

LOK SABHA

Thursday, June 3, 1971/Jyastha 13,
1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Crisis due to non-Movement of Ores in Orissa and Bihar

*241. SHRI B.S. BHAURA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 15,000 workers of the iron ore mining industry of Barajamda Sector in Orissa and Bihar are faced with retrenchment as the trade is facing a crisis caused by non-movement of ores; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure quick movement of ores from the mining areas to port-heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) :

(a) Owing to the difficulties faced by the Railways in the movement of iron ore in this area, stocks of iron ore have accumulated at mine-heads. The Government of Orissa have intimated that a number of workers connected with mining and transport of iron ore in the area are facing retrenchment.

(b) The Government of India are fully seized of the matter and steps are being taken, in consultation with State Governments, to improve the law and order situation so as to control the large number of thefts of wagon parts, over-head wires, telecommunication, signal and other equipment belonging to the Railways and stop the intimidation and even assaults of Railway

staff. The Government expects thereby to increase the supply of wagons for quicker movement of ores.

SHRI B. S. BHAURA : What action has been taken, in consultation with the labour department to ensure that the strikes are settled as early as possible?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : As I said, it is primarily a law and order situation. The Railway Minister is fully seized of the problem. He has held a conference at which the Home Minister at the Centre, representatives of the West Bengal Government and all other interests concerned were present. They are taking effective steps to meet this menace.

SHRI B. S. BHAURA : Are Government aware of the fact that due to this crisis, the country is losing valuable foreign exchange also ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : We are aware of the very serious situation that has arisen as a result of the difficulties faced by the Railways in this area and we know it will have repercussions if we are not able to bring it under effective control in the near future. That is why the Minister of Railways has held a high level conference and we are trying to take all the steps necessary to restore normalcy in that area.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : From what the Minister has said, perhaps it has become a kind of habit to shift all responsibility on to the law and order situation. From the Barajamda area, iron ore is transported to Nargundi and other stations to be shipped from Paradeep port.

There is no question of a law and order problem there.

MR. SPEAKER : No argument, only a question.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : The Minister is not aware of this. So will they go into this problem? What is the wagon allotment made in January? The railways have failed in this respect and a number of workers have been retrenched.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : We are aware of the fact that in the area mentioned by the hon. Member there is no serious law and order situation, and I did not state that there was, not even my colleague. The difficulty is about the availability of wagons which operate in that entire area. To give him the actual facts, we were promised 1½ lakhs in April, 1971 and what was actually moved was 76,328. That is the shortfall. That shortfall is due to the non-availability of wagons, and the non-availability of wagons is due to wagons being held up in the area where there is the law and order situation, particularly around Calcutta and Asansol.

श्री अचल सिंह : क्या कोई ऐसा षडयंत्र तो नहीं चल रहा है या कोई ऐसी स्कीम तो नहीं चल रही है कि गवर्नमेंट को बदनाम किया जाए? बैंगल आजकल मिल नहीं रही हैं। मेरे पास शिकायत आई है उदयपुर मिनरल डिवेलेपमेंट सिंडीकेट की कि वे एक लाख रुपया महीने का रेलवे फोट देते हैं लेकिन उनकी तीन चार महीने से बैगन नहीं मिल रहे हैं इसी तरीके से आगरे में कोयला बैंगल की कमी की वजह से नहीं आ रहा है और दुगने भाव पर वह बिक रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट को बदनाम करने का कोई षडयंत्र तो नहीं चल रहा है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उड़ीसा और बिहार का मसला था। आगरा कहाँ से आ गया?

SHRI D. K. PANDA : This is a very important matter. We are going to lose and we have already lost some foreign exchange. There is also accumulation of stocks to the tune of 9 lakh tonnes at the railway station and 5 lakh tonnes at the mines. So, for lifting all these accumulated stocks, what is the arrangement that the hon. Minister is going to make with a very short time?

Secondly, there is absolutely no question of law and order in the Barajumda-Banspani area. The target fixed for export of iron ore from this sector was 1.8 million tonnes and actually only twelve lakh tonnes has been exported. In view of the huge accumulations at the railway station and the mines, what step is Government going to take immediately for lifting at least 5 lakh tonnes lying at the mines?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I have already stated that we are taking action. So far as the railways are concerned, the Minister of Railways had convened a conference which was attended by myself as well as the Minister of State, and we hope that we will be able to improve the situation so far as railway transport is concerned. The hon. Member will appreciate that it is primarily a question of improving the railway position and availability of wagons in that area. We want to take steps, we are taking steps that are available to us, in order to ensure this. It is a question of moving it to the port, and we are taking the necessary steps.

SHRI N.K. SINHA : Is the Minister aware that this is a chronic problem of the area, though it may aggravate sometimes, and that is so because of lack of communications and lack of adequate mileage of railway lines? Will the Minister see to it that the Transport Ministry and the Railway Ministry look into these deficiencies of the area?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I do not think it is lack of communications that is responsible for it. What is responsible is lack of availability of wagons which is due to the very difficult law and order situation that we are facing due to theft of overhead wires etc., which have been listed in the main answer, in the Calcutta-Kharagpur and Calcutta-Asansol areas.

SHRI D.K. PANDA : We want to get an assurance from the hon. Minister that within a specific time some action will be taken because the crisis started since November 1970. It is a matter of arranging 600 Railway wagons to lift the stock which would avert the threatened retrenchment of 15,000 workmen.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please. Members should not speak unless they are called. There are some Members who do not get even one chance while others want more than one chance. They must wait for their next chance.

Setting up of Zonal Research Centres for Improved Agricultural machinery and Implements by Indian Council of Agricultural Research

*243. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has formulated a scheme for the establishment of two zonal Research Centres for improved agricultural machinery and implements;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) The full scheme will cost Rs. 31.04 lakh upto the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Two research and testing centres in Agriculture Engineering at I.A.R.I. and Coimbatore are being strengthened under a coordinated research scheme, with the main objective of providing facilities for designing, developing and testing agricultural machinery and implements suitable for the important crops and multiple cropping complex of the region concerned.

The detailed objectives of these centres are :—

1. Development of urgently needed simple implements to the needs of high yielding and multiple cropping programme, and the dry farming areas and to make suitable prototypes and have them evaluated at selected Centres.

2. To intensively test the prototypes already evolved at Research Testing Centres under actual dry and irrigated farming conditions and also others entered under prize award schemes sponsored by I.C.A.R. at selected centres and coordinate the test.

3. To carry out field research studies on selected imported equipment, modify the same if necessary to suit local needs, and organise prototype production and trials.

The scheme will be coordinated by a research engineer in the grade of Rs. 1300-1600 from I.A.R.I.

Necessary additional equipment, staff and laboratory facilities have been sanctioned for both the centres viz. I.A.R.I., New Delhi and Agricultural University, Coimbatore.