

been misappropriation of lakhs of rupees in foreign currency. Documents of lockers of some banks in Delhi were found and these lockers were used to keep illegal money.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, do you have first-hand information or are you quoting news reports?

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, I have first-hand information as well as the 'Dainik Jagran' newspaper of U.P. which has published a report on this matter and a photograph showing a man being escorted by officials of the Enforcement Directorate.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, when you say you have first-hand information, you may continue.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now I am speaking in the Lok Sabha and senior officials of the Diesel Locomotive Works are now in the custody of Enforcement Directorate. As the matter concerns senior officials, the hon. Railway Minister should make a statement. There is a global tender firm. This firm gives contracts and supplies the materials and with these contracts to supply various items—Lakhs of dollars in foreign currency is misappropriated with such tenders.

Sir, may I know when the hon. Railway Minister will make a statement in this matter? The Government must explain the facts regarding corruption and bungling on such a large scale in this prestigious institution.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir.....(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

... (Interruptions)*.....

*Not recorded.

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[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, this is a very serious matter. Action should be taken immediately. This is a very big scandal that has happened in the eastern districts.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, as it is a very serious matter the hon. Railway Minister must make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, I am not asking the hon. Minister to make a statement. He shall certainly make a statement if he wants to do so. Now please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is reported that a section of Steel manufacturers of this country is putting pressure on the Government for the decontrol of Steel. I would like to state that in case Steel is decontrolled, the Small-Scale Industries will be badly affected; the construction industry will be badly affected and there will be an overall increase of prices. That is why I bring this matter to the notice of the Government. The Minister of Steel is present here. I would request him to specifically state that there will be no de-control of Steel in this country. A very serious situation will be created. Already, the prices have increased in respect of almost all items. This will very adversely affect the Small-Scale Industries and the employment opportunities also. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Steel, who is present here, to kindly react on this subject.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I wanted to raise it. But Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has raised it and I am happy about it. Sir, it

is a very important matter. I happen to know about it because I am the Chairman of the West Bengal Small-Scale Industries Corporation which arranges for supply of these materials to different Small-Scale Units. Not only in West Bengal, but in every State, there is a Small Industries Corporation which gets the supply from the Steel Authority of India Limited at a reasonable rate. And it is only a very small percentage which we have to cover our expenditure. We distribute these raw materials to the registered small scale units. There is complete monitoring by the SAIL authorities also. Now what will happen is there will be total decontrol due to this proposal. Therefore, the Small Industries Corporations (SICs) will not get any material from the Steel Authorities. And the only beneficiary will be the TISCO. They will be fixing their own rates

Now the small units cannot go to market and compete with the big units and purchase the iron and steel material or the pig iron for that matter. Even we are not able to meet the demands of the small scale units. The hon. Finance Minister is here; the Industry Minister is also here. Fifty per cent of the turn-over of the Small Industries Corporation is related to the iron and steel items. With this the small scale units will go out of circulation. The Small Industries Corporation which is performing a very good role in the matter and supporting the small scale units, they will also have to wind up. Therefore, I earnestly request the Government about this. This is a very serious matter. I do not know why he is sitting like a sphinx. The Industry Minister should respond. This is very very important. I am happy that Shri Bhakta has raised this matter. I am sure, all the sections of the House will join us. Whatever policy you adopt, what are you going to do with the small scale industries, tiny industries who need these iron and steel items and pig iron the most? I was going through closely this policy statement regarding the small scale industries and medium industries. Nothing

has been said about the availability of the raw materials. This is the difficulty of the small scale industries. There are two major difficulties—one is obtaining raw material and the second is marketing apart from finance. Therefore, these two aspects need to be looked after. Small scale industries provide the largest quantum of employment in the industrial sector. The exports from the small scale units are unit-wise, the highest in this country. Therefore, please do not kill these small scale units; do not make it difficult for them to function. I appeal to the Government, not only appeal but I demand from the Government that they should see that the small scale units do not suffer in the name of 'perestroika' here. Do not finish these units. I know, our Finance Minister has many dreams. But in your euphoria, do not kill these units in this country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek): With your permission, I want to raise the following matters.

One is about the circulation of spurious cylinders in the market by not destroying the same and putting them to use again in connivance with the oil company's representatives and ISI representatives.

Second is about the recovery of tariff plus penal amount realised in the Western region in places like Baroda and Bhopal-Baroda from the distributors by applying different yardsticks at two places which are in the Western region. It is not known why, by applying the same formula in the Northern region, the recovery is made good from the transporters. What action has been taken by the Government in this matter?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Sir, there is a proverb that says "bad man in bad company". The same is true of rising prices. On one hand the prices are rising and on