

to collect from the actor, Shri M. G. Ramachandran. The reason given here is that the assessee promised to come up with a concrete scheme of payment of tax arrears which is awaited. I understand that he wants to sell a property and clear off the arrears.

Losses in Kudremukh Iron ore Company Limited

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*1115. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited has suffered huge losses and whether Government have so far been able to ascertain exact amount of loss so suffered and causes thereof;

(b) if so, full facts thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) composition of Board of Directors of the Company who were functioning in the relevant period of losses and also the present composition of the Board of Directors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company has not yet gone into commercial production and as such the question of any losses suffered by it does not arise. The present composition of the Board of Directors of the Company is as follows:—

(1) Shri K. C. Khanna, Chairman-cum-Managing Director.

(2) Shri H. V. Mirchandani, Director (Technical Services).

(3) Shri K. P. Sen Gupta, Director (Finance).

(4) Shri N. Narasimha Rau, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

(5) Shri S. D. Prasad, Special Secretary, Deptt. of Steel.

(6) Shri R. Ganapati, Addl. Secretary, Deptt. of Mines.

(7) Shri Ramaswamy R. Iyer, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Steel and Mines.

(8) Shri P. Johri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

(9) Shri A. K. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

(10) Shri D. K. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

श्री रीत लाल प्रसाद वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कुद्रमुख आयरन ओर कम्पनी लिमिटेड इंडो इरान एग्रीमेंट के अनुसार प्रारम्भ हुई थी। इरान में 78 सें आन्तरिक स्थिति गड़बड़ा रही है। जो एग्रीमेंट की शर्तों थीं उन शर्तों के अनुसार उस कम्पनी को फंक्शन करना चाहिए था मगर जो कुद्रमुख आयरन ओर कम्पनी के चयरमैन हैं वही सेल के भी चयरमैन हैं, एक ही चयरमैन 3 हजार करोड़ रुपये का जो प्रोजेक्ट है उसको भी देख रहे हैं और पूरे सेल को भी देखते हैं जब कि एग्रीमेंट के अनुसार और उसकी शर्तों के अनुसार अभी जो कंट्रैक्टर्स और सप्लायर्स बहाल किए हैं वे उस रूल के विरोध में हैं, इसके साथ साथ चयरमैन खुद कुछ स तरह के कार्य कर रहे हैं जिस से इस भूँ करोड़ों रुपये की बहुत भारी गड़बड़ी हो रही है। आप कहते हैं कि इस तरह का प्रश्न ही जहाँ उठता लेकिन यह प्रश्न इतना विकराल और इतना गंभीर है कि इस देश के लिए बहुत चिन्ता का विषय है क्योंकि आम जनता के पैसे का एक चयरमैन दोनों के अंदर हिटलर की तरह काम कर के... (व्यवधान)...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सवाल करें।

श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : मैं सवाल ही कर रहा हूँ। मैं सवाल ही करने जा रहा हूँ। मैं यह कह रहा था कि इसमें प्रबल बड़ी गड़बड़ी है। मंत्री जी बता रहे हैं कि लासेज का सवाल ही नहीं है इसलिए मैं लासेज बता देना चाहता था। यह बहुत

गम्भीर प्रश्न है लेकिन आप कहेंगे तो प्रश्न ही पूछ लूंगा। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पूछना चाहिए, कहना नहीं चाहिए।

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : क्या मंत्री जी को इस बात की जानकारी कि "बजनेस स्टैण्डर्ड" के दिनांक 17 अप्रैल, 1981 के अंक में एक न्यूज़ निकली थी कि वे फूल आटोनामी चाह रहे हैं, उसके लिए फाइट कर रहे हैं? उसका एक उदाहरण मैं देना चाहता हूँ। जो सर्कुलर निकला है वह बताता है :

"Sources say the power tiff was triggered off by a recent circular from the SAIL Chairman to Steel Plant Managing Directors and top executives that none of them should visit the Ministry at Udyog Bhawan without prior knowledge of the Chairman."

अध्यक्ष महोदय : You put a question. Otherwise, I shall disallow this.

आप सवाल तो पूछ नहीं रहे हैं। मैं डिसएलाऊ कर दूंगा।

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : यह सर्कुलर जो निकला है उसके अनुसार मिनिस्ट्री में कोई भी अफसर डायरेक्ट नहीं जा सकते हैं या अगर सीधे जाकर बात करें तो फिर चेंबरमैन को रिपोर्ट देनी होगी। इससे लगता है कि इसमें ऑमिशन एंड कमिशन इतने हैं कि जिनको वे छिपाना चाहते हैं। तो क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि इसपर उन्होंने क्या एक्शन लिया है?

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. You cannot even put a question. You have taken five to seven minutes.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I was actually confused whether the hon. Member is in a position to make a distinction between SAIL and Kudremukh Project. The circular which he is mentioning is about the

Steel Authority of India Ltd. The question is in regard to Kudremukh Iron Ore Project. The only thing common to these two organisations is that the same person is presiding as Chairman of these two separate organisations.

Sir, in regard to the insinuations against the Chairman, I would like to point out that he is one of the most competent officers. This is one of the very few projects which has been completed on time. There is no question of loss or bungling. The major problem is that Iran is not in a position to take the iron-ore concentrates which are being manufactured in the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project.

Therefore, the problem is entirely different. I do not understand what conclusions the hon. Member wants to draw or what he is driving at. The problem is absolutely different. We have no buyers and Iran is not in a position to take that. But, the project has been completed on time and we are not deliberately producing the material because there is no market for that. So, where is the question of all these things coming in?

MR. SPEAKER: If you have any question to put, please do it within a minute and in a proper way. Please come out with your questions.

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : मैं दूसरा प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ हालांकि उन्होंने पहले प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ठीक जवाब दिया है उन्होंने।

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : सरकुलर कब क्या एक्शन लिया, इसका कोई जवाब नहीं दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बिलकूल ठीक जवाब दिया है।

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : जनता के पैसे का दुरुपयोग कराना है तो कराइये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका दूसरा प्रश्न करना है तो करिये ।

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : जो मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है वह भी न्यूज में आया है कि चेरमैन साहब अपने डायरेक्टरों के साथ बहरीन गए हुए थे और बहरीन जा करके . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसमें यह सवाल कहाँ उठता है ?

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : मुझे कहने दीजिए मंत्री जी को जबाब देना होगा तो दें दोगे ।

चेरमैन साहब अफसरों के साथ एयर इंडिया की फर्स्ट क्लास फ्लाइट से बहरीन गए हुए थे लेकिन उनके जो डायरेक्टर्स थे वे एकोनामी क्लास में थे । तो वहाँ उनकी क्या बातचीत हुई और कितना कंट्रैक्ट हुआ ? वे आयरन-ओर कंसन्टेंट का विदेश में अपना व्यापार देखने के लिए गए थे, शायद उनको बुलाया गया था । अगर किसी तरह का कोई समझौता हुआ है तो मंत्री जी बतायेंगे । और जब वे लाट कर आए तो दुबई में उतर गए, जबकि एयर इंडिया में उनकी बुकिंग थी, वे एयर फ्रंस से आए, वहाँ पर गदद खाँ थे जो कि पहले स्टील संक्रेटरी थे . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका सवाल क्या है ?

श्री रतीलाल प्रसाद बर्मा : इसमें करोड़ों का घाटा हुआ है । मंत्री जी इसका जवाब दें ।

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want you to waste the time of the House. The time is up.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the officers have their travel schedule. It is a fact that the Chairman went to Bahrain in order to explore the possibility of selling the iron-ore concentrates as they are going to establish a Steel Plant through the Direct Reduction Scheme. In regard

to the circular which the hon. Member is repeating I would like to say that there is no circular and it is absurd that any public sector organisation will instruct its officers that they cannot meet the Minister and that if they want to meet the Minister they require prior permission.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, Kudremukh project is the pride of Karnataka and also an important organisation of the country. The hon. Minister has stated that the losses cannot be assessed because it has not started commercial production. Sir, even though the work was completed on time the production of the company cannot be marketed. due to the back out of Iran. Unfortunately, this has been pending for a long time and the entire production has not been sold out. I would like to know whether Government has got any programme organise marketing elsewhere I would also like to know whether the pelletisation plant which has been envisaged for the utilisation of the production is under consideration? If so, when is it coming up?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, as I have already mentioned the plant was commissioned in September, 1980 as per schedule and deliberately we did not take to commercial manufacture because there is no market. We are exploring the possibilities. The decision to set-up a pelletisation plant at Mangalore has already been taken and we are now trying to tie it up with certain parties if they can take some concentrates also because actual production of pellets will take about thirty-six to thirty-eight months.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: In the Socialistic Society we endeavouring to set up, the public sector has a crucial role to play. Unfortunately, the public sector undertakings often called India's topless wonders have more often than not swum in bottomless deficits. I do not mean

to cast aspersion on Mr. Khanna in particular. But it is also true that in a majority of the cases bureaucrats have been appointed to head these concerns. We must realise that they have been trained to run an administration and not to run a concern in a commercial way. Therefore, I would like to know whether Government is actively considering the restriction of bureaucrats to such appointments and trying to attract executives with brilliant records from the private sector to run these concerns and make them more meaningful and fulfil the social cause they are supposed to serve.

Secondly, Sir, in the face of Iran's reluctance the Minister has just mentioned that a delegation had gone abroad to explore new markets for the concentrates and pellets. Have you achieved any success or received any orders in this respect?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the second part of the hon. Member's question is concerned my answer is 'not yet'. We have not yet been able to find a steady market but we are exploring the possibility.

As regards the first part of the question so far as this particular project is concerned it is headed by a technocrat and by and large the policy of the Government is to induct persons of competence from various walks of life.

Sale of Special Bearer Bonds

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*1117. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of special Bearer Bonds sold upto the end of April, 1981 (State-wise);

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme has failed to attract black-money as expected by Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to adopt strong measures for unearthing black-money as stated by the Minister in Madras on 12th April, 1981?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) The total sale of Special Bearer Bonds amounted to Rs. 373.05 crores upto 30th April, 1981, when the sale was suspended. This figure is provisional as information about sale at some of the outlying centres is still awaited. The details of sale of the Bonds State-wise are not available.

(b) The proceeds reported so far cannot be considered to be insignificant especially in view of the pendency of the writ petitions in the Supreme Court which may have re-tarted the sale of Bonds.

(c) Yes Sir.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that the fate of the much-anticipated and much tom-tommed bearer scheme has fallen flat. The hon. Minister also was very much banking on this scheme. Now, Sir, even if you stretch it beyond Rs. 373 crores, at the most, it may come to Rs. 400 crores. That is all. But the hon. Minister has been banking very much on this scheme and he was thinking that he would be able to mobilise Rs. 1,000 crores of resources by this scheme. Unfortunately he could not mop up even Rs. 400 crores. I hope that by this time the hon. Finance Minister himself might have lost his illusions about these black money holders. I have got two questions to ask for reply from the hon. Finance Minister. They are the following:—

1. (a) What further steps you envisage to curb black money?