

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

Thursday, June 16, 1977/Jyaistha 26,
1899 (Saka)

(a) the number of employees working in Steel Plants in Public Sector and number of them allotted quarters; and

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(b) the percentage of steel employees provided with accommodation at Durgapur, Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro, Plant-wise?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Number of Public Sector Steel Plants
Employees allotted Quarters

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND
MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

*62. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
HALDER: Will the Minister of

(a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). The information asked for is given in the table below:—

Name of Steel Plant	Number of employees	Number of employees provided accommodation	Percentage of employees provided accommodation %
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Durgapur Steel Plant	31,561	16,704	53.0
Alloy Steels Plant Durgapur	7,044	3,194	46.5
Bhilai Steel Plant	53,293	31,599	59.29
Rourkela Steel Plant	36,457	21,007	57.6
Bokaro Steel Plant	33,286	18,036	54.2
Indian Iron & Steel Company	29,500*	7,572*	25.8*

*Inclusive of Kulti Works.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the statement I find that the Indian Iron & Steel Company has got 25.8 per cent of the accommodation. I want to know from the hon. Minister how long it will take to provide quarters to all the employees who are working in the Steel Company and other steel plants in the public sector undertakings?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The hon. Member has mentioned about the Indian Iron & Steel Company which has provided 25.8 per cent of the accommodation to its employees. I have provided substantial amount in the current year to raise it to 34 per cent. But that is not enough. The general thinking in the previous Government was that the expenditure on housing and labour was an unproductive expenditure. In one opinion of this Government, it is a futile thinking and is sought to be corrected. For example, in 1976-77, the total outlay for the housing for all the five steel plants was about Rs. 5 crore. In the current year, I have provided more than Rs. 13 crore. But we are also taking other steps to allow the labour and other people who are connected with the housing to form what is known as cooperative housing. That will also ease the housing situation by allotting plots. In fact, 1308 plots are proposed to be allotted of which 20 per cent will be given to the supporting population for the steel plants—the shopkeepers, the vegetable sellers and the other people. So, that will also assist in solving this housing problem. I can assure this House that within five years, we will break the back of this problem.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The hon. Minister had just now mentioned that within five years the problem will be solved. In view of the acute shortage of quarters, thousands and thousands of workers of the steel plants and other workers from Burdwan and Asansol have to come to Durgapur with great diffi-

culty. There is no adequate arrangement for their coming by trains. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister what urgent steps Government propose to take to solve this problem within a short time?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have already mentioned that, in the current year, I have allotted more than 2½ times of what was allotted in the last financial year. You cannot expect a hundred per cent housing to be done by the steel plants themselves. Therefore, we are allotting plots to private people, who are supporting them who are not directly employed but indirectly employed, so that they can build their own houses for themselves and also for renting out. To those who do not have houses, we give house rent allowance. I am in full sympathy with what the hon. Member is trying to say. What has not been achieved in 10 or 15 years is sought to be achieved in the next five years. I think, the hon. Member should be quite pleased with it.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस्पात कारखानों के भ्रन्दर जो मकान की सहूलियत देने जा रहे हैं जहाँ अभी भी काफी लोगों के पास मकान नहीं है क्या इस प्रकार की सहूलियत अन्य कारखानों में भी, जो सरकार द्वारा संचालित हैं, दी जायेगी और वह मकान कुछ दिनों के बाद उन्हीं के हाँ जायें इस प्रकार की योजना बनाने का भारत सरकार का विचार है क्या?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have already said in the second part of my answer that we are going to allot plots to people to build houses—to those who are connected with the steel plants directly or indirectly. Assistance will be made available to them through various financing institutions and various financing schemes for house-building. Apart from providing housing for the workers and their families, the steel plants and

this Ministry are greatly interested in accelerating the housing programme in this country to be able to sell their own product. We are sponsoring not only in our area but in other areas as well.

श्री हुकम चन्द कदवाय : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया। क्या इस्पात कारखानों के मालावा दूसरे कारखाने जो सरकार चला रही है वहाँ भी यह मुविधा दी जायेगी?

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered that. They are giving sites and they can construct by themselves if they want.

SHRI S. KUNDU: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it would be possible for the hon. Minister to bring a new outlook in the allotment of quarters in this public sector undertaking, i.e., whether the quarters could be allotted on the basis of need and not on the basis of status. In some of the places I have seen senior officers, whose families consist of just husband and wife, living in 30-roomed quarters, and they themselves complain that they have no time to maintain such big houses. I want to know whether it would be possible to change the criterion so as to make it need-based and not status-based.

Secondly, I want to know what is the percentage of workers in Rourkela Steel Plant who have been allotted quarters and how much time it will take to provide quarters to everybody there.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: As far as Rourkela is concerned, the percentage of employees provided with accommodation is 57.6, and in five years' time it will reach a figure of, I should say, about 80 per cent. Apart from this, as I have said earlier, housing facilities would be given by allotting plots. The problem is being attacked from both sides, and I think, it will reach the required minimum for housing everybody.

As regards some odd cases where officers have got big houses, etc., this is a bigger question; this is part of the totality of the economic question whether any family should have more than 2,000 sft. space or something of that order. That is engaging the attention of the Government at the moment and as and when a final decision is taken, it will be placed before the House.

PROF. R. K. AMIN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in the allocation of houses, he would take into account the work efficiency or the possibility of increasing the efficiency rather than the status or the need, because in the case of both these criteria we are not in a position to measure them relatively while work efficiency or the possibility of increasing work efficiency or some such criteria such as these, could be measured relatively.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: One of the major considerations for increasing efficiency is increased housing.

Earth Stations in Country

*63. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are Earth Stations in our country;
- (b) if so, the number and their location; and
- (c) the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There are two standard communication Satellite Earth Stations located at Arvi, near Pune, and Dehradun. These have a 29 meter diameter fully steerable antenna, and