

Plan, including that of Cement Corporation of India Limited is still under consideration.

Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari-Trivendrum Railway Line

523. **Shri Muthiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engineering and traffic surveys for the new railway line from Tirunelveli to Kanyakumari and then to Trivandrum have been completed;

(b) whether the survey reports and estimates have been prepared;

(c) when Government will take a final decision in the matter; and

(d) whether the scheme will be implemented in the Fourth Plan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) Yes.

(b) The report and estimate are being finalised by the Southern Railway.

(c) and (d). A final decision can only be taken after the survey reports are received and examined by the Railway Board from all aspects. Proposals for new lines in the Fourth Plan are yet to be finalised in conjunction with the Planning Commission, and as such it is premature to say at this stage, whether this scheme will be implemented in the Fourth Plan.

Railway Services in Border Areas

524. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Railway Board recently paid a visit to the border areas, particularly those strategic areas which have been affected by the Pakistani hostilities;

(b) whether any scheme for augmenting the railway services in these areas has been chalked out; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) **RETRENCHMENT IN HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION, RANCHI**

Shri P. K. Ghosh (Ranchi East): I call the attention of the Minister of Industry and Supply to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Notices of retrenchment given to the civil engineers of the Construction Wing of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, with effect from the 1st November, 1965."

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): The construction work in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, has started tapering off and as a result, some of the staff on the civil Engineering side have become surplus. The total surplus as on the 1st June, 1965 was estimated as 147 persons of various categories. Complete details of the personnel who are likely to be rendered surplus in the Corporation, from time to time, have been forwarded to various public sector projects including the Bokaro steel project. Efforts are thus being made to find suitable alternative employment for as many of the surplus staff as possible. In the meantime, the Corporation have given 3 months notice of retrenchment to 4 Executive Engineers, from 1st November, 1965.

This has been done as there did not appear to be any chance of getting them absorbed in the near future. Care has been taken to give this notice to the junior-most among all the Executive Engineers. In view of the present emphasis on economy of expenditure all round, the management decided that it would not be appropriate for them to retain on their rolls these Engineers for whom they had no work. The Civil Engineering staff becomes surplus in all public sector undertakings as construction tapers off and such retrenchment, to the minimum extent possible, is something which cannot be helped.

Shri P. K. Ghosh: In reply to Question No. 492 dated the 19th March, 1965, in the statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to Question No. 412 dated the 3rd September, 1965, and also today the hon. Minister has said that efforts are being made to absorb these surplus engineers in the Bokaro Steel Project and other public undertakings. In view of the fact that not a single surplus engineer out of these has been absorbed so far in any of the public undertakings through the help of the Ministry, I would like to know whether the Minister is going to take up the matter at the Cabinet level or with the Prime Minister of India.

Shri T. N. Singh: I try to take up this question as often as I am able to meet my colleagues. I have also personally approached them. Therefore, efforts are being made; but we can go up to a point only. As a matter of fact, we should be prepared for workers becoming surplus on the civil construction side as the public sector projects taper off. The Estimates Committee made a recommendation that whatever surplus staff we are having at Ranchi must be retrenched. Even then we are proceeding very cautiously, despite the very important recommendation of an important committee like the Estimates Committee of this House.

Shri P. K. Ghosh: May I have another chance?

Mr. Speaker: No.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में बतलाया है कि उत्पादन में कमी हो रही है इस लिये उनकी छंटनी की जा रही है तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्पादन में कमी होने के कारण क्या है और जब उनको नौकरी पर लिया गया था तो क्या ऐसा करार किया गया था कि उत्पादन कम होगा तो घापको छोट दिया जायेगा ? जिनकी छंटनी की जा रही है क्या उन्हें सरकार कोई मुआवजा देने को तैयार है और क्या ऐसा कोई एप्रीमेंट है ?

श्री श्री० ना० सिंह : मेरी समझ में माननीय सदस्य ने मेरे उत्तर को गलत समझा है । उत्पादन का यहाँ सवाल नहीं है । वहाँ धाराजी तौर पर कुछ लोग काम करते हैं, गवर्नमेंट भी प्रोजेक्ट्स के कांस्ट्रक्शन का काम जो उन की ईमारतें खड़ी होती हैं, फैक्टरी बनती हैं, इंटों वगैरह का काम होता है और वह काम जब खत्म हो जायगा तब उस तरह के लोग सरप्लस हो जायेंगे ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या उनको कोई मुआवजा दिया जायगा ?

सभ्यजन महोदय : मुआवजा कैसे दिया जायगा ?

श्री श्री० ना० सिंह : वह टेम्पोरेरी स्टाफ है ।

Shri B. K. Das (Contai): May I know whether the Ministry has any follow-up scheme to ascertain whether the cases recommended by them to the other ministries are adequately considered on a priority basis?

Shri T. N. Singh: We have taken various steps. A Government agency looks to it that any staff that is employed in other projects of this nature they should first draw on these personnel. The Bureau of Public Enterprises is also looking after that, I am told. Therefore every effort is being

[Shri T. N. Singh]

made in regard to such personnel to absorb them as far as possible.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Barrackpore): It is quite true that after construction is over in a big project there will be surplus staff; but, in view of the fact that there are other construction projects coming up—there is the Hindustan Construction itself and then there are the Alloy Steel Project and other projects—why is it that the Minister has failed to get even one single engineer absorbed yet by these organisations and what will be the fate of such skilled personnel when we are asking them that they should not go abroad but should give their skill to our country itself?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): May I answer this question? The position is that not only in Ranchi but also in Bhilai and other steel plants which have executed expansion schemes, there are surplus workers. In Bhilai itself, there are 18,000 people who are going to be discharged and we are facing that problem. In January, about 5000 people will have to be discharged and in July another 5000 people will be discharged and like that we have to do it. They are not all engineers; there are non-technical people also who are being discharged. We have issued instructions to Bokaro steel plant and other steel plants to absorb this surplus and that they should employ anybody from outside only if we do not have that type of personnel. We have issued these instructions to the new steel plants, whether it is Bokaro or some other plants. But the construction people cannot always be employed in the steel plants which are in production. There is this difficulty. So, in view of all these problems, naturally there is bound to be some surplus of construction staff. We have also a newly established Steelworks Construction Corporation which will absorb a few of them. We will try to help them. We are doing our best to help them. But as the circumstances are beyond

our control, at times it will be very difficult.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur): The Minister of Steel and Mines just now stated that they have formed a Construction Corporation and that they would consider absorbing some of these engineers of Ranchi in that Corporation. Is it not a fact that this undertaking, the Construction Corporation of the Hindustan Steel, have advertised posts for civil engineers and are already recruiting engineers from outside and is it not a fact that the Heavy Electricals, Bhopal, have also advertised posts and are recruiting engineers from outside without considering the case of these retrenched civil engineers of Ranchi?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: I do not know about the Heavy Electricals, Bhopal. But about the Steelworks Construction Corporation, a few top people have been taken from the Railways. I will again issue instructions to say that the surplus people of Ranchi, Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela must be given preference before they take outsiders.

Shri Narasimha Reddy (Rajampet): This sudden retrenchment of so many young engineers who have given a good part of their service to this organisation would in any other country be a matter of shame. Would the Government treat it as a national problem and stop all further advertisements and all further recruitment until these devoted men are fully absorbed?

Shri T. N. Singh: There is nothing like a sudden retrenchment. Some action was taken even during the last session. I have been postponing it as much as possible. But it will be wrong to keep them hanging like this and ultimately tell them that they are not required.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): Is it a fact that the Soviet

experts who are collaborating with us have proposed the formation of the Central Construction Division in Ranchi itself to do turn-key jobs, that is, designing and so on and, if so, may I know whether that Division is going to be set up and would all the civil engineers be absorbed there?

Shri T. N. Singh: Ranchi complex is a production complex and not a construction complex as such. When we think of doing turn-key jobs, then only that can arise. But the turn-key jobs, as hon. Members know, are subject to all kinds of criticisms here. We cannot take a decision off-hand.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Is it not a fact that all the Ministries so far approached by this Ministry with the request of absorbing these surplus civil engineers have turned down the request of this Ministry and, if so, may I know whether the Government propose to take up this matter at the Cabinet level and come to a decision because there is no coordination between the Ministries.

Shri T. N. Singh: I do not accept that position. As a matter of fact, we have been able to persuade the other Departments also and in the case of Bhopal, we were able to absorb quite a number of them. In this case also we are making certain efforts. So far as these four engineers are concerned, it will be better if they look for other jobs elsewhere and I think they will get jobs elsewhere.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister for Steel just now said that there was an advertisement and some people from outside, from Railways, were appointed. It is not a matter of poor people; this is a fundamental thing. Here the Minister said like this. That shows that there is no coordination between the Ministries. He is quite in the dark about it.

श्री गुलशन (भटिवा) : क्या यह सब है कि जब इन कर्मचारियों को निकाला जा रहा है, ठीक उसी समय उसी विभाग में भारी बंटन पाने वाले अफसर रखे गए हैं ; यदि हां, तो इन कर्मचारियों के साथ अफ्साय क्यों किया जा रहा है ?

श्री बि० ना० सिंह : मैं माननीय सदस्य का प्रश्न समझ नहीं पाया ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : शायद वह यह जानना चाहते हैं कि जिन को निकाला गया है, उन की भारी तन्कावें हैं ।

श्री बि० ना० सिंह : जी नहीं, ये तो जुनियरपोस्ट बंग इंजीनियर्स हैं ।

श्री गुलशन : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का उत्तर नहीं मिला है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहेब कहते हैं : "नहीं" ।

Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar (Fatehpur): Is it a fact that some of the posts previously held by civil engineers are now manned by mechanical and electrical engineers thereby creating this artificial surplus?

Shri T. N. Singh: I do not think so. I shall, however, verify it.

Shri Buta Singh (Moga): If it is a fact that a large number of officers from various departments are on deputation in that particular project, will the Government revert those officers back to their parent departments with a view to absorbing these people?

Shri T. N. Singh: Calling them back will not solve the problem. Supposing somebody from the Industry Ministry is serving elsewhere; calling him back will not solve the problem.

Shri Buta Singh: I want to know the number of such officers.

Shri T. N. Singh: We may need some specialists and officers with long experience and we have to draw upon them if they are not available. Giving them back to the Ministry will not solve the problem.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): In view of the fact that such problems are likely to arise too often, may I know whether the Government is considering setting up of a Central Pool of Engineers, so that all surplus engineers are absorbed and there is proper coordination.

Shri T. N. Singh: Various methods, which can be tried to improve the position are under consideration. But I do not know whether the Industry Ministry as such should undertake this responsibility. I shall, however, try to consider this particular suggestion in consultation with the Labour Minister.

Shri Warior (Trichur): Will the Government defer the implementation of the notices of retrenchment till such time that the engineers get alternative jobs?

Shri T. N. Singh: We have already deferred it for some time. The surplus was there six months ago, i.e., on the 1st June, 1965, and we have tried to defer it as much as possible.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Is it not a fact that it was over a decade ago that the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru issued a clarion call to all engineers, including social engineers? If I heard the Minister right, he said that the construction in this Heavy Engineering Ltd., Ranchi, was petering out or tapering off. How is it that three or three and a half years after the emergency was declared in 1962, and especially when India is now facing two enemies in the north, east and west, the public sector undertakings of Government are facing a situation

where construction is tapering off? And is that the situation we are going to be confronted with in the near future also, that construction cannot be stepped up?

Shri T. N. Singh: It is obvious that when we undertake a work we hope to complete it some time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Complete what?

Shri T. N. Singh: Complete the project some time; so it will taper off naturally.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: For how much time? Are Government not conscious of the emergency? Complete what?

Mr. Speaker: Complete the putting of questions.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You must come to the rescue of the House. How could all construction work stop?....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not allowing the Member....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let him clarify it. You have allowed such clarifications in the past....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may kindly sit down.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I shall sit down for the present, but later on I shall get up.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): In view of the fact that intra-departmental methods of co-ordination have obviously failed, and the long term solutions like the setting up of a central pool will be taking a lot of time to get under way, may I know if the hon. Minister has given some consideration to the idea sent to him by those who are being retrenched that they might meet him and talk to him about a possible way of meeting the present difficulty, because if the hon. Minister meets these people and explains the whole position, it might perhaps soothe them?

Shri T. N. Singh: I have no objection to meet our engineers. As a matter of fact, they have always approached me and they have found no difficulty. I do not remember to have received any recent communication from them for this purpose. But, in any case, I am going to Ranchi in the near future, and if they want to see me, I shall certainly see them.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): Before coming to this unfortunate decision, did the Government at any stage properly and sympathetically examine the human problem involved in this affair, and if not, do they propose to reconsider this matter?

Shri T. N. Singh: I fully appreciate the point made by the hon. Member. It is this human consideration which has compelled me to go on postponing this very hard decision from time to time. Even now we have taken the decision in the case of only four such engineers. In their cases also, we shall continue to try to get jobs for them wherever possible. But it should be remembered that the Estimates Committee as well as everyone in this House has been complaining that our public sector projects are overstaffed and there should be economy, and there should be a consciousness of profitability, etc. If we try to implement the directions of this House, we should not be blamed for that.

Shri Kapur Singh: But be human.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): What about absorbing these surplus HEC Technical staff in the Bokaro plant and other places?

Mr. Speaker: That has been discussed; the hon. Member was not here evidently at that time.

Shri Daji (Indore): Apart from the human consideration there is also the consideration of efficiency, namely that these engineers or workers have gained a certain experience in the work of construction, and if they are employed in other construction work they can be better utilised to the ad-

vantage of the nation. With this in view, as early as 1958, a meeting of the Indian Labour Conference at Madras under the chairmanship of Shri Nanda had unanimously and jointly recommended to Government to set up a pool of construction engineers and construction workers for being employed in all public sector undertakings. That particular scheme is being jeopardised for two reasons. One is the refusal of Government to take additional financial burdens by way of provident fund etc and the other is the desire of the local officials or managers of the public sector undertakings to use new recruitment as a weapon of nepotism for putting their own relatives. So, may I know why Government have taken seven years from 1958 to 1965 to take a decision on this matter? Has the hon. Minister verified that in all these past months not a single engineer with co-equal education has been recruited in any public sector project at all in India? Without verifying that, how could Government retrench these persons or any persons for that matter?

Shri T. N. Singh: The hon. Member has asked a number of questions.

Shri Daji: No. I have asked only one question. I want to know why they have taken seven years.

Mr. Speaker: There are about thirty to forty names in the list, and if one hon. Member alone takes so much time to put a supplementary question, how could I go on?

Shri Daji: My pertinent question is this. Seven years before a decision was taken. May I know why it has not been implemented yet?

Mr. Speaker: The question should not be so long.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Occasionally it is inevitable.

Shri T. N. Singh: As a matter of fact, there has been a very firm decision that no new persons should be employed in any other undertaking if

[Shri T. N. Singh]

these people could be absorbed here; that decision is being implemented. But the question of some people becoming surplus and their having to be provided with employment is a continuous one which arises from time to time. What is desirable is that the House and everybody else should help us in getting these things smoothed out and get over these problems as smoothly as possible, and that is what we are attempting to do. If we projects, power projects etc. where we would have given notice to all the 150 persons involved. That was why we tried to stagger it and we are trying to provide for them in so many other projects, power projects etc. where we could have them absorbed.

Shri Daji: Why have advertisements been issued then? Stop the advertisements.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I asked about construction in all public sector undertakings put together. That was, I think, the point made by Shri Daji also; he put it in his own way. Taking all public sector undertakings into account, what about construction there, and will these engineers be absorbed in those undertakings?

Mr. Speaker: In all humility, I will request him to sit down.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But the question should be answered.

Mr. Speaker: There was another call attention motion given notice of which I had admitted but which I cannot take up just now because one had already been fixed for today and under the rules, we can take up only one a day. But when I arrived here, I was told that the Minister himself wanted to make a statement in the House. If he so desires, he might make it just now. It is on Rhodesia.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): What about questions?

Mr. Speaker: I will allow them.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुर्गेर) जब मेरा
ध्यानाकर्षण का सुझाव है तो

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं इजाजत दे रहा
हूँ ।

(ii) DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY
RHODESIA

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं अबिलम्बनीय
लोकसभाले के निम्नलिखित विषय की प्रो
वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ
और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में
एक वक्तव्य दें :—

“रोडे़शिया की सफेद अल्पसंख्यक
सरकार द्वारा आजादी की
एकतरफा घोषणा तथा उस
पर भारत सरकार की प्रति-
क्रिया ।”

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): Government of India have been shocked at the illegal seizure of power by the white minority Government of Mr. Ian Smith in Rhodesia by a unilateral declaration of independence on 11th November, 1965. This outrageous action in defiance of world opinion and accepted canons of civilised behaviour will have far-reaching consequences of a most serious nature. Government of India condemns this action in the strongest terms and expresses its full solidarity with and support of the African people of Rhodesia.

In regard to Rhodesia our position has always been that legally, constitutionally, politically and morally Great Britain is responsible for the situation in that country. The legal arguments put forward in the past by U.K. about their inability to interfere in Rhodesia have been rejected by the United Nations which has always considered Rhodesia as a British colony. The General Assembly in its resolutions of 12th October and 5th