

LOK SABHA

Tuesday August 29, 1974/Bhadra 7
1896 (Suka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Economy in use of Steel

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*549 SHRI P GANGADEB
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI

Will the Minister of STEEL AND
MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry have
considered the steps to economize on
the use of steel as suggested by the
Committee appointed for this purpose

(b) if so whether category-wise
adjustments to curb non-essential use
of items are being evolved and

(c) if so the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI SUBODH HANSDA) (a) Yes
Sir

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

Statement

There are some constraints in the
implementation of certain recommen-
dations of the Committee such as
availability of cement, availability of
suitable grade of bricks, timber etc

and technological constraints in the
production of some categories of steel.
It would also be necessary to have
the recommendations regarding changes
in design examined further by
other concerned authorities like
Indian Standards Institution, Cen-
tral Water & Power Commission Cen-
tral Public Works Department etc. as
to the extent to which it would be
feasible to adopt them in practice
This is being further examined

However, Government have been
considering several schemes for achi-
eving economy in steel Through a
Government order issued in 1965
production of structurals in sizes
other than those covered by the In-
dian Standards was banned The steel
plants in the country have been pro-
ducing medium series of structurals
only since light series specified by
ISI cannot be produced in the ex-
isting mills As a result of produc-
tion of standard structural sizes, it is
estimated that a saving of about 12½
per cent in consumption of structur-
al steel has been achieved.

Government have also been encour-
aging production and use of cold
twisted bars, the total production of
which since 1968-69 is about a mil-
lion tonnes Through the use of cold
twisted bars, it has been estimated
that there has been a saving of about
20 per cent or (200,000 tonnes) of
steel needed for concrete reinforce-
ment

SHRI P GANGADEB: In view of
the fact that the Government is keen
on economising the use of steel and
exporting it to earn foreign ex-
change, I would like to know from

the hon. Minister what are the latest directives that have been issued after careful consideration or are proposed to be issued by the Ministry in regard to banning the use of steel for non-essential purposes.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: No directive, as such, has been issued so far, but there is a proposal to ban construction of buildings for non-essential purposes such as multi-storeyed buildings for office purposes, restaurants, etc., and use of steel will be allowed only for productive purposes.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: I wish to further ask, since one of the reasons for misuse of steel is its easy availability in the black market, what concrete steps Government propose to take to check this malpractice so that unallocated steel does not find its way into the market.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Steel is not available in the market in an unchecked way. There are various controls on distribution. But still some steel does go into the black market, and those who are in a position to pay a high price for it get it for their purposes. It is precisely for this reason that construction of certain types of building is being banned. And it is hoped that it will lead to less use of steel for non-essential purposes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the Minister whether it is true that out of the steel quotas that are assigned by the Centre in Maharashtra and particularly, in Bombay, 40 per cent of the steel quota is sold in the black market amounting to 2,000 tonnes of steel, whether an inquiry was instituted and whether it is a fact that the steel quota given to certain companies like Khira, J.K. and Hycostone has been cancelled as a result of black-marketing of steel.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a general question whereas you are asking specific question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He referred to black market in steel. I took that trend and put my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking a specific question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As an illustration, is it true that in places like Bombay 40 per cent of the steel quota is sold in the black market, whether you had instituted an inquiry and whether it is also true that the three companies I had mentioned were denied their steel quota as they were found black-marketing in steel?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: This is a specific question. That will require an inquiry. I cannot answer the question whether it is 40 or 20 or 15 per cent that is sold in black market. But it is true that certain quantities of steel just go to undesirable places for being old for profit-making. But I do not know more about it. If the hon. Member so desires, I will make an inquiry and answer.

डा० कैलाश : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की रूपा करेंगे कि ओपन मार्केट में, अगर उसे ब्लैक मार्केट न कहे, ओपन मार्केट में फ्रीली स्टील मिलता है और जब से आप ने कंटेनरीवाइज्ड नान-एसेंशियल के ऊपर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया है उस के बाद भी बम्बई के मार्केट में या और जगह भी काफी स्टील मिल रहा है तो आप के देने का तरीका गलत है, क्या कुछ फिक्टीशस फर्मों को एलाट कर देते हैं या क्या करते हैं क्या उन पर प्रतिबन्ध इस कंटेनरीवाइज्ड ग्राइडम के लगाने के बाद आने वाला है या नहीं? अगर यह आया है तो कितना और उस के प्रांकड़े या चुके हैं या नहीं?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : हम तो पूरी देखभाल रखते हैं। उसके कायदे और नियम बने हुए हैं। स्टील प्रायरिटी कमेटी है, वह देती है उन प्रायरिटी के मुताबिक और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को हम देते हैं। उनके मार्फत भी कुछ इधर उधर चला जाता है और कुछ फिक्कींग्स कम्पनियां ऐसी हैं, यह हमें तो मालूम नहीं है, हम तो ऐसी कम्पनियों को कभी देते नहीं हैं, मगर जिस तरह से निकल जाता है यह तो माननीय सदस्य समझ सकते हैं कि कैसे कुछ इधर उधर हो जाता है, इधर सीमेंट की कुछ कमी हो गई है, इसलिए वहीं कहीं कुछ स्टील की मांग में भी कमी आई है।

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: May I know from the Government if this policy to have one storeyed building in Delhi and other places is not counter to the basic principle of construction of houses all over the world that where the land is very costly, the buildings must go up and where it is cheaper, it should be the other way about? The landholders who have got the land at an exorbitant price will be put to a great loss if they are allowed to have only one storeyed buildings.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: These considerations must be before the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development. I am not able to answer it.

श्री मान सिंह भौरा : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताएंगे कि इन की नोटिस में यह है कि बहुत सी फर्म ऐसे हैं जो दो-दो तन तोल और चार-चार फर्मों को रजिस्टर करवा लेती हैं और वह एक ही आदमी होता है जो भिन्न भिन्न फर्मों के नाम पर कोटा लेता है, वह ब्लैक मार्केट में चला जाता है? क्या कोई ऐसी जांच आप करवाना चाहते हैं जिस से इन जाती फर्मों का पता लगाया जा सके और उन्हें कोटा न दिया जा सके?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : जो संगठन सरकार की तरफ से बनाया गया है, यदि उसे मालूम हो जाए कि अमुक फर्म दो-तीन नाम से लेती है तो उनको हरगिज नहीं दिया जाएगा। हमारे पास ऐसी कोई जानकारी नहीं है, अगर माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई ऐसी जानकारी हो कि अमुक फर्म फर्जी नाम से लेती है और हमें वह जानकारी दे देंगे तब हम इस के आधार पर फायदा उठाएंगे।

डा० कैलाश : उन के नाम पेपर्स में आये हैं।

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : ऐसे लोग पकड़ें भी गए हैं।

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: What type of use of steel is considered to be non-essential by the Government?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: That has already been stated by my colleague. Government is contemplating to consider certain use of steel as non-essential, high-storeyed buildings, cinema houses and all that and we are restraining the consumption of steel by various methods. We hope that as a result of this use of steel for non-essential purposes will not be there. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: There are certain Member who get up on every question every day. I request them not to do it every day. They should give chance to others also. I am proceeding on this basis. Mr. Kachwai

श्रीहुसैन चन्द कछवाय : क्या यह बात सही है कि इलात की मांग देश में अत्यधिक बढ़ गई है? जब लोगों की मांग ज्यादा आने लगी तो आप ने नियम बनाया कि जो पैसा जमा कराएगा उसी का ग्रांडर बुक किया जाएगा।

लेकिन अब वह प्रथा प्राप्त कर दी है और अब आप छानवीन कर के इस्पात बना चाहते हैं। लेकिन जिन लोगों ने आप के पास पैसा जमा कराया था वह दो साल में आप के पास पड़ा हुआ है। मध्य प्रदेश का 3 करोड़ रूपया आपके पास जमा है। लोगों ने ब्याज पर करवा लेकर आप के पास जमा कराया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—अब आप उन्हें मान देगे या ब्याज देने ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय यह महान उम में पैदा नहीं होता है।

श्री हुसैन खान कल्लवाय अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस से सम्बन्ध है। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि लोगों का रूपया जमा है। इसका इस्तेमाल आपने क्या उपयोग कर रहा है जा लोगों ने ब्याज पर ला कर डा के पास जमा कराया था ? दो साल में पैसा जमा है, अब उस का ब्याज भी नहीं देना चाहते—यह क्या बात है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय जिना का पैसा जमा है, उन का पैसा जमा है—यह बात है ?

श्री के. डी. मानसिंग : यह बात सच है कि बहुत सी फर्जें रखी जा चुकी थी, हमने डिस्ट्रिब्यूटिव काम में इन रुपया जमा करना शुरू किया, उन्होंने रुपया भी जमा करा दिया। कुछ को दिया गया कुछ को नहीं दिया गया। अब यह प्रश्न विचाराधीन है— जो निर्णय होगा आपके मामले में आ जाएगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न ठीक है—जिन रुपया जमा है, उन का इस में क्या कपूर है।

Reorganisation of Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad

*550. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad has been functioning in a very unsatisfactory way, causing a good deal of hardship and harassment to hundreds of applicants wishing to obtain their passports promptly.

(b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation, and

(c) whether the said Regional Office is being reorganised or broadened, and if so, the facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH). (a) to (c). There have been complaints regarding delays in the issue and servicing of passports by the Regional Passports Office, Ahmedabad. To study the situation at first hand, two senior officers of the Ministry of External Affairs visited Ahmedabad in July, 1974. They took prompt remedial action. Improved procedures were introduced in order to avoid wastage of time in the issue of passports. Some additional staff has also been sanctioned so that the accumulated arrears could be cleared expeditiously. With the improvement in the procedures and strengthening of the staff, it has been possible to reduce the arrears.

Government is also considering adoption of other measures to im-adoption of other measures to im-bad office.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, this problem is not really confined to Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office