

श्री जांबुवंत घोटे : आप तो कांग्रेस के साथ हैं, यू.पी० में भी कांग्रेस के साथ थे...

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

श्री जांबुवंत घोटे : आप भी बोलना बन्द करिए।

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

समापति 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. RAGHU-RAMIAH) : 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 the 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.

The *per capita* consumption of steel in India is only 11 kg. whereas in Africa it is 27 kg. and in Japan it is 914 kg. In other words our country is primitive in the consumption of steel and probably it is one of the lowest in the world. With nearly 20 years of background in the public sector and nearly 70 years in the private sector we could easily have done much better than this. In late thirties we had the private sector plants. Our steel was the cheapest and we could export steel. We are today exporting to several countries. Iron ore and ferro-manganese—the raw materials required for steel production. The hon. Minister should give us an idea as to what SAIL is up to and whether it is a super bureaucracy. HSL itself was considered a bureaucracy incapable of delivering the goods. Now we have a second layer of bureaucracy namely SAIL. The gentleman, who is in-charge of SAIL, is a colleague of the ex-Minister and his background I believe, is in Tomco. Perhaps he has no experience or knowledge of operating steel plants.

In this country we change too often the personnel in-charge of steel plants. Even the personnel which is trained for specific jobs, after 10 years of experience is changed. They do not continue to stay on. They are shifted to some other position. In industry at least 20 years of experience continuously is necessary before a man really becomes useful for management of that industry. This is one of the important areas in which we want an assurance. For example, in four years, we changed general managers four times in Rourkela. This would not have happened in any other part of the world. It could happen only in India.

I request the hon. Minister to consider these matters and give me a reply.

SHRI ANNASHEB GOTKHINDE (Sangli) : There is virtually a paradoxical situation that in the midst of plenty we are experiencing scarcity in this particular item in the country. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that nearly 3 lakh ton-

nes of stocks are lying idle in various steel plants and that the small-scale steel-re-rolling mills industry in the country and, specially, in Maharashtra is facing acute shortage of these raw materials. I want to know whether the sale orders issued in favour of these mills are not being executed for years together. On the one hand, we see that the stocks are lying idle there and on the other hand, the ancillary industry of this particular industry is facing acute shortage of these raw materials. May I know from the Government how the situation is going to be improved, how the small-scale industry is going to be helped by the new procedure and what steps are being taken in this direction?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : सभापति जी, यह चिन्ता की बात है कि हमारे देश में इस्पात के उत्पादन की कमी है, इस्पात का जितना उत्पादन हम चाहते हैं वह नहीं होता है। इसी बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ। यह कहा गया है कि बिजली संकट उसका एक कारण है, दूसरा कारण है गो-स्तो या काम धीमे करो या रेलों में हड़ताल हो जाती है वह इसका कारण है। तो बिजली की कमी को देखते हुए और साथ ही जिन इलाकों में ये इस्पात के कारखाने हैं उन इलाकों में कोयले के भण्डार की बहुलता को देखते हुए क्या सरकार उस इलाके में और ज्यादा थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाने का विचार रखती है ताकि बिजली की कमी जो बताई जा रही है उसकी पूर्ति की जा सके ?

दूसरे—मजदूर असंतुष्ट हैं इसकी वजह से काम धीमा होता है या कहीं-कहीं औद्योगिक सम्बन्ध बिगड़ जाते हैं, हड़ताल हो जाती है, तरह-तरह की रुकावट की बातें हो जाती हैं लेकिन क्या यह बात सच है कि खास तौर से पिछले लगभग एक डेढ़ साल से अनाज की कमी के कारण

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

मजदूरों का बहुत-सा समय इधर-उधर अनाज खोजने में लग जाता है क्योंकि सरकार की तरफ से अनाज देने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है—यदि यह बात सच है तो क्या सरकार इस्पात कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के लिए सरकार की तरफ से सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानें खोलने की व्यवस्था करेगी ताकि वे लोग निश्चिन्त होकर उत्पादन का काम कर सकें ?

तीसरे—क्या यह बात सच है कि टिस्को जो टाटा के हाथ में है उसमें जो पूजी लगी हुई है वह ज्यादातर पब्लिक फाइनेशियल इन्स्टीट्यूशन्स—एल०आई०सी वगैरह की है ? यदि यह बात सच है कि ज्यादा हिस्सा उनका है तो फिर टिस्को को टाटा के हाथ में रखने का क्या औचित्य है ? सरकार उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण करने में क्यों हिचक रही है ? इस्पात के सकट को दखते हुए क्या सरकार टिस्को को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहती है ? यदि नहीं, तो क्यों ?

साथ ही क्या यह बात सच है कि जो कारण आपने बताए हैं उनके अलावा एक कारण यह भी है कि आपके बड़े-बड़े नौकरशाह, ऊपर से लेकर नीचे तक जो हैं उनकी मिली भगत प्राइवेट सैक्टर के साथ है जिसकी वजह से वे उत्पादन में मँबटाज करने की कोशिश करते हैं ? यदि इस बात में कुछ भी सत्यता है तो इसको रोकने के लिए आपने कौन-सी कार्यवाही की है ?

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, steel is one of the basic materials for the development of the country, not only for industrial development but also for agricultural development. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the definite steps he has taken or is going to take to utilise the full capacity of the steel plants ? Secondly, I want to know whether they have made any survey to exploit the iron ore lying in areas unexplored hitherto. Thirdly, for running the steel plants to full capa-

city, power is necessary; but power is with some other Ministry. May I, therefore, know whether any close coordination is being undertaken for having fully supply of power for production of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief in my answers because I have only ten minutes.

Mr. Biswanarayan Shastri wanted to know whether there was any coordination between the Minister of Power and Ministry of Steel and Mines. I say, 'Yes'. We are coordinating with each other not only through the Ministerial heads, but we have also inter-Ministerial Committees and they are constantly trying to sort out the problems which are coming in our way so far as increase in power generation and further cooperation and coordination between the Ministries are concerned. And I hope that, within a very short time, this process of coordination, collaboration and cooperation between the Ministries, between each one of us, will result in increased production.

Mr Biswanarayan Shastri also raised the question of exploration of more iron ore. We have enough deposits of iron ore in our known reserves. There is a programme of exploration, surveys are going on; and there is a constant effort to increase our known reserves so far as iron ore is concerned. We are satisfactorily placed so far as known reserves of iron ore are concerned.

रामावतार शास्त्री जी ने तीन चार सवाल उठाए। एक तो कोल वेल्ड एगियाज में थर्मल पावर स्टेशन बनाने के मिलसिले में उन्होंने बात कही। बात सही है और मैं उनसे इत्फाक करता हूँ कि कोयले के क्षेत्र में जहाँ कहीं सम्भव है कोल के ऊपर आधारित बिजली से कारखाने हमें लगाने चाहिए। गवर्नमेंट इस बात पर बहुत तेजी से विचार कर रही है और भंग ख्याल है फिफथ फाइव ईयर प्लान में कोल के ऊपर आधारित थर्मल पावर स्टेशन को सगठित

करेंगे। खास तौर से केन्द्र का और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स का इसमें आपस में समझौता हो, सहकार हो, कोऑर्डिनेशन और को-ऑपरेशन हो, इस प्रश्न पर भी हम बहुत तेजी से गौर कर रहे हैं।

सस्ते गल्ले की दूकानें खोलने का बहुत ही जरूरी कार्यक्रम गवर्नमेंट के सामने है। मैंने जैसे ही इस मिनिस्ट्री का काम सम्माला, मैंने तुरन्त बिहार गवर्नमेंट से लिखा-पढ़ी शुरू की है और मुझे आशा है कुछ हफ्तों में किसी फैसले पर आयोग कि किस प्रकार से उन तमाम काम करने वालों को, जो कोल खदानों या लोहे के कारखानों में हैं गल्ला, दवाई वगैरह की सुविधाएं दे सकें।

व्यूरोक्रेसी के बारे में मैं शास्त्री जी से इत्-फाक नहीं करता, जैसा मैं अभी कहूंगा मान-नीय देसाई द्वारा उठाए गए सवालों के बारे में।

जहाँ तक टिस्को की लागत का सवाल है वह पब्लिक इन्स्टीट्यूशन्स से ही पैसा लेकर के काम चलाते हैं। बात सही है। जितने भी बड़े-बड़े उद्योग धन्धे हैं उनको सहारा तो देना ही पड़ता है, अन्ततोगत्वा पूंजी का स्रोत तो सरकार ही है, पब्लिक फ़ाइनेंशियल इन्स्टीट्यूशन्स ही हैं। और जब तक हमारी फिक्स्ड इकोनोमी है वह आगे भी बढ़ती जाएगी फिर भी प्राइवेट सैक्टर को सरकारी इन्स्टीट्यूशन्स पर आधारित तो रहना ही पड़ेगा। तो जो हमारी आगे बढ़ने वाली पालिसी है उसका कहीं खंडन नहीं है। लेकिन हमको बराबर ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि जो भी प्राइवेट सैक्टर के उद्योग-धन्धे हैं वह जो कर्ज लेते हैं, जो सूद उनको देना होता है वह वक्त पर अदा करते जाएं ताकि उन का काम भी आगे चलता रहे अच्छी तरह से।

I now come to the points raised by Shri D. D. Desai. These points have already been elaborated and answers given in reply to an unstarred question which perhaps formed the basis of the debate that has been raised now by Mr. Desai.

It is indeed a fact that the Steel Authority of India under the Ministry of Steel and Mines have projected a figure of production which is lower than what it was in 1972-73. It is also a fact that the Steel Authority of India have put the production target for saleable steel at only 5.19 million tonnes in 1974-75 and this target is lower than the target of 1973-74. It is also a fact that in the year 1966-67, if I may correct him, the production was to the tune of 4.838 million tonnes. But let me now come and try to explain it.

Since then IISCO production has gone down is almost completed falling down, but the production of the public sector units of Bhilai and other units has shown a tendency to increase and even in those years they were showing a higher production than what the private sector units were showing. If you relate the annual production year by year to the financial investment that the Government is making, that will not be a correct way of evaluating the performance. These are long term investments. Out of a total outlay of— I am only giving an illustration—Rs. 184.22 crores in 1973-74 as much as Rs. 106 crores went to Bokaro which is a long-term plan to build up our production targets and Rs. 21.4 crores are for Bhilai expansion and some of the associated schemes. Now, all these investments of Rs. 106 crores and Rs. 21 crores and in total, a substantial investment of Rs. 184 crores should not be linked with the annual growth of production. But the result of these investments will be reflected sometime in the second or the third year of the Fifth Plan. In the year 1974-75 out of the proposed outlay of about Rs. 276 crores, the bulk of the allocation will again be for Bokaro expansion which is Rs. 119.64 crores. For Bhilai expansion it is Rs. 6 crores. For the three Southern plants also the present outlay is of Rs. 7 crores only; we propose to increase that. All these investments in major schemes have necessarily to be linked up with long gestation period. Slower production or fall in production in the last few years is indeed a fact. The reasons have also been stated. These reasons are not an excuse to hide the inefficiency of the

Department or the Ministry or certain officers. These are hard facts. It is a fact that there is power shortage; it is a fact that there is labour trouble.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: May I just intervene to correct or to provide some figures? Tata Iron and Steel Plant has been consistently running for the past four years at 80 per cent of its installed capacity and IISCO also was operating at 70 per cent in 1969-70 but it has slid down to 43.1 per cent in 1972-73.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am not referring to that. What Mr. Desai said is not only incorrect but it is not a fully correct picture. Production of saleable steel from the five main steel plants was the maximum in 1966-67. In 1966-67 the total production was 4.84 million tonnes of which the contribution of the three public sector steel plants was 2.561 million tonnes. The contribution of TISCO was 1.57 million tonnes and of IISCO 0.7 million tonnes. Recently that 0.7 million tonnes is falling down. While it is noteworthy that in 1972-73, though the production of IISCO went down the total production from all the plants was as high as 4.79 million tonnes principally because the public sector steel plants produced an all-time high of 2.99 million tonnes of saleable steel.

In the years 1973-74 indeed production has been badly affected because of the reasons which were enumerated in answer to the Unstarred Question. These hard fact and now we are trying our best within ourselves and with the Railway Ministry, to remove those bottlenecks. It is no use my enumerating all those steps that we propose to take. We are actively considering how best to normalise the relationship between the trade union workers and the departments concerned in Steel and Railway Ministries and also with regard to the normal relations between the leaders of the trade union movement who are constantly trying to build a certain situation which sometimes is not very healthy for us.

Now, I seek the cooperation of the Members of this House also to improve those relations. If those relations are not improved, if the situation does not normalise and if the present tensions will remain as they were for some time back, then it would be difficult for us to work in order to register a high rate of increase in the production of steel.

18.00 HRS.

There is only one point. This was raised by either Shri Ramavtar Shastri or some other hon. Member. That was with regard to the piling up of finished goods in the steel plants. I say that it is a fact that several lakhs of tonnes of finished steel—about 3.61 lakhs tonnes of finished steel—is lying in steel plants. But, the difficulty, as I have said, is in regard to the movement. Recently we have improved this situation. We hope that it will improve further. The difficulties which are being faced by the industries in Maharashtra or any other part of the country are genuine; we are trying to remove those difficulties and we hope that, in the next few weeks, the situation will further improve. Of course, it may not very much improve within the next few weeks but, I hope that, in the next few weeks, the situation will register an improvement which will satisfy normally my hon. friends who raised this point.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: In Bokaro, there has been some tendency to dilute or postpone or phase out scheduled programmes of the Steel Plant. About that what is the plan that the Minister has in mind?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We are taking all necessary care to see that the tempo of production and the progress that we have set at Bokaro is not diluted or diffused in any manner. The difficulties that we are facing are being solved. Those difficulties are on account of several issues that have come up before us. Unless we solve those difficulties, those issues

are likely to be faced by us for some more time. I do not, on my part, wish to raise any optimistic hopes that tomorrow we are going to solve them. That is going to take a little more time. That is because of certain elements not cooperating in this highly skilled area. They are not cooperating in any manner. Cooperation, of course, is forthcoming from the INTUC as well as from the AITUC. Among the general sections of the people, there are some who have got to be satisfied. It will be our endeavour that we would satisfy them within the framework of our policy. There are certain elements who, perhaps, may not be able to cooperate with us. The other day we said that anti-social elements had to be taken care of. We would wait for that very patiently. We hope that our efforts would bear fruit. But, somehow or other, we are not able

to succeed in persuading them. We shall see to it that our programme of production does not get disturbed in any manner.

I hope that in the near future improvements will be registered in all these matters; railway transportation will also improve; the functioning in coal-mines will improve and the relationship between ourselves and the workers will improve.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

18.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 28, 1974/Phalguna 9, 1895 (Saka).