

SHRI T. A. PAI: In the TISCO plant, the capital cost has been very much less compared to the public sector plants which came into existence very much later. Production in TISCO has been comparatively much higher. Both these factors have been responsible for giving a more favourable picture of TISCO. But I am sure with the increased production now, as Bhilai has indicated, ensured in the public sector, there is no reason they should continue to incur losses.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Have Government come to a firm decision about decentralising these units and making them autonomous? If so, what are the broad structural guidelines envisaged and what is the time going to be taken to decentralise the steel plants?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The concept of decentralisation envisages the breaking up of every one of these units into a separate limited company. There are matter of adjustments of accounts, transfer of losses and so on. These details are being worked out. Steps are being taken expeditiously. Meanwhile all their activities are being co-ordinated and the constitution of these units into separate companies does not stand in the way of their efficient functioning.

जगन्नाथ राव जोशी अध्यक्ष
 मंत्रीद्वय। इमान के कागजातों में जो घाटा आता है क्या इसका एक कारण यह भी है कि वह पूरी क्षमता के साथ काम नहीं करने। प्रत्येक इकाई कैपेसिटी बहुत रहती है? यदि हा, तो उसको पूरा करने में बाधक क्या है और उनको कब निकाला जायगा ?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The problem of each plant, plant by plant, is being looked into. Infra-structure factors which often came in the way of full utilisation of capacity like deficient power supplies or deficient supply of coking coal are also being removed. We are absolutely earnest that the existing capacity should be fully utilised because otherwise, more expansion would not lead us anywhere.

Bonus to Employees of Chittoor Co-operative Sugar Factory

*474. **SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Chittoor Co-operative Sugar Factory is trying to withhold or scale down the Bonus payable during this year to its employees on the ground that the previous year's bonus had been paid to them full in cash instead of part of it being adjusted to their provident fund; and

(b) whether Government propose to ascertain the correct position in this regard and take suitable steps to ensure payment of legitimate bonus?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The State Government are the "appropriate Government" under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 in relation to this establishment. Information is, however, being obtained from them.

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Is the Minister prepared to take any responsibility in the matter if at the State level adequate steps are not taken to meet this legitimate requirement of payment of bonus to these employees? If so, what immediate steps does he contemplate to prevent such an irregular and illegitimate action on the part of the management?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The State Government are the appropriate Government. We do not want to interfere unnecessarily in the working of the State Government. If any establishment defaults and does not pay bonus as required, it has to be dealt with strictly. We have made it clear that bonus to be paid this year 1972-73 will be in cash. If the hon. member has anything to say in the matter, he should approach the State Government, with a copy forwarded to us. We will then look into it.

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: May I know from the Minister whether this act of the management in depriving the

employees of their legitimate bonus is part and parcel of the other anti-labourer practices and irregularities complained of to the Ministry, like depriving the employees of shareholding in the co-operatives, prohibiting them from even participating in their own local panchayats, etc., and whether this has been brought to the notice of the Ministry, and whether this action of the management will be taken note of in this context and adequate steps will be taken in respect of these anti-labour practices of the management?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: So far as the question of the Chittoor factory is concerned, our CLC's Officers are looking into the matter, and I think the result would come out.

Policy governing allocation of steel

*475. **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has laid down any rules regulations/policy for the allocation of steel and steel materials to the small scale sector of various States;

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

(c) how much allocation has been made to Punjab under the policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). Supplies of steel to the small scale industries are now routed through the Small Scale Industries Corporations of the various States. Allocation of steel depends on the quantum of demand sponsored, availability in a particular quarter and the competing demands.

(c) Allocation made to the Punjab SSI Corporation during the last two quarters was as follows:

July—September, 1973	..	10,887 tonnes.
Oct. -Dec., 1973	..	11,078 tonnes.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: In view of the great shortage of steel in Punjab, resulting in the closure of the units at Batala, Amritsar, Jullundur and Ludhiana, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the percentage of supplies, as compared with the total requirements of the small scale units, in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): I am unable to give the precise information, but all that I can say is that from October, 1972-73, the demand of the Punjab State alone has come to 9,16,000 tonnes. As against that, what has been supplied does not seem to be a very big quantity. But, on the one hand, it has been said that this is a highly exaggerated demand, but I do not want to go into this. I have decided that I should immediately call for a conference of Directors of Small Scale Industries of all the States, to be presided over by the Deputy Minister in charge of the small scale industries and decide the proper allocation for each State and also among the small scale industries to decide the priorities so that their requirements might be met as fully as we can with the limited supply of steel available in the country.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: I am very sorry that my question, though specific, was not given a specific answer. I am told that Punjab is being supplied only three per cent of its total requirements. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact.

SHRI T. A. PAI: I am unable to say precisely whether what is supplied is just three per cent; it may be that it was far short of what they considered was their requirement. I have already indicated that as against the large demand of 9,16,000 tonnes for one year, two months' supply has been hardly about 20,000 tonnes. I am unable to give you what has been supplied, in precise terms. But all that I can say is, having received a large number of complaints that the small scale industries all over the country are suffering, I am trying to see that their