

industrial relations the Rourkela Steel Plant is second to none. But its modernisation is long delayed and it is long awaited. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal for the modernisation of this steel plant, from the Federal Republic of Germany.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : My answer is in the negative.

AN HON. MEMBER ; Why do you not say 'No' ?

SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHERA : I want to know about the proposal from Germany.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more or stronger answer than this is needed.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : There are five steel plants in the country which are supplying steel to the nation and are also exporting. I understand that the modernisation proposals have been under consideration of the Government for the past several years. As a result, therefore, no implementation has been made during all these years, including the proposal for sinister type of plants in this country. I understand, that there was a proposal from the Rumanian Government for self-financing of the plant under which they would buy your product which is lying unutilised and would help us. Has the Government taken into consideration this, and has it been thought that it would give a lot of good advantage to the nation ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : With reference to the Rourkela Steel Plant there is no proposal from Rumania.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : I have asked about the five plants that are there in the country, which need modernisation including the Rourkela Steel Plant. Has sinister type of technology been implemented and if it has not been implemented what about

the proposal for self-financing of plants for which money is not required ?

Has the Government taken any decision in regard to the implementation of such proposals which would give a lot of benefit to the nation ? Here I am talking not only of Rourkela but of the four other plants also.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : For Rourkela there is no proposal from Rumania. But with reference to some other plants, there is a proposal from Rumania specially for a sinister plant and in return they would be willing and ready to buy iron-ore and other products from India, which is under examination.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : What is the reaction of the Government ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : We act; we do not react.

(Interruption)

When something is being examined, how can I give my reaction ?

Operation of Spy Ring in Kutch District, Gujarat

*344. SHRI R.R. BHOLE :

SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government noticed the news in 'Daily' dated 6 January, 1984 that there is a spy ring operating as smugglers in Kutch district of Gujarat and that photographs of strategic army installations were recovered from them ;

(b) if so, the particulars of the persons arrested and the punishment awarded to them ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to curb the trade of smuggling across the border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) (a) to (c) :—A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government have seen the news item in 'The Daily' dated the 6th January, 1984 under the heading 'Spy Ring Busted'.

According to information received from the Government of Gujarat, one Pakistani national was apprehended with smuggled heroin by the Border Security Force in Kutch district of Gujarat on 2nd November, 1983. On investigation, the State Government have ordered detention of 13 persons under COFEPOSA.

The State Government have registered 3 cases, the brief particulars of which are given below :—

- (i) Lakhpat P.S. CR No. 78/83 against persons under the Foreigners Act, Pass Port Act, Customs Act and the Official Secrets Act. Out of the 8 accused persons, 5 have been arrested and 3 are absconding.
- (ii) Lakhpat P.S. CR No. 81/83 against 4 persons under the Foreigners Act, Pass Port Act, Official Secrets Act, Official Secrets Act, Dangerous Drugs Act, etc. Two of the accused persons have been arrested and the remaining 2 are absconding.
- (iii) Bhuj P.S. CR No. 272/83 against 6 persons under the Official Secrets Act, Foreigners Act, etc. Of the 6 persons accused, 4 have been arrested and 2 are absconding.

Investigation of the 3 cases is in progress.

The field formations on the borders have been instructed to remain vigilant.

The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been reinforced in terms of manpower and equipment in the areas vulnerable to smuggling activities. The pattern of smuggling is kept under constant review by Government and appropriate anti-smuggling measures are adopted in close coordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities as warranted by the situation.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : The news is very disturbing because it is reported and it is admitted now in the answer that something is there and some cases also are filed. I find that somehow or other we are not able to make our intelligence efficient. There appears to be infirmities in the personnel as well as the structure of our intelligence, may be military, may be civil, may be any other unit. Every other day, we hear that there are large scale exercises going on across the border in occupied Kashmir. We also know that sophisticated weapons are being given to our neighbouring countries. Therefore, we must be very alert against this menacing attitude. We know that we are not able to find who the spies are and who the dangerous people are near the border. They are caught only when heroin or dangerous drugs are found on the person and when they are moving near the border. This is not a happy state of affair. In the statement which is given in the House they have not said about the photographs found, about which it is mentioned in the newspapers. Are the photographs as mentioned in the newspapers, found? Do you say that the spy ring was there or not there?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : The Kutch border is a very long border and it is also vulnerable. As a matter of fact, the Central Government are taking all possible steps with the help of several agencies like the revenue intelligence and other intelligence which are involved in this matter. BSF has got 21 posts to maintain vigilance along the border. In order to tighten

the border security measures and to check smuggling BSF has a set up eight additional outposts in various places along the border.

According to the BSF, neither smuggling nor-illegal entry is possible to the arid stretches of the district of Kutch and it mainly takes place in the coastal area where the BSF is not deployed. In order that sea route is adequately covered by the Police force and the Customs force, the BSF has already made the following suggestions to the State Government :

(a) Since the BSF has already established some outposts in the coastal region, the State police may consider opening of other BOPs south of Rodhasar up to Mandvi.

(b) These posts can perform effectively if they get the active support of the intelligence agencies, particularly, the CID. Since the CID particularly the Intelligence Wing, has got a sizeable presence, the intelligence set up in the district of Kutch, with special reference to coastal area, needs to be strengthened.

(c) The Water Wing of the Kutch police which lacks proper boats, needs to be strengthened.

(d) Since the BSF is carrying out sea patrolling in and around Kori Creek, the boats of the Water Wing of Gujarat Police could take up more intensive patrolling of the area between Mandvi and Rodhasar.

(e) Since the detection of illegal entrants and smugglers can best be achieved by getting prior information, a very close link has to be established between the armed constabulary posted in various BOPs and the intelligence agency, namely, the CID. It is suggested that the possibility of attaching personnel of CID (Intelligence) with the BOPs may also be considered..... (Interruptions).

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : I have not

asked anything about smuggling. My stress was on the spying.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : He wanted to know about the photographs whether the photographs have been recovered.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : I am coming to that point. What he has said is whether any arrangement has been made to check smuggling and other illegal activities...

(Interruption)

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : I am not on the smuggling part of it.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : We have made some break through and several gangs have been busted and contraband material has been recovered from those people. So far as these photographs and all these things are concerned, the matter is being examined in all its seriousness. So at this stage, when the interrogation and also investigation is going on, I do not want to divulge to the House in public interest.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : This is a very important question, Sir...

(Interruption)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : I am sorry, I would add that six cassettes and few video films were also recovered from them. Then these video films were photographed and these photographs contained some photographs of Military installations which are incriminating and which are dangerous. These include the Air Force base and some of the river bridges also. Action is being taken and they have all been confiscated.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : The other Minister should be dismissed. You are with-holding the information from the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Until and unless full information is provided, you cannot...

(Interruption)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Mr. Bhole has talked about the smuggling of heroin. He meant heroin and not heroine.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : Mr. Subramaniam Swamy is very fond of heroines.

MR. SPEAKER : He has passed that age now. Only you can talk about it.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : He likes to be a hero in every sphere, along with the heroines, of course.

My point is this. I asked this question with a specific purpose of knowing what exactly the structure, the infirmities, the strength of our intelligence is...

(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think they will give you this information.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : At least they must tell us that they are strengthening the intelligence structure, the intelligence personnel, the methodology that is followed...*(Interruption)*.

(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said that they are strengthening it.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : What exactly is the connection between the 8+4+6 persons, against whom charges are laid and the 13 persons mentioned in the first part of the statement? It is mentioned here that on the basis of investigations, the State Government ordered detention of 13 persons under COFEPOSA that is one part. Three charges are laid; persons were prosecuted for some offence, 4 were prosecuted for some other offence and 6 others for yet another offence. 8 + 4 + 6 comes to 18. Is there any connection between these two sets of persons?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : There are three sets of persons who have been detained under the COFEPOSA. Out of these 13 persons,

against whom detention orders were issued, 12 have been apprehended and kept in jail under COFEPOSA. The ring person is absconding and we have not been able to apprehend him, though the detention order is pending against this particular gentleman.

Regarding the other information which the hon. Member wanted to know, these people have been accused not only under the COFEPOSA, but also for various crimes under the Official Secrets Act, Pass Ports Act, Foreigners' Act, the Foreigners' Registration Act and the Customs Act. Of the 8 persons, 5 have been arrested and detained under the COFEPOSA and the remaining 3 are said to be absconding. Two persons among the 5, who have been absconding, have been arrested. Mohamad Samad has been accused of entering a prohibited area for spying activities. The case against four persons

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give this information in writing.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : If the hon. Member wants it, we can give it in writing. All these people are in detention under COFEPOSA. Apart from that, we have registered cases against them under the various offences. The Gujarat Government has referred it to us for taking action against these people.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : It appears that this case has been taken very lightly by the department, whether it be in the field of smuggling, in the field of political affairs or in other areas. Prior to this particular case, there were other cases of spying, which were busted in Delhi; I am referring specifically to Larkins and his friends. The smugglers by their activities have completely and virtually ruined the economy of the country. What actually happens is...

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to explain it; you put the question.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many smugglers were released between 1977 and 1979.

MR SPEAKER : It is not connected with the main question ; it is irrelevant.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : I would like to know whether those smugglers are in this list and, if so, what steps have been taken to deal with them.

MR SPEAKER : This is not a question of smugglers alone.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : They have renewed their activities in the Kutch area. I would like to know whether these persons are in this list and, if so, what steps are taken against them.

MR SPEAKER : Why are you wasting the time of the House. How is it relevant.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : As far as Lar-kins case is concerned, we are taking action under the Official Secrets Act.

MR SPEAKER : This is something different.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : This question relates to espionage, not to smuggling. From the long statement of the hon. Minister, it appears that the Government have referred it to the State Government. Espionage and counter-espionage are Central subjects. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister whether Government have taken effective steps to strengthen the espionage and anti-espionage measures, so far as our internal security is concerned ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : I have already referred to the steps that have been taken in order to prevent espionage activities.

Modernisation of Indian Iron Steel Company

*346. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH :** will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Iron and Steel Company's conversion technology is old and obsolete;

(b) whether there is any proposal to renovate and modernise Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(c) if so, whether a technical report has been prepared and completed;

(d) to whom do the Government propose to entrust the work of renovation, modernisation and expansion of Indian Iron and Steel Company; and

(e) the time by which the work will start ?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) : In the Indian Iron and Steel Company, steel is made through Duplex process, using Acid Bessemer converters and open hearth furnaces. This steel making process is considered old and obsolete. The plant and equipments in most of the units are old and outdated. The proposal to modernise the Burnpur Works of Indian Iron and Steel Company is under formulation. M/s. Tiajpromexport of the USSR has been assigned the work of preparation of a feasibility report for the modernisation of the Burnpur Works; this report is awaited. The project authorities of IISCO will primarily be responsible for implementing the modernisation programmes. Work will commence after the feasibility report prepared by M/S Tiajpromexport is received and examined and an investment decision on the scheme is approved by the Government.