

मेरी सिर्फ यह है कि वह तफ्सील जो आप मांग रहे हैं वह मेरे पास नहीं है। रिहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्ट्री उसको कर रही है। अगर तफ्सील चाहते हैं तो वहां से लेकर आपको दिखा दूंगा।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : उन्होंने मिलिट्री काफिले को रोका और अपना असन्तोष प्रकट किया जा नहीं किया ?

The question relates specifically to the refugees from Chhamb and Sind. He must come prepared.

श्री सुरेन्द्रपाल सिंह : समझ में नहीं आया कि क्या आपत्ति माननीय सदस्य की है। रिफ्यूजीज की फिगरर्स मैंने दे दी है। यह भी मैंने बता दिया है कि पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं उनको यहां बसाने के लिये। तमाम खर्चा उनका हम बर्दाश्त कर रहे हैं। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने और हमारी रिहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्ट्री ने कुछ प्लाज बनाए हैं उनको रिसैटल करने के लिये और उनको इम्प्लीमेंट किया जा रहा है। अब आप तफ्सील चाहते हैं लेकिन तफ्सील मेरे पास इस वक्त नहीं है। यह भी बाद में उनको मिल सकती है।

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: The question relates specifically to Chhamb and Sind. He must be ready with the answer.

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the answer given by the hon. Minister, I would like to know what is the policy of this Government regarding the giving of citizenship to the displaced persons, whether they are from Pakistan, Burma or Ceylon.

MR. SPEAKER: Please confine yourself to the present question. Do not widen the scope of this question. The question is about Chhamb and Sind. So far as this question is concerned he has already explained the policies. Ceylon and Burma are quite different. They are separate; and they are beyond the scope.

High Production Cost of Steel in India Compared to Europe and Japan

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*165. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM:

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

(a) whether in India the cost of production of Steel per tonne is the highest as compared to countries in Europe and Japan;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to cut down the cost; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up an expert committee to go into this question?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: By this I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the price of steel in our country is equivalent to the price in other countries.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): The cost of production of steel in other countries is not easily available in the sense that it would vary from country to country and from plant to plant. But the fact is that India could have produced steel much more cheaply because of the availability of iron ore and coking coal, whereas other countries have to import one or the other. Our capital cost has been fairly high. Being public sector units, they had to comply with the needs of social infrastructure such as providing larger housing and all that. The result is that the capital cost becomes incomparable. Production cost would also relate to the optimum use of the plant capacity and unfortunately in some of the plants

the capacity is not fully utilised and therefore the cost is not comparable with plants which are going into full production in other countries.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: If there is plenty of coal and iron ore, what is the trouble? Why are they working under capacity?

SHRI T. A. TAI: Bhilai has been producing upto 85 per cent. I expect Bokaro also to produce to full capacity as soon as it goes into production. In Rourkela it is now upto 65 per cent. Durgapur is showing improvement this year upto 51 per cent. In the case of some of these plants, the capacities have undergone change over the years and it is no longer possible to provide the same quality raw material which were intended for them. So balancing equipment also becomes necessary to see that the plant's health is maintained. All these problems are being looked into. The immediate problem is of course to ensure sufficient coking coal and power in order to see that the present production is maintained.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Is it not a fact that the workers in the steel industry in India are the lowest paid in the world?

MR. SPEAKER: How does it arise out of this?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The cost of production is low because of low wages. . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI T. A. PAI: I think the prices, compared with the prices in India relatively to the wages, are much higher in other countries. We are having more people employed in our steel plants relatively in order to make our industry labour intensive. Therefore it is not possible to compare wages or cost of production.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If the cost of production of steel goes on mounting as at present in India, will it not get reflected in the manufacture of engineering goods, compelling the Government to subsidise exports and will it not cause great harm to our economy?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The cost of imported steel with our customs and all that would come to about Rs. 4,000 per tonne, which is almost a little more than the capital cost per tonne of capacity in a new plant to be erected. So, if the cost of steel is going up all over the world, it is inevitable that it would go up in our country also. If the engineering exports have got to be subsidised. I hope the element of subsidy will go down because the price of steel in other countries would have gone up.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY: The hon. Minister has said that the cost of production in our steel plants compares very favourably and it is only because of less production that the cost has gone up. May I know what are the handicaps because of which there is less production in steel plants in comparison with the available capacity, when all the necessary raw materials are available like high grade ore, coking coal and lime stone, and all the steel plants are ideally situated near about the raw materials?

SHRI T. A. PAI: There is another element, and that is the long period of construction of our steel plants, compared with the other countries where the erection of the steel plants is much faster. This would also bring down the capital cost. This is precisely an exercise we would like to go into, in so far as new plants are concerned, learning from the past experience. The capital cost of none of our plants has been less than Rs. 2,000 per tonne of capacity whereas in Japan it is less than Rs. 1,500. It is true that we have coking coal, but I am not sure whe-

ther it is the best possible. Because, in Japan for 2,000 cubic metre blast furnace they could get as much as 5,000 tonnes of pig iron whereas we have been able to get only 3,000 tonnes and in some cases it is only 1,500 tonnes. A lot of technical improvements will have to be carried out, a lot of research work will have to be carried out to get the maximum out of our own quality of iron ore and coal to get the maximum production.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: The Government has denied the statement that the cost of production of steel is higher in India than in Europe or Japan. How does the Government reconcile this with the position that Japan imports iron ore from this country, pays railway freight and shipping charges, carries it for 6,000 to 7,000 miles over the sea and can yet outsell us in the world market?

SHRI T. A. PAI: Japan has been able to do it not only in respect of steel but even in respect of textiles because there is considerable amount of application of science and technology in order to overcome these problems. They have access to the best quality iron ore, best quality coal and the best of shipping which is responsible for their products being competitive.

राष्ट्रीयकरण के पश्चात् कोयले के निर्धारित मूल्य

* 166. श्री कूलचन्द्र वर्मा : क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोयला खानों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के तुरन्त बाद कोयला उद्योग की संयुक्त कार्य समिति ने कोयले की विभिन्न किस्मों के मूल्य घोषित किये थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कोयले की विभिन्न किस्मों के मूल्य क्या क्या थे ;

(ग) क्या ये मूल्य रेलवे और बिजली पैदा करने वाले कारखानों जैसे सरकारी उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा स्वीकार कर लिये गये थे ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन्होंने कब से इन दरों के अनुसार भुगतान करना आरम्भ किया ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the pit head prices of various categories of coal before the nationalisation of coal mines is laid on the Table of the house. The same prices continued to be charged after nationalisation.

(c) The prices payable by the Railways and many of the power Boards are governed by the terms of the contracts which were in force at the time of nationalisation.

(d) The Coal Mining Authority has been billing all consumers at the notified price and asking them to pay the same rate subject to adjustment of subsisting agreements. They have been receiving payment at the notified price in many cases and with the ratification of the old agreements necessary adjustments will be made wherever necessary.

Statement

Prices of coal effective from 1st December, 1972.

Bengal-Bihar coalfields

Grade of coal	Steam	Slack
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
Selected A	48.00	47.00
Selected B	45.00	42.00
Grade I	42.00	39.00
Grade II	38.00	35.00