

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 9, 1973/*Sravana*  
18, 1895 (*Saka*)

The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Increase in the Labour Strength of Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels

\*262. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels is planning to employ 2000 more persons in the coming two years thus pushing up its labour strength to 4,600 as stated in a news report in the *Financial Express*, dated 4th June, 1973;

(b) whether Government are aware that the total labour force will be inconsistent with production, productivity, *per capita* investment and will affect viability of this project; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this increase in labour strength?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY  
(SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels are planning to induct about 1600 direct production workers in the course of the next two years. Commensurate with the above, some recruitment of supervising and supporting staff will also be necessary.

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(b) and (c). The labour force is being increased to sustain the planned increase in production in the next two years by resorting to full operation in the second shift; partial third shift will also be operated to the extent necessary. Induction of additional workers will help in more effective utilisation of installed machinery and equipment; with the anticipated increase in production *per capita* investment will go down and the financial viability of the project will improve. However, great care is being taken to ensure that the number of additional workers is kept to the very minimum.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: The unit has made a loss of approximately Rs. 2 crores last year and the *per capita* production in this sort of plate industry should be at least 20 thousand tonnes per year. I am unable to correlate the employment figures *vis-a-vis* the actual production and the intended production targets. So, may I know how these figures are expected to be reconciled in relation to the viability of the project?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): The plant went into production in August, 1971, and in 1972-73 the production was only 5,000 tonnes as against the capacity of 23,210 tonnes. This was valued at Rs. 4.6 crores. If in the first year there is some initial loss, my hon. friend would agree that it is inevitable unless more and more capacity will be utilised. Even the productivity of individual labour cannot be attained. The production target for the current year is 13,000 tonnes valued at Rs. 13.7 crores. According to the existing plan of the company, it is proposed to step up production

to 20,000 tonnes in 1974-75, and we are confident that we shall be able to reach it because we have enough of orders on hand. At present there is only one shift working and the second shift is partial. With the increase in labour strength, it is proposed to go into full second shift and also a partial third shift to achieve these targets.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** The intention was to have the minimum standard for productivity *per capita* in the unit, such as the one under consideration. The unit has excellent prospects. But we do not want the income to be drained off in unproductive activities. Once again, I would request the hon. Minister to let us know what is the minimum tonnage per year, per person, that he would ensure in respect of this unit.

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** The hon. Member has said that the productivity *per capita* of 20 tonnes would be reasonable. I would like to discuss this with him. If that can be achieved, I shall be extremely happy. So far as the structural industries are concerned, 12 tonnes is considered satisfactory. If he can show me that there are units which are producing more than 12,000 tonnes, I shall be most willing to learn a lesson from that.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** उप मंत्री महोदय ने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि कुछ प्रतिरिक्त मजदूरों की छंटनी की जायेगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितनी संख्या में उनकी छंटनी की जाएगी और कितने लोग बेरोज-गार होंगे ?

**श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :** मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में मैंने यह नहीं बताया है कि प्रतिरिक्त मजदूरों की छंटनी की जाएगी। उस में यह कहा है :

"However, great care has been taken to ensure that the number of

additional workers is kept to the very minimum."

बुकि माननीय सदस्य का मूल प्रश्न यह था कि मजदूरों की संख्या अनावश्यक रूप से बढ़ाई जा रही है, यतः मैंने कहा है कि अनावश्यक रूप से मजदूरों की संख्या नहीं बढ़ाई जा रही है बल्कि जितनी न्यूनतम आवश्यकता होगी उसको ध्यान में रख कर मजदूरों की भरती की जाएगी।

**SHRI B. V. NAIK:** In the Question, it has been stated that the productivity or the viability is linked to the *per capita* investment. The hon. Minister was pleased to give the figure of production in 1972-73 valued at Rs. 4.6 crores. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in practice, there is any correlation between the productivity, viability and *per capita* investment as seen by the figures of the labour costs involved in production?

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** I would like to make it clear that in any big unit of this type, the labour has to be trained, the labour has got to be equipped, to discharge their functions. At the stage when the production is low, the *per capita* productivity might appear to be low. But when the production steps up, the *per capita* productivity also goes up.

**Employment given in H.E.C. Ranchi and Bokaro Steel Plant**

\*264. **KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI:** Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in H.E.C. Ranchi and Bokaro Steel Plant, Bokaro in the year 1972-73; and

(b) the expected number of persons who will get employment in 1973-74?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY**