

Visit by Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

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*249. SHRI MUHAMMED
SHERIFF;
SHRI P. VENKATASUB-
BALAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the gist of talks held with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka who visited New Delhi recently.

(b) the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the items which still remain unresolved between the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). During the short visit of the Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to India from October 31 to November 1, 1974, views were exchanged on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.

(c) There are no outstanding problems between the two countries.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: The Tamulian fishermen of Rameshwaram island who go for fishing near the Kachchativu island are harassed by the Sri Lanka police. I would like to know whether this was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka during the talks.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: I have no information about that, this is not to our knowledge.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether an agreement has been made between the two countries to maintain the peaceful nature of the Indian Ocean?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Sri Lanka and other countries in the United Nations have affirmed it by passing a Resolution to declare the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि इस भूखण्ड को अप्रचलित क्षेत्र घोषित करने के बारे में श्रीलंका के प्रतिनिधि ने यूनाइटेड नेशन्स में हमारा भी समर्थन किया और पाकिस्तान का भी समर्थन किया, जब कि हमारा और पाकिस्तान का दृष्टिकोण भिन्न है ? क्या इन प्रश्न पर श्री लका के साथ चर्चा हुई है, यदि हुई है तो क्या दृष्टिकोण में समानता लाने में हमारे विदेश मंत्री या उन के मंत्रालय का सफलता मिली है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पञ्चवन्तराव चव्हाण) : इन के बारे में उन के साथ चर्चा की थी, हमारा जो इन के बारे में विचार है, वह उन को स्पष्ट किया था। लेकिन उन की अपनी एक राय रही और उन्होंने दोनों देशों के जो प्रस्ताव थे, उन का समर्थन किया। ऐसे कितने ही देश दुनिया के हैं जिन्होंने यही किया।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यानी हम उन को भी नहीं समझा पाये।

श्री डॉ० एन० तिवारी : मुझे यह सुन कर आश्चर्य हुआ—जब मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि जो हिन्दुस्तान के मछुए समुद्र में जाते हैं और श्रीलंका के एरिये में चले जाते हैं—उन की जानकारी उन को नहीं है। बराबर यह खबर मछुवारों में निकलती रही है कि इन मछुआं साथ अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं होता है और उन को दिक्कत होती है। क्या कभी ऐसी चर्चा आप ने उन के साथ चलाई थी कि इन को दिक्कत न हो और इन का काम ठीक चल सके।

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: The hon Member, Mr. Muhammed Sheriff, asked about a particular matter. So far as that particular event is concerned, I said, "I have no information". But these things are happening. We have

certainly discussed this matter with the Government of Sri Lanka.

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN I was surprised to note the reply given by the Minister that there are no outstanding problems between the two countries. Originally, India was exporting so many articles to Sri Lanka and so many traders were allowed to export things like, onions, chillies, salt, rice and other things. Sri Lanka has now shifted and started importing all these things from China and other countries. May I know whether a discussion on this took place during the talks and, if not, why not?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS I must make it clear that this visit of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was an informal and un-official one. As a matter of fact, this was not a planned visit. She was on her way back to Colombo from Iran. In the case of informal and un-official visits, no record is kept of discussions of a general nature.

Loss to Bokaro Steel Project

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*251 **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY**

SHRI R S PANDEY

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Bokaro Steel Project has incurred a loss of Rs 10 crores during 1973-74, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (**SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV**) (a) and (b) During the year 1973-74, Bokaro Steel Limited had incurred a loss of Rs 10.43 crores, mainly due to high incidence of depreciation and the production units not being further utilized in the initial stage.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY. The factory has incurred a loss of more than Rs. 10 crores in 1973-74. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether, when the Project Report was prepared this loss was anticipated and what was the actual amount of depreciation during that year and also the total depreciation amount that they had provided during the past years also.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV There is no question of this kind of loss being envisaged in the DPR. In the case of a factory like Bokaro or, for that matter, in any steel factory, in the beginning, it always happens, loss is incurred because we cannot utilize the entire capacity. Bokaro is the biggest plant in our country, perhaps it will ultimately be one of the biggest plants in the world. For example we have got there one blast furnace functioning today and two coke-ovens. For one blast furnace we do not need immediately two coke-ovens, but they are ready, we require only 1½ coke-ovens, but then the work is going on. The inter plant is ready which will meet the requirement of almost two blast furnaces. Therefore, we are not utilizing the full capacity of the sintering plant. So is the case with the oxygen plant which will be able to meet the requirements of more than two LD converters in the existing steel melting shop. Therefore in a plant like this at the initial stages, this kind of loss is bound to happen. The depreciation cost is computed at about seven per cent of the capital cost of various units. But when the plant will go to its full production capacity, it will definitely run in profit there will be no question of loss. But at the initial stages a plant like this is bound to run at a loss.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY. I do not want the figure on a percentage basis, I want the actual amount of depreciation provided.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV It is computed in certain percentage of the