

searched by the Customs Staff and Indian Currency worth Rs. 55,000 was seized. This money has been taken over by the Income Tax authorities. The investigations are in progress.

12.03 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED STOPPAGE OF PRODUCTION AT BOKARO STEEL PLANT OWING TO EMPLOYEES' STRIKE**

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur):** Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Steel and Mines to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported total stoppage of production at Bokaro Steel Plant as a result of strike in the plant."

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA):** During October, 1973 the Bokaro Pragati Sheel Karamchari Sanghatan—a registered unrecognised trade Union, the Central Works Committee—an unregistered Association of Operation Employees, the Bokaro Ispat Kamgar Union and the Bokaro Operative Association served separate charter of demands-cum-strike notices to the Management of Bokaro. Broadly their demands were similar and *inter alia* included payment of production bonus, annual bonus, incentive bonus and profit bonus; absorption of all construction workers in operation departments on the basis of seniority without any interview, promotion of workers on the basis of seniority without any written test|trade test, filling of all vacant posts by Departmental promotions, abolition of system of writing confidential reports, allotment of quarters to all workers or payment of house rent allowance in lieu thereof, provision of mid-day meal for employees' children in the school; free education up to matric standard; supply of free uniform to the school going children; and payment of height, heat and dust allowance.

On receipt of the charters of demands, the Management of Bokaro Steel Ltd., sought intervention of the State Labour Machinery. The latter started negotiations with the representatives of Bokaro Pragati-sheel Karamchari Sanghatan. While negotiations were still in progress, the Pragati-sheel Karamchari Sanghatan went on strike from November 6, 1973. Efforts were also made to reach at an amicable settlement with the Central Works Committee. The Labour Minister, Government of Bihar, accompanied with senior officers of the State Government visited Bokaro Steel City on November 6, 1973 with a view to resolve the outstanding disputes. On a suggestion from the State Government, the Bokaro Management even agreed to abide by the advice of the State Labour Minister regarding disputes/grievances raised by different unions and Associations. However, hope was expressed that the State Government would keep in view the Memorandum of Agreement of Joint Wage Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry as also the fringe benefits and the terms and conditions of employment prevalent at other public sector steel plants.

Notwithstanding the categorical assurance by the Management of the Bokaro Steel Plant, the Central Works Committee, the Operatives Association and the Bokaro Ispat Kamgar Union joined the strike on November 8, 1973. These Associations also constituted a Joint Action Committee which gave a fresh charter of 27 demands for the consideration of the Management. The more important demands were statutory bonus to all employees, allotment of full quarters to each employee or payment of house rent allowance in lieu thereof, introduction of liberalised reward scheme for construction as well as operation workers, free transport facilities or payment of conveyance subsidy at the rate of Rs. 20 per month, free diet in hospital to employees drawing salary less than Rs. 500 per month and filling of higher posts in operation|construction Deptt. from amongst the employees of Bokaro Steel Ltd.

The strike was declared illegal by the State Government.

Due to the strike the Blast Furnace at Bokaro was blanked and there is no production of pig iron from November 8, 1973. This has resulted in a production loss of about 1950 tonnes per day—which was the average daily production during October 1973—valued at about Rs. 10.90 lakhs. However, the vital units like the cokeoven batteries, the Thermal Power Plant, the Pump House etc., are being operated by Officers. The Management has also taken all possible precautions to safeguard Company's property.

I am glad to inform the House that the strike has been called off on the night of November 15-16 at the intervention of the Labour Minister of Bihar. We hope that the Plant would resume the normal operations in a day or two.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the canvas of the Calling Attention Notice is wider than what appears superficially. No doubt, the motion basically and directly concerns the stoppage of production as a result of the strike that had taken place, which has not been settled but only called off pending further discussions and negotiations. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister certain important aspects which are closely connected with the strike and the demands that have been made by the strikers. The demands, amongst others, are mainly 8.5 per cent bonus, availability of essential commodities and city house rent allowance. Besides so many other demands that have been pressed for, these are some of the demands which have certain financial implications. These demands are linked up with the state of efficiency of the Bokaro steel plant. As has been pointed out by the officials on behalf of the management, on account of inadequate resources all the demands cannot be conceded. If the financial position of the Steel Plant is not one which can warrant adequate resources, then even the problem of operational efficiency of the Plant becomes very important.

In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the operational efficiency of the Bokaro Steel Plant has suffered because of (i) bad management, (ii) wrong construction priori-

ties; (iii) unusually long scheduled and (iv) total failure on the part of construction contractors, all this resulting in steep rise in capital costs.

I would also like to know from him whether because of all these factors it is not doubtful whether flats from Bokaro Plant will roll out in 1974. I want to know whether there will be any difficulty in that.

Again, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that though the detailed project reports submitted by the Dastur and Company were hailed by Soviet experts, no progress was made and now Bokaro is to be built on a turn-key basis by Soviet Russia. The agreement practically specifies that India will take over whatever U.S.S.R. offers.

Dr. Dastur visited China in 1959. This is one country in which the steel plants have worked very effectively and provided infra-structure. On return, he had prepared a feasibility report for Bokaro and made certain suggestions. But the tragedy is that the bureaucrats came in the way of effective implementation of some of the important aspects of the report. Firstly, they took lot of time. After unending bureaucratic delays, the report was discussed with the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and only after 1½ years, the H.S.L. could be persuaded to entrust the detailed project report to Dastur & Co.

The proposal to bring Bokaro under the control of the Hindustan Steel Ltd. also had created certain controversies. I am glad that, initially, the Government took a firm decision that they would not like the entire plant to be handed over to the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and one of the main argument put forward was that there must be healthy competition between the public sector steel plants because that alone can be an incentive to see that operational efficiency improves. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that position stands and they will not alter their stand.

There are two more aspects on which I would like to seek a clarification. If

[Shri Madhu Dandavate]

Bokaro goes on mounting losses at the rate at which the losses are being incurred, what will be the general effect. The steel prices and high cost will be reflected in the machinery and engineering goods manufactures. In that case, there will be two possibilities, that is, either the engineering goods and machinery exports will have to be subsidised or the devaluation of the currency will have to take place. In either of the two processes, there will be a great danger to our national economy and the infra-structure of our country will also suffer.

As regards the agreement that has been arrived at, I would like to point out to you one discrepancy and I would like to know whether that discrepancy will be removed in the interest of the operational efficiency. The Bokaro agreement reveals that credit extended in rubles whole value, as also that of the rupee, is defined in terms of gold content. The payment for the Detailed Project Report is to be in accordance with the Indo-Soviet trade agreement in force while the payments for the working drawings and equipment imported are to be in accordance with the credit agreement for Bokaro.

I would like to know why this differential treatment in regard to payment as between the D.P.R. on one hand and working drawings and equipment on the other.

I would like to ask: Would not a purely indigenous effort have been less costly and also less time-consuming? That is the thing we must investigate.

Is there discontent among those *kisans* whose lands have been acquired? They have not been given adequate compensation. We know that, as a result of that, a lot of tensions are created there. As far as workers are concerned, probably, there are no tensions. But I want to know from the hon. Minister whether some regional tensions do exist as far as higher strata of officials are concerned, whether they are creating a certain embarrassment and, as a result of that, whether the operational efficiency is suffering.

Are there any difficulties in the adequate and timely supply of indigenous raw materials like iron ore, coal and lime-stone.

In the end, I would like to know specifically, though friendly relations with Soviet Russia are built up, shall we give independent direction, shall we maintain our initiative and shall we refuse to become the satellite of any super-power, including that of Soviet Russia, in economic matters?

I would like the hon. Minister to give replies as a Minister in-charge of this Ministry which has to work, in these matters, in an independent atmosphere. We must be the boss of our own economic affairs. A sovereign country like India must be able to manage its own affairs without interference. While asking this question, I am reminded of an interesting anecdote. One person was asked, 'Are you the boss of your own house?', and he said, 'I am the complete boss of my own house and am announcing this after taking permission from my wife'. I hope, you are not the boss of your economic affairs in that particular sense; I hope you are a true boss of your economic affairs with independent judgment and independent direction. In spite of whatever agreements we have arrived at with Soviet Russia, I hope, our independent character, independent judgment, for enhancing the operational efficiency will be maintained.

I hope the Minister will give specific answers to my questions.

**SHRI SUBODH HANSDA:** The hon. Member has raised a number of points which have nothing to do with the strike; although they were regarding the construction of the project as well as the production that is now going on, they have nothing to do with the strike. I can give an assurance that, although production has suffered very recently because of the strike—as I have mentioned, production has suffered a loss to the extent of Rs. 10.90 lakhs daily,—this is a temporary feature. Even then we are trying to maintain the production figure which was in the month of October, about 60,342 tonnes on an

average, which is 1,947 tonnes per day. I do not think there should be any apprehension on the part of the hon. Member that this project will suffer.

Regarding the construction of this project, we are trying our best to keep to the time schedule.

Regarding bonus, etc., which he has mentioned, as I have already said, the strike has been called off; certain agreements have been reached; the agreement has been reached on ten points; I cannot give the details of all these; however, a ten-point agreement has been reached with the workers and the workers have withdrawn the strike.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Before putting my questions on the strike, I would like to deal with some of the observations made by Prof. Madhu Dandavate, for whom I have a great respect, regarding the functioning of Bokaro Steel Plant. This is exactly how certain forces started a campaign against the Bhilai Steel Plant before it came into existence. I know that Bokaro will prosper despite all criticism against it, against the Government of India for being interested in having a Soviet plant. We have seen that, out of the three plants, Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur, the plant which is the most successful and where our technicians have learnt something is Bhilai, and I must congratulate the Soviet Union for giving us exactly what we wanted, and Bokaro is bound to prosper despite all criticism.

I am happy, the strike has been withdrawn. I must congratulate the hon. Minister, Shri T. A. Pai, and last but not least my hon. friend, Shrimati Ram Dulari Sinha, the Minister for Labour in Bihar, for this. She took pains, she went twice there to settle the matter and the matter has been settled. But there are certain demands which have not been mentioned here. One of them was that the workers and their unions wanted foodgrains at reasonable prices and that it should be made available to them. In the Bokaro township, there was a time when the Managing Director had to come all the

way to Delhi to request the Food Ministry to supply some foodgrains for Bokaro, specially. We should try our utmost and see that at least the workers who are busy in productive activity should not go and stand in the queue for foodgrains, especially in such a vital project.

The second thing is about the bonus. The Government should take a decision now that if they can possibly relax the rules or bring in some amendments that without completion of the sixth year nobody is entitled to bonus in the public sector. I would request that this matter be taken up with the Labour Minister or the Cabinet and some concessions are given also to those workers who have put in six years but are engaged in vital production.

With regard to the question of transport facilities, transport facilities are provided in all public undertakings. For example, in Bangalore, HAL, BEL, BEML, etc. provide transport to their workers. I think these are the necessities of life and these should be provided.

Lastly, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly let me know as to in future what is going to be the machinery for conciliation, whether any machinery has been formed whether there are recognised unions or registered unions or even unregistered unions. Some unions may be recognised unions but may not be able to deliver the goods. We want some sort of a machinery like the JCM—Joint Consultative Machinery, where people are duly elected by the workers and this body should negotiate in future to avoid such recurring troubles. I would like to know whether the Minister is thinking over this problem and whether he would in consultation with the Labour Minister of Bihar evolve some machinery by which further confrontation with the Labour of such a vital sector is avoided. As far as the AITUC—the All India Trade Union Congress is concerned, I would assure all co-operation in getting that sort of a machinery which may solve the problems in future.

**SHRI SUBODH HANSDA:** The hon. Member has raised the question regarding bonus. Of course, the question of bonus will be taken up with the Labour Minister and I cannot just now say what can be done in this regard.

Regarding the food problem, the demand was not regarding food. The demand was for mid-day meals for employees' school-going children. Now, all these things have been taken up.

About transport facilities, this also has been taken up and this is one of the agreements which have been reached in the last sitting within that ten-point agreement.

Regarding the other points he has said, I have taken note of them and certainly, we will look into all those things.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I wanted to know whether they are thinking of setting up some machinery like the Joint Consultative Machinery.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** He has taken note of that.

श्री मुख्तियार सिंह भलिक (रोहतक) अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज कल देश में स्ट्राइक्स वगैरह का बड़ा दौर चल रहा है। इस से बड़ा नेशनल लास होता है और नेशनल प्रायर्टी को भी बड़ा नुकसान होता है।

यह देखा गया है कि पब्लिक ग्रंथरटेकिंग में मैनेजमेंट अपने लेबर की डिमांडज के बारे में फौजला करने में बहुत देर लगाता है और लेबर के प्रति उसकी नान-सेन्सिबलनेस की पालिसी सारे काम को बिगाड़ देती है। जब बोकारो स्टील प्लांट में लेबर की तरफ से डिमांडज पेश की गई, तो उनको रद्दी की टोकरी में फेंक दिया गया। उसके बाद जब लेबर ने स्ट्राइक्स नोटिस दिया, तो मैनेजमेंट या बिहार गवर्नमेंट के लेबर डिपार्टमेंट ने उन पर क्या एक्शन लिया, यह पता नहीं है। प्राइवेट सेक्टर का जहाँ तक तालुक है, लेबर डिपार्टमेंट

वाले मैनेजमेंट के साथ मिले रहते हैं, उसमें बहुत करप्शन होता है, और लेबर की डिमांडज को मीट करने के कोशिश नहीं की जाती है।

मंत्री महोदय ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में बताया है कि बोकारो स्टील प्लांट की स्ट्राइक के बारे में बिहार के लेबर डिपार्टमेंट की हैल्प सोक की गई। लेकिन सवाल यह है कि बोर्ड ग्राफ डायरेक्टरज ने, जिसमें फिनांस मिनिस्ट्री के जायंट सेक्रेटरी, स्टील मिनिस्ट्री के प्रतिनिधि और बिहार के चीफ सेक्रेटरी हैं, लेबर की डिमांडज को मीट करने के लिये अपनी तरफ से क्या कोशिश की। उन्होंने उसकी तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया।

इस हाउस की पब्लिक ग्रंथरटेकिंग कमेटी ने बोकारो स्टील प्लांट के बारे में कई बातों की तरफ ध्यान दिलाया है। उसने मैनेजमेंट को भी क्रिटिसिज किया है और कहा है कि बोर्ड में नान-ग्राफिशल मेम्बर एफिशेंट नहीं हैं और उनका एपायटमेंट या नामीनेशन ठीक नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट ने पब्लिक ग्रंथरटेकिंग कमेटी की उस रिपोर्ट पर कोई ध्यान दिया है या नहीं; अगर दिया है, तो क्या उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन हुआ या है नहीं।

इस स्ट्राइक की वजह से बड़ा जबर्दस्त लास हुआ है, जो करोड़ों रुपयों तक पहुँच जाता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से गुजारिश करूँगा कि वह वर्क-ग्राउंट करके बतायें कि कुल कितना लास हुआ है। बोर्ड ग्राफ मैनेजमेंट ने बताया कि लेबर की डिमांडज को मीट करने के लिये उसके पास सफिशेंट रीसोर्सिज नहीं थे, पैसा नहीं था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि लेबर की स्ट्राइक की वजह से जो लास हुआ है, उसमें और लेबर की डिमांडज को मीट करने के लिये जितनी रकम की जरूरत थी, उसमें क्या कमरेजिन है।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि दस बारह दिन के बाद जब यह स्ट्राइक काल ग्राफ हुई, उस वक्त क्या हालात थे और क्या वे

हानात उससे पहले वहां पर एक्सिस्ट नहीं करते थे। गवर्नमेंट या मैनेजमेंट की पालिसी यह रहती है कि जब कोई स्ट्राइक नोटिस दिया जाता है, तो स्ट्राइक को इल्लिगल करार दे दिया जाता है, जैसा कि इस मामले में किया गया है, और स्ट्राइक को रिप्रेशन से दवाने की कोशिश की जाती है। और जब यह देखा जाता है कि रिप्रेशन से लेबर नहीं दबता है तो फिर नेगोसिएशन शुरू की जाती है। इस गलत पालिसी की वजह से बहुत जबरदस्त नुकसान होता है।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह ट्रबल कब आरिजिनेट हुई, कब चार्टर आफ डिमांड्स पेश किया गया और उसके बारे में बोर्ड आफ मैनेजमेंट या बिहार गवर्नमेंट का लेबर डिपार्टमेंट क्या करता रहा और क्या इसके बारे में लेबर के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ कोई मुफ्तो-शनीद चली या नहीं।

एक मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस के अंदर कोई पालिटिक्स तो प्ले नहीं हो रही थी? कोई पालिटिकल पार्टी क्या इसके पीछे थी या किन्हीं पालिटिकल आदमियों का इसके पीछे कोई हाथ था या नहीं था यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

एक चीज मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कामप्लेसेंसी आन दि पार्ट आफ बोर्ड आफ मैनेजमेंट तो इसके पीछे नहीं था? क्या इस की तहकीकात कराने के लिये आप तैयार हैं या नहीं? स्ट्राइक की वजह से करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान होता है तो क्या बोर्ड आफ मैनेजमेंट जो था वह उनकी डिमांड्स को मीट करने के लिये या उन पर विचार करने के लिये तैयार था या नहीं था या कोई कामप्लेसेंसी उनके पार्ट पर थी।

इन सारी चीजों के मुतालिक मंत्री महोदय जवाब देने का कष्ट करें।

**SHRI SUBODH HANSDA:** In the Bokaro steel plant, there is only one recognised union, namely the Bokaro Steel Workers Union. But apart from this, there are a dozen other registered unions and about two dozen unregistered unions as well as associations. The first charter of demands came on the 5th October, 1973 from the Bokaro Steel Operators Sanghatan. Their charter of demands contained 27 demands, but ultimately the number came down to nine demands.

The hon. Member had said that perhaps these demands had not been looked into by the management. But that is not true. All the demands were looked into by the management. But unfortunately, when the charter was submitted by the Bokaro Steel Operators Sanghatan, part of the workers agreed to the settlement made by the BSL but part of them had not reconciled themselves to that agreement and they had given a strike notice.

However, when the strike notice was given, the Labour Department of the Bihar Government had to conciliate between the workers and the management to settle all these disputes or grievances by negotiations. The Labour Minister herself with all the senior officers of the Labour Department of the Bihar State were at Bokaro on the 6th and 7th November, and tried to settle the whole dispute, and they urged the BSL management to agree to abide by the advice of the Labour Minister. And the BSL had also agreed to this suggestion. But BSL has expressed the hope that the State labour machinery will keep in view the existing agreement reached by the wage negotiation committee of the steel industry and the fringe benefits admissible to the HSL employees. This was necessary because it would have otherwise repercussions on other steel plants.

As a result of this intervention of the Labour Minister of Bihar, the Bokaro Steel Operators Sanghatan has agreed, but the others have not agreed and have resorted to strike. However, as I have already said, all these points were discussed, and we have reached a ten-point agreement, and the strike has been withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal. The hon. Member is absent. Then, Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan. He is also absent. So, we pass on to the next item.

12.35 hrs.

#### RE. MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I have tabled an adjournment motion about the firing in Dhanbad in which five coal-miners have been killed. I have given this adjournment motion because there has been firing by the Central Industrial Security Force which is under the Home Ministry; five lives have been lost already and three more are going to be lost because they have been seriously injured. I would request you to admit the adjournment motion or at least allow a call-attention on Monday.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने जम्मू काश्मीर की स्थिति के बारे में काम रोकने का प्रस्ताव दिया है। आपने समाचारपत्रों में पढ़ा होगा कि श्रीनगर में पाकिस्तान परस्त तत्व सक्रिय हो गए और उन्होंने जवाहरलाल नेहरू के नाम से एक कालेज नहीं बनने दिया। अब वे दूकानें लूट रहे हैं। लड़कियों की बेइज्जती कर रहे हैं। राज्य सरकार विफल रही है। नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि श्रीनगर में जो घटनाएं हो रही हैं उसकी प्रति क्रिया जम्मू में हो रही है, नौजवान बिगड़ रहे हैं। कल की खबर है कि उन्होंने जम्मू पठानकोट नेशनल हाइवे को रोकने की कोशिश की। ये मुट्ठी भर लोग जो पाकिस्तान के पक्षपाती हैं। अधिकांश काश्मीर की जनता भारत के साथ रहने का फैसला कर चुकी है लेकिन राज्य सरकार कमजोरी दिखा रही है और पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री खुलेंद्राम जम्मू काश्मीर की जनता को बगावत के लिये उभाड़ रहे हैं। हमारे विदेश मंत्री ने कल कहा कि हमें उनके रिमाक्स को इग्नोर कर देना चाहिये। मेरा कहना है कि मामला और बिगड़े और जम्मू में यह गम्भीर रूप धारण करे इसके पहले ही इस

स्थिति पर काबू पाना चाहिये और केन्द्र राज्य को कहे कि वह कठोरता के साथ उन तत्वों से निपटे जिनकी सहानुभूति पाकिस्तान के साथ है और जो मट्ठी भर हैं लेकिन गड़बड़ मचाकर लोगों को डराना और धमकाना चाहते हैं।

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN (Sivaganja): What about the adjournment motion on the firing on coal miners near Dhanbad?

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): I had given a notice under rule 377.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : 377 भी आप बीच में कहां से ला रहे हैं ?

श्री के. एस. चावडा : बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट सवाल है . . . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठें। मैंने एक कालिग एटेंशन को ले लिया है।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Then it is all right. I do not press my adjournment motion.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a call attention motion given notice of relating to firing by Jawans of the Central Industrial Security Force as a result of which five workers have been killed. I have already allowed it.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कोल माइज पर एडजर्नमेंट मोशन हमने भी दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका भी प्रा जायगा। मैंने देख लिया है। मैं आपकी मदद ही कर रहा हूँ। कालिग एटेंशन ही ठीक है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : जम्मू काश्मीर के बारे में बताइये।

MR. SPEAKER: I am told it is a State matter and we cannot admit it. But we do express our anxiety over it.

आपने जो कहा वह काफी मजबूत कहा।