

to take to improve power plant equipment manufactured by BHEL, its servicing and quality so that we can tide over the power crisis of our country ?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, it is correct that the Chief Minister of Gujarat did mention about the mal-functioning of two thermal plants at Ukai and Gandhinagar and he suggested import of power generation sets to meet the domestic demand. We went into the complaint in some detail. It was found that the rotor of the Ukai plant that was damaged, was an imported one. The BHEL got it repaired at its Bhopal workshop. Now the plant load factor attained after repairs, is 67 per cent which is quite satisfactory if you keep in view the Rajdakshya Committee's standard of plant load factor. Gandhi Nagar Plant after its repairs, has attained 72.8 per cent plant load factor. As far as West Bengal goes, perhaps, the Hon. Member has not been appraised of the facts correctly. The West Bengal Government do not have any major complaint regarding the equipment supplied to them. BHEL has supplied five turbo-generator sets at Santhaldih and Bendel. These sets have been commissioned. And the confidence re-imposed by the West Bengal Government in BHEL has been reflected by their latest request to BHEL asking them to execute on turnkey basis the Kolaghat extension project. Still I want to assure the Hon. Member that we do not want any quality mal-functioning. It is the endeavour of the BHEL that the customer's satisfaction is the quintessence of the matter. Therefore, BHEL has taken into confidence all the State Electricity Boards, other major public sector undertakings and customers. BHEL has been organising customers' conferences at different levels so that BHEL comes upto the standard and expectations of its customers.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the gap between the requirement of power generation sets in the country in the Sixth Five Year Plan and what is the total installed capacity

of BHEL and whether in the Sixth Five Year Plan, the Government, to upgrade the technology with modern design parameter, is collaborating with the best design parameter in the world ?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : BHEL is fully geared up to meet all the requirements in the Sixth Five Year Plan. As far as equipment is concerned, I may assure the Hon. Member that there is no gap as far as BHEL is concerned.

Accumulation of Finished Products Including Stainless Steel in Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

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***43. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA :**
SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that the Alloy Steel Plant in Durgapur is on the verge of closure and a majority of the 7000 workers could not be allotted jobs while the accumulated finished products, including stainless steel stood at 20,000 tonnes;

(b) if so, reasons for adopting a liberalised import policy in respect of special and stainless steel when the special steel producers in the country were in dearth of orders; and

(c) how Government are going to save the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur has a stock of finished products of about 14,000 tonnes (and not 20,000 tonnes) as on 1.7.1983. Though there has been accumulation of stocks, the plant is in regular production with full

complement of workers there being no problem relating to allotment of jobs. The accumulation of stocks is due to curtailment of certain orders placed earlier on the plant and the market position. Efforts are being made to reduce the stocks through sales promotion and other measures.

Import of only those items of alloy steel including stainless steel are allowed which are not available indigenously in requisite quality/adequate quantity, in time. The Import Policy coupled with Tariff adjustments have been adequately protective for the indigenous producers of alloy steel including stainless steel. The imports of stainless/heat resistant steel are canalised through the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and the policy is constantly under review.

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Sir, the Minister has totally denied that there is any problem in the Alloy Steel Plant. But the fact is that there is problem. The Government has been allowing import of alloy steel in the form of rolled coils from Japan and other such countries and some private firms have been allowed to import scrap alloy which is also duty free. They are rolling them in their own factories and selling them in the market. So, this being cheaper, other factory owners are not interested in purchasing the material from the Alloy Steel Plant and this is one of the reasons of accumulation of stocks. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is going to ban such import of alloy steel scrap and rolling coils, and if not, whether they are going to impose heavy duties on these items ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, the basis of the import duty is that the imports of alloy steel including stainless steel, are allowed which are either not produced or which are adequately available. The question of imports invariably involves a conflicting interest of the demands of the manufacturers and the purchasers, the basic policy being, as I

have stated in the statement which we have laid on the Table of the House, that import of only those items of alloy steel, including stainless steel, are allowed which are not available indigenously in requisite quality/adequate quantity, in time. The Import Policy coupled with tariff adjustments have been adequately protective for the indigenous producers of alloy steel including stainless steel. In view of this matter, my answer to the question by the Hon. Member whether we are totally going to an the import of special steel, alloy steel, is in the negative.

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : My second supplementary is that the Durgapur Steel Plant is one of the major purchasers of alloy steel but for the last one year or so, the DSP have curtailed their orders to the Alloy Steel Plant. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what are the reasons for the DSP that they have reduced their orders to the Alloy Steel Plant ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, in the Ministry we have had no complaint from the Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant in this regard.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : The Hon. Minister has given a misleading statement. I assert it is incorrect and untrue. The requirements of stainless products, for which they are being imported, can be fully met by the indigenous capacity of the alloy steel plant. These are re-rolled into coils in Bokaro and sent to Salem for making stainless steel. These facilities are remaining unutilized for the benefit of the private traders, particularly of Jindal in Calcutta, who line the pockets of the Treasury Benches...*(Interruptions)* You are killing the indigenous capacity. Why should the import not be curtailed to encourage the indigenous stainless steel production. The General Manager of ASP has gone on record that they are diversifying their production because their products are not being sold. This is the position. That is why I say that you have made an untrue statement.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The entire premise and the conclusion of the question is non-existent. Therefore, the question does not arise. I do not have to add anything more to what I have stated.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : He does not satisfy the House. He is unfit to become a Minister.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The premise in the question are unreal and untrue; they do not exist. Therefore, the question does not arise.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : I do not understand how the question can be unreal and untrue...
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He will deny your existence also.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : For the last three years the Government of India has banned the registration of new re-rolling mills because the existing units are sufficient to meet the demands. Now scrap is available in large quantities in India. Apart from that, it is also being imported. In view of the large availability of billets and scrap indigenously and also from imports, will the Government re-consider the banning of registration of re-rolling mills in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The Hon. Member is on the question of registration of re-rolling mills whereas the main question relates to the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, where certain problems have been created which affect the employment of workers. I submit that his question is entirely outside the scope. If he wants me to answer seriously his question, I require notice.

SHRI S.T. QUADRI : Sir, the steel industry in the country is in a crisis and last year the working results of the plants under the Steel Authority of India were bad. They have sustained a loss of Rs. 103 crores. One of the reasons for the loss has been interpreted

as liberalised import policy adopted last year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has mentioned that the import of only those items of alloy steel including stainless steel are allowed which are not available indigenously. If liberalised import is not the reason for accumulation of stocks in Alloy Steel Plant, what are the other reasons for the non-satisfactory performance ? What are the reasons for the market position being changed ? Will the Minister give his candid views in this matter ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : So far as liberalised imports are concerned, we monitor the entire imports very strictly, whereas I submitted earlier, there is a conflict of interests between the consumers here and the manufacturers. We do our best to ensure by two-fold restrictions which we impose—actual restrictions on imports, secondly fiscal measure of raising the tariff, so that the import does not become very attractive.

So far as the failure of SAIL is concerned, I respectfully submit that I will need notice for that.

दिल्ली में दहेज के कारण होने वाली मौतें

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*44. श्री भीम सिंह :

डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी :

क्या गृह मन्त्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में पिछले छः महीनों में (माह-वार) दहेज के कारण कुल कितनी मौतें हुई हैं;

(ख) उनमें से ऐसे कितने मामले हैं जिन्हें प्राथमिक जांच के बाद बन्द अथवा फाईल कर दिया गया है;