

13.28 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
NINETEENTH REPORT

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chattrapur): Sir, I beg to present the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Petitions.

CORRECTION OF ANSWERS TO
S.Q. NO. 332 DATED THE 14TH
MARCH, 1973 RE SETTING UP OF
INDUSTRIES IN BIHAR IN PUBLIC
SECTOR—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): I beg to lay on the Table a further statement giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply *vide* statement made on the 1st August 1974 on Starred Question No. 332 dated the 14th March, 1973 by Shri Ishwar Chaudhary regarding setting up of industries in Bihar in Public Sector

Statement

The Starred question No. 332, which was fixed for reply in the Lok Sabha on 14-3-73, sought information on the point as to whether the Government proposed to set up new factories in the public sector in Bihar during 1973-74 and if so the broad outlines thereof.

The question related to all new factories in the public sector and was not limited to the factories to be set up under the administrative control of the Ministry of Industrial Development. It was, therefore, necessary to collect information relating to this question from the other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India also. The requisite information was not received from all the Ministries or Departments in time. However, the material furnished, by the Planning Commission revealed that there was no proposal to set up new factories in the Public Sector in Bihar during 1973-74.

On the basis of the information available in the Ministry of Industrial Development and that furnished by the Planning Commission, the question was answered on the due date of the 14th March, 1973 to the effect that there was no proposal of setting up new factories in the public sector in Bihar in the year 1973-74.

Subsequently, information was received from the Department of Food in August 1973 that two rice mills were proposed to be set up by the Food Corporation of India at Chanpatia and Purnea in Bihar. The Department was requested to clarify whether the two rice mills were expected to come up in 1973-74. It was clarified by the Department of Food in November 1973 that the mill at Chanpatia had already been commissioned in August 1973 while the other mill at Purnea was also expected to come up in the year 1973-74, itself. On receiving this information, it appeared necessary to correct the answer given earlier to the Lok Sabha question. However, as even by that time information relating to the question had not been received from all the Ministries, it was felt that the necessary correction should be made only after the replies were received from all the Ministries and the possibility of further correction, being necessary could be ruled out. The matter was pursued with other Ministries and the final reply from the Ministry of Heavy Industry was received on 29-3-74.

Before taking steps to correct the earlier reply given to the Lok Sabha question, the latest position of the establishment of two rice mills at Chanpatia and Purnea was again checked from the Department of Food. It was intimated by that Department on the 22nd May, 1974 that the mill at Purnea, which was earlier expected to come up in 1973-74, was likely to be completed by July 1974.

The amendments to the answer given earlier to the question were then finalised and sent to the Lok Sabha

Secretariat on the 9th June, 1974. The Lok Sabha Secretariat advised on the 16th July, 1974, that since the correction required to be made in the earlier answer was of a substantial character, a statement should be made in the House. Accordingly a statement correcting the answer given to the Starred question No. 332 on the 14th March, 1973, was laid on the table of the House on the 1st August, 1974.

13.30 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1974-75

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir, I beg to present... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Yesterday you said, Sir, that they may have second thoughts and make a statement today. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday when this question came I said that they may have second thoughts. But I have not fixed any time. I said that he may come out with something. But I have expressly made it clear that I am not fixing any order.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Your observation was very categorical.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You said that they will take note of it and that they will have second thoughts. It is in the proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not fix any time. I was careful enough to say that I do not fix any time limit. But I did say that they may have second thoughts.

SHRI P. K. DEO: Sir, we cannot allow him to present the budget until he makes that statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: For the last three days I have been exercising my throat very much and it has gone hoarse.

At the same time, I am not super-human to hear two or three people when they speak simultaneously. Unless all of you sit down and one member speaks, I cannot hear any of you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We have some points of order to raise.

MR. SPEAKER: On what?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: On the list of business.

Sir, after yesterday's proceedings in the course of which you had made certain weighty observations, all of us on this side of the House were expecting that, when we receive the List of Business for today, this morning, we would find in it somewhere—I am not saying it must be at a particular point in the List of Business—in these four pages an item, namely, that the Railway Minister would be making a statement on the question of review of cases of railwaymen which has been agitating the House for the last two days.

Yesterday, you had asked them to take note of the very strong feelings expressed here, to take time, to have second-thought; and make another statement. But we are surprised to find that there is nothing at all mentioned about the statement anywhere in the List of Business for today.

In the meantime, we find a very strange thing because this is making the issue worse confounded. Can the Government speak on this issue with two voices? The whole thing arises out of the statement which was made yesterday by the Railway Minister. You will remember that you asked for papers, you yourself read them and you satisfied yourself. The final part of the statement of the Railway Minister was that he assured the President that individual cases would be looked into sympathetically. This is what he said.