

MR. SPEAKER : You expect a reply and that is possible only if you sit down.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Are there any Indian nationals ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : As I have already said, I have no information about their condition.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Since it requires the willingness of both the parties to have bilateral talks, lest it may be misunderstood outside that only a few Members remember the resolution of the Parliament and are eager to take back our territory from the Chinese, may I know from the Government whether the Government agrees that any bilateral talks must proceed with a proper understanding and realising our position and with dignity, or will the Government, on the advice of the hon. Members, go one-sided for these talks ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Our attitude in this respect has been clarified earlier also and the Prime Minister also made a statement on this issue.

The main question is, rather the main approach is that we are prepared to enter into bilateral talks and are prepared to settle this matter also provided the settlement is consistent with our dignity and also consistent with self-respect

SHRI PILOO MODY : From what the hon Minister has said by way of reply about bilateral talks etc. I think certainly it goes against the spirit of the resolution that was passed by this House. The Resolution was a Resolution which put no conditions on how that territory was to be regained. I distinctly get the impression that our Government is perhaps going to gift this territory away to the Chinese in spite of the pious reiteration of its hopes of starting bilateral agreements. The Resolution has nothing to do with bilateral agreements. It says, we will not rest till we get back this territory. I want to know

whether that position still stands or whether the Resolution has been [modified] to the extent that we will wait till bilateral talks can be held.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The present attitude does not at all go against either the spirit or the letter of the Resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Production of Saleable Steel

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*587. **SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :**

SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :

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

(a) whether Government are taking adequate measures to push up the production of saleable steel from the current level of 4.5 million tonnes to 5.5 million tonnes during 1972-73; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

STATEMENT

The Steel Plants are taking a number of steps to increase production such as specialised repairs to coke oven batteries and oven equipment use of supplementary fuels in order to conserve coke oven gas, planned procurement of essential spares and other materials, systematic and improved maintenance and provision of balancing and additional facilities Government render all necessary assistance to the plants both in the public and the private sector to maintain and improve their production. Government also keep a careful watch on their performance.

2 There is a Task Force for every plant in the public sector which meets roughly once in two or three months and reviews the production in each plant, discusses its problems and follows up the decisions taken for their solution. There is a quarterly review of the performance of the plants of Hindustan Steel Ltd by the Minister.

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी क्या इजीनियरिंग एसोसियेशन न स्टील के प्राइव्शन को बढ़ाने के लिए कोई दस वर्षीय योजना सरकार का दी है, यदि हा, तो सरकार उस पर कितने परसेंट अमल कर रही है? क्या हमारी योजना का टारगेट 7 परसेंट ग्रोथ का था और वह एक जुलाई 4 परसेंट हुई, यदि हा, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: So far as 10 year programme is concerned we cannot say there is any definite clearcut target for 10 years though we attempt to keep an annual target. So far as the progress is concerned, from the position as we originally planned, as hon. Members are aware, we are not able to keep up the targets for various reasons including lack of adequate attention to maintenance, the difficulties in operation of the coke ovens and difficulty of dealing with labour and so on.

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी क्या स्टील प्राइव्शन बढ़ाने के लिए मिनि-प्लाट्स को बढ़ावा नहीं दिया जा सकता है और मिनी प्लाट्स के लिए जो लाइसेंस की योजना बनाई गई है, क्या उसको बन्द नहीं किया जा सकता है? राजस्थान में धारण-शोर है, लेकिन रेलवे फ्रंट उपादा होने से वह बाहर नहीं जा सकता है। तो फिर वहाँ उपादा मिनि-प्लाट्स क्यों नहीं लगाये जाते?

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: The hon. Member is not entirely correct in saying that there are rich deposits of iron ore in Rajasthan. The deposits of iron ore in Rajasthan are somewhat limited compared with the much larger deposits in other parts of the country. Therefore the question of the economics of transferring ore from Rajasthan does not really arise.

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी: राजस्थान क लिमिटेड रीसोर्सिज को काम में लाने के लिए सरकार न कोन से उपाय किये है?

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: The Geological Survey has surveyed the areas in Rajasthan. From the report it is seen that this survey does not indicate that the deposits are of such a kind as to support a major steel plant and certainly they are not of the same volume or value as the deposits in places like Barajamdo, Bailadilla, Hospet and Kudremukh areas.

श्री कूलचन्द वर्मा क्या यह सत्य है कि 1971-72 में मिलाई, दुर्गापुर और राउरकेला में उत्पादन बढ़ा है?

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: So far as the production in Rourkela is concerned, it has declined. Hon. Members are aware that as a result of the collapse of the steel melting shop roof last year, there has been a steep decline in production. So far as the question of Durgapur is concerned, the position is marginal.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: From the statement we find that the steel plants are taking a number of steps one of which is repairs to coke oven batteries. May I know for how long the coke oven batteries are out of order and they are under repair in Durgapur?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: I have not got the information

about exact time. I shall give it to the hon. Member if he wishes to have it.

Industrial Peace

*589. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently devised any measures to ensure lasting industrial peace; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b). Government convened a meeting of employers' and workers' representatives in December 1971 when they agreed to keep up and maximise industrial production in an atmosphere of cooperation and industrial peace. Following this meeting, a Working Party was appointed to suggest concrete measures for speedy settlement of industrial disputes and procedure for recognition of unions. The fourth meeting of the Working Party is being held on May 6, 1972, to consider these matters further

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Of late, with a view to having lasting industrial peace and peaceful relations for achieving our economic programme of self reliance, Government are thinking of various things. The hon. Minister has conceived of so many ideas during the last seven or eight months. For instance, he has decided that every industry must have a production panel where the workers and the employees could be associated. He has also suggested that there should be a national council of trade unions. Again, he has thrown out some suggestions to the effect since there is inordinate delay with the existing system of settling disputes of workers, there should be a time-bound schedule for compulsory adjudication and so on. He has been talking about these

things during the last eight to nine months. And he is trying his way to find a solution. I would like to know to what extent particularly he has succeeded in this direction so that at least within the coming two or three months, there will be a kind of machinery which can evolve industrial peace in the industrial sectors of our country.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : It has been stated in the reply that quite a number of items have been resolved and the final meeting of the Working Party is to take place on 6th May. Mention has also been made about setting up a sort of industrial production panel at the plant level. Secondly, at the national level there is an agreement to set up a National Council of Trade Unions. On other matters a near agreement situation has been created. I am hopeful, as I said earlier, to have some concrete results when we meet on the 6th.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : When we are discussing the question of industrial peace, it would be relevant to examine what is actually happening on the industrial front. Today I have got a telegram saying that about 400 workers on the South-Eastern Railway, Kurda Road, in the railway public sector unit, are retrenched. Reports of retrenchment from other places are also coming. The actual number of man-days lost in 1966 was 1,38,46,329. In 1970, it has gone up to more than 1.71 crores.

MR SPEAKER : Do not give information. Ask a question.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Industrial peace rests on there being no strikes, closures and retrenchment. But these go on. What is the climate in this regard in 1971-72 ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I do not think this question arises out of this.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Industrial peace does not arise out of this.