation. We must remember that the cost of generation of power is generally of the order of 3-5 P. whereas by the gas turbine process it is of the order of 53 P. Therefore, the cost is very heavy. Hence a certain amount of exemption has been allowed on excise duty for four months only because by the end of July we expect the rains to come and the Chambal

river will be filled and there will be no necessity to use this costly method of power generation.

It has also to be noted that this kind of exemption from excise duty is given for diesel oil which we use on the generation of power, ordinary diesel oil. It has been completely exempted from excise duty; here we have done it only 55 per cent. I must thank the Finance Minister for accepting this.

Now, on account of this, the rate comes down to 37 P. excluding interest and depreciation in any case to be incurred. Some of the industries, Birlas, J. K. Synthetics and others have come forward to bear the entire expenditure of taking up the power at 35 P, which is expected to meet the entire cost of generation, whereas at the moment they are paying only 7 P. But they are prepared to pay 35 P. for these four months in order to get this power.

An hon. Member: Birlas.

Dr. K. L. Rao: Birlas, J.K. Synthetics and other industries.

Shri Hem Barua: You are specially kind to Birlas.

Dr. K. L. Rao: We are only kind to the Indian nation, because we want to see that industry keeps on running; otherwise we will lose very heavily. For example, if there is no supply of power, the loss in production we will suffer will be of the order of Rs. 2 crores. Power is very essential for production—that is obvious.

It is not that any particular concession has been given to any industry. As regards the question of loss on account of the exemption, we will lose about Rs. 10 lakhs for four months. But it has to be remembered that the excise duty that we levy on the cement products produced by using this power when the station which is closed is reopened and when the cement factory is reopened will alone be Rs. 15 lakhs.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): In UP also you did the same thing in the case of the Aluminium Corporation of Birlas.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : (कमोज) :  
अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is it about?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : ये किस चीज के मंत्री हैं ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ये बिजली और सिचाई मंत्री हैं अथवा बिजली और सीमेंट मंत्री हैं ? सिचाई को छोड़कर क्या ये सीमेंट मंत्री भी बन गये हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह इरिगेशन एण्ड पावर मिनिस्टर हैं ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : लेकिन मालूम ऐसा होता है कि ये बिजली और सीमेंट मंत्री हो गये हैं ।

Dr. K. L. Rao: On account of the remission that we have given, we lose about Rs. 10 lakhs for four months, but the amount of excise duty that we levy on the cement produced is itself Rs. 15 lakhs, besides sales tax from this and so on. That is one factor alone. If we take other factors into consideration, we are getting profits in this and not losing. Therefore there is nothing wrong in the step that we have taken to ensure that we get as much power as possible. Actually, if it is possible, we would have produced far more power from this source.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: All of you will please sit down. On a call attention normally only those who have called the attention of the Minister are permitted to put one question. Now I have got some chits here from friends that they would like to put questions. (Interruptions) You can change the rules, I am not preventing anybody, but the call

(Mr. Speaker)

attention notice has been given by only one friend. It is an important question I know, and many of you have your own doubts and you would like to put questions, but you can resort to some other method to elicit information. But on this call attention the system has been that only those who call the attention of the Minister are called. Therefore, there is no use shouting now. Please adopt some other method for eliciting this information.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We can ask for information.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Banerjee always rises on a point of order or point of information, it is both. I know you have a point of order or something, but I will not allow the Minister to answer. I would request only Mr. Panigrahi, the person who has called attention, to put the question.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Before that, I may submit that this is a matter of grave concern to this House, all the members are interested in this. Therefore, please allow three or four other supplementaries of others.

Mr. Speaker: What are you talking? You need not assist others. If you want to put a question, you put. You need not speak for the House. It for is others to take care of themselves.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: I would like to know....

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether you want to know anything at all.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: . . . when this concession was granted to the Birlas, and whether, because there is shortage of electricity in Rajasthan, the demands of other factories who wanted this electricity were not met and preference was given to Birlas. As the Minister has tried his best, because of his guilty conscience, to explain in detail these things, I would like to know whether the hon. Minis-

ter would at least place before the House the agreement with Birlas so that we can know the information in detail and discuss it in the House, because the tiger has been caught in its own den now.

Dr. K. L. Rao: I would like to say that there is no agreement with Birlas. We have nothing to do with Birlas in this matter. There is no concession at all. I am sorry that in spite of my explanation and the whole statement he has raised the question of concession or agreement. All that we have done here is to waive the excise duty on the high speed diesel oil that is used. The amount of power that is produced can be taken by anybody if he pays 35 paise, there is no restriction on that. In fact, if other industrialists also come forward to pay 35 paise, we are prepared to give the power to everybody.

12.49 hrs.

#### RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त, (दिल्ली सदर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से प्रिविलेज मोशन का प्रस्ताव इस सदन के सम्मुख रखना चाहता हूँ। आपकी मार्गदर्शक है कि देश में पिछले 6 महीनों से गोवंश की हत्या का अनुमान बन्द हो—यह आन्दोलन चल रहा है और केवल दिल्ली में ही लगभग 25 हजार आदमी गिरफ्तार हो चुके हैं, इन के अलावा कई दर्जन लोग शहीद भी हो चुके हैं, सरकार की शक्तियों से और सरकार की कानूनी शक्तियों में। अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह आन्दोलन अब भी चल रहा है और 7 नवम्बर को जो आन्दोलन हुआ, वह वो हुआ ही लेकिन उसके साथ साथ 7 नवम्बर के काब में एक और गठ की हत्या हो गई—यह वे भीमरत बुलचारी लाल नन्दा की।