

changed. That is why I put that question. For lesser money we get better food. For higher amount the common man does not get good.

MR. SPEAKER : It cannot be helped. The hon. Member being a lawyer, I cannot help him, being the Speaker.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : This is a system which has not been changed. That is what the hon. Minister said. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the variation. We get some food here at lesser price, which is better food. The food that they give to the common man is not good food. For that they are charging more. Will e take appropriate steps to improve the food served by the Railways for the common man ?

MR. SPEAKER : These are all general questions to be taken up at the time of discussion of the Demands for Railways.

I think, I may now pass on to the next question. Shri Joarder.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवायः अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे एक सप्लीमेंटरी पूछ लेने की इजाजत दे दी जाय। वह बहुत महत्व का मामला है और मैं सरकार का ध्यान आप के माध्यम से इस और खींचना चाहता हूँ और बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि क्या धांधली की जा रही है... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आर्डर, आर्डर। यह क्या हो रहा है, आप सब बोल रहे हैं।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवायः मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि काफी गड़बड़ चल रही है और सरकारी पैसे की बड़ी हानि हो रही है.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैंने अगला सवाल बुला लिया है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवायः अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस पर सवाल पूछने के लिए काफी देर से

खड़ा हो रहा हूँ इसलिए मुझे मौका दिया जाय।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा: इनके पीछे मैं भी पूछने के लिए खड़ा हूँ..... (व्यवधान).....

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go no record. Next question.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवायः**

Paper Mills in North Bengal

*1656. SHRI DINESH JOARDER :
SHRI R. P. DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any plan to establish few industries of a permanent nature in North Bengal ;

(b) whether Government have explored the possibility of establishment of Paper mills with the available raw materials viz., Bamboo and Saberi Grass in North Bengal ; and

(c) is so, the salient features of the scheme in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). While that Ministry has no proposal at the moment to set up any specific industries in North Bengal, it is understood that the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation has programmes for setting up a Paper Mill and a Precision Watch Factory in North Bengal. Recently certain districts have been declared as backward for the purpose of concessional finance from financial institutions for industries started there. The districts

selected from West Bengal are Cooch-Behar, Darjeeling, West Dinajpur, Malda, Midnapur, Purulia, Bankura and Murshidabad, the first four being in North Bengal. It is hoped that entrepreneurs and the State agencies for promotion of industries will take advantage of this facility for setting up industries there.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER : I have seen the statement of the hon. Minister. It is a very intelligent answer to avoid the responsibility of the Government itself. From the statement we find that the Central Government are not going to take any responsibility for setting up any industry in North Bengal, and that the West Bengal State Government have tried to set up a paper industry and a precision watch factory there with the help of private entrepreneurs. Most of the districts of North Bengal have been declared as backward districts. In view of the fact that this area produces large-scale raw materials like jute, leather, tea, mango, silk, bamboo wood etc., may I know whether the Central Government would themselves take the responsibility of setting up industries there to remove the regional imbalances and the backwardness of North Bengal ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : The State by itself by setting up industry cannot remove the regional imbalances of all the areas. Of late, it has taken steps to remove the regional imbalances, as a result of which certain areas have been spotted out in the whole of India including North Bengal for concessional finance. Four districts of North Bengal come within the purview of this. One district of North Bengal, namely Purulia has been also made eligible.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER : Purulia is not in North Bengal.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : All right, is Purulia is not there for concessional finance.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER : What is the difficulty in the Central Government taking the responsibility to set up the paper industry and precision watch factory as public sector enterprises in North Bengal ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : So far as the paper industry is concerned, as I have said, the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation itself is thinking of setting up one. So far as the Government of India are concerned the hands of our corporation are full and we have not get sufficient funds for setting up any new paper mill.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY : In view of the hon. Minister's statement that the West Bengal Development Corporation has a programme for a paper mill and a precision watch factory in North Bengal, and the fact that according to the Planning Commission's targets fixed for total paper production in the country, the paper production is quite far below the mark, may I know whether Government will reconsider the decision and start a paper mill in North Bengal in the public sector ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : It is true there is a shortage of paper. That is why we are setting up some projects in the public sector. We have allowed the expansion of the private mills and we have also given a number of letters of intent to set up paper plants.

So far as the paper industry in Bengal is concerned, it is a question of whether there is sufficient raw materials there or not. Most of the paper mills at the moment depend for their raw materials on Assam. Assam itself is going in a large way to set up its own paper mills, and there is an apprehension whether the existing mills in Bengal could be fed by the raw materials that are available in Bengal. Therefore, a survey has got to be made. That has not yet been made

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : There is plenty of raw materials in North Bengal.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : In view of the fact that we have heard for a long time about regional imbalances having to be corrected and yet North Bengal, which is a backward area, has not received much of the benefit from governmental assistance, and considering also that if there is a planned effort to develop industries in North Bengal, the contiguous areas of Bihar

which are very backward would also benefit to corresponding extent, is the Minister in touch with the Planning Commission and other Ministries, the Ministry of Irrigation and Power in particular—because Dr. K. L. Rao has been very much in the picture in North Bengal matters—in order to have a concerted scheme and co-ordinated effort to bring about industrial development there ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : As I have said, in order to remove regional imbalance we have declared certain districts as backward districts in order to help the industrialisation of these areas by giving certain concessions to private entrepreneurs. Over and above this, we have of late set up a higher power committee of Secretaries consisting of the Cabinet Secretary, the Industries Secretary, the Finance Secretary and the Adviser to the Prime Minister to go into the question of industrialisation of Bengal and the problems connected with industries there. I am sure this Committee will look into all these problems including the problems of North Bengal. I am myself also going to Calcutta on 20 August and want to have a high level discussion there and thereafter probably we will consider as to what further should be done in this matter.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Kindly make a visit to North Bengal also.

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के शयनयानों से पंखों का हटाया जाना

*1659. श्री महादीपक सिंह: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के शयनयानों से एक-एक पंखा हटा लेने के कारण आधे यात्रियों को पंखों की सुविधा से वंचित रहना पड़ता है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF RILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) and (b). No Sir. There are some deficiency of fans in sleeper

coaches. This mainly due to thefts and pilferages. There is also inadequacy of indigenous capacity of production to meet such contingencies.

श्री महादीपक सिंह: अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि पंखों की कमी का मुख्य कारण उन की चोरी है। मैं आप के माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा क्यों है कि केवल स्लीपर कोचेज के पंखे ही निकाले जाते हैं और वह भी एक तरफ के, फर्स्ट और सेकेंड क्लास के पंखे नहीं निकाले जाते हैं? फिर चोर भी इतने जबर्दस्त कि कंडक्टर को भी उठा कर ले गये क्योंकि वहाँ पर कंडक्टर भी नहीं रहता है। चोर भी जब चोरी करने आते हैं तो थर्ड क्लास में चोरी करते हैं हालांकि चूँकि फर्स्ट और सेकेंड क्लास में कम लोग सफर करते हैं इस लिये उनको उन में चोरी करनी चाहिये। तो इस का क्या कारण है कि स्लीपर कोचेज में से ही पंखे चोरी जाते हैं और वह भी एक ही तरफ के ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : The hon. member is making a comparative assessment about thefts. It may not be a very correct way of putting things. I have admitted deficiencies. There is large-scale theft of railway property, as has been admitted. We are exerting ourselves to the extent possible to stop these thefts. I have myself seen in surprise inspection that articles have been stolen from most of the compartments, whether it is third class or first class. It is only in air conditioned coaches, where there is always a permanent man to watch, that thefts are less. This is an unfortunate situation, and all of us have to do our very best to stop this. I will also exert my utmost to see that as many fans and other facilities as possible are replaced.

श्री महादीपक सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय ने उत्पादन क्षमता की जो कमी बतलाई है उस को पूरा करने के लिये उन्होंने कोई प्रशासकीय कार्रवाई की है या नहीं ?