

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Whether this particular situation has created a problem of lay-off/retrenchment for workers.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I don't know. The hon. Member knows about it very well. Do I need to add anything to it?

Take Over of TISCO

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*6. **SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:**

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over TISCO (Tata Iron and Steel Company);

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c). This matter is still under consideration of the Government.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: He has given an evasive reply. In this particular case, the Tata held only 4 per cent of the total share of TISCO. There is a view that all these industries should be nationalised. Then this view was supported by the hon. Minister himself and also by the hon. Minister of Industry Shri George Fernandes. Then there is a news item in *The Sunday Statesman*, dated 18th February, 1979. It says:

"A significant observation made by Mr. Charan Singh was that besides foreign collaboration what really worried him was the "loose talks" about nationalisation pointing out that nationalization had no impact on production or employment and only offered perquisites to bureaucrats."

MR. SPEAKER: During Question Hour, you do not read like this.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: So, under the circumstances, it is due to the pressure of Tata that the question of take over has been abandoned so far. It is clear. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that due to pressure the Government is going to abandon the proposal for taking over the TISCO.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: When I say that the matter is under the consideration of the Government, the Government is bound to consider various opinions, various newspaper reports, right or wrong, pressures and counter-pressure. All those will be taken into consideration before the Government takes a decision. Again I say that the matter is under consideration.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: How much time does it take to consider it? And secondly, whether there is any control of the Indian Government over the administration and operation of the TISCO; whether there are any representatives from the Government sides; if so, who are those personnels?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: There are Government Directors on the Board on behalf of the shareholders, as the hon. Member himself said. The share holding by the nationalised banks and financial institutions amount to about 45 per cent. Government have various matters under consideration so as to increase the number of members on the Board, how to deal with the sales, to bring it under one umbrella and relevant matters like that. But as the hon. member has put it, which pressure Government will accept—I can say this can be only the pressure of the sovereign Parliament.

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH: Sir, TISCO is one of the best managed and healthy units in the country and hence shall we stop speculating about nationalisation because it has got a de-moralising effect in the other indus-

trial pockets of the country and its share holdings? Will the Minister reply that it is not being nationalised?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have nothing more to add to what I have already said.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: The Tata is on record, that the hon. Minister made a proposal, I should consider it a beneficial drill if it comes true, that the empire will be handed over to Tatas if they agree to nationalisation. I would like to know whether it is true?

What prevents the Government to bring in a Bill to nationalise it if they feel that it is being badly managed? What prevents the Government from exercising 38 per cent voting power against 2 per cent or 3 per cent of the Tatas to control the management and oust Tata management right now?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Unfortunately, the hon. Member is mixing issues. The control of management and nationalisation are two different matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you think that other aspects will be considered?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I will not like it to be unanswered. He has mentioned *inter alia* three matters. Is it properly managed or not? If it is not properly managed, take it over. The answer is that there is no complaint about the actual production and management of the plant.

The question put is—you have got 45 per cent and they have got 4 per cent, why do you not take over the management? The same question has the same answer.

The other question is whether Tatas will take over the management of all Steel Plants. The answer is 'no'. There is no such offer.

While they were discussing I said, "How long you want to keep it? You

and I cannot live for very long. As you have managed for some years the nationalised Airlines, if you are so fond of steel, why do you not head the Government Board as its Chairman". That is not handing over to Tatas. It is not quite correct as the hon. member put it. If Tatas have projected in that manner, I think he is barking up the wrong tree. That is all I have to say at the moment.

Shifting of Bhagalpur Radio Station

*7. **DR. RAMJI SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in shifting the Bhagalpur Radio Station by Government to Bhagalpur city;

(b) whether Government of India have written to Government of Bihar for providing accommodation;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to hire accommodation in the meantime; and

(d) if so, by what time the shifting is expected to take place?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Bhagalpur is at present an auxiliary Centre of A.I.R. with the transmitter at a distance of about 8 k.m. from the city. The question of its shifting to the city does not arise. However, efforts are being made to establish a city office for this Radio Station at Bhagalpur.

(b) A.I.R. Bhagalpur has written to the District Magistrate for providing accommodation for the city office.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As stated earlier, there is no shifting involved. The establishment