

मंत्री महोदय इस चीज की जांच करावेंगे कि कारपोरेशन को इसलिये लिया गया है कि वह कांप्रिस का प्रचार करे।

**श्री कलशदीन अली अहमद :** जहां तक कारपोरेशन का ताल्लूक है, मेरे इल्म में ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है। जहां तक एम्बवायरी की बात है—एक जज उसकी एम्बवायरी कर रहे हैं, उनकी रिपोर्ट आने के बाद जो एक्शन होगा वह लिया जायेगा।

**श्री हुसैन खन् कछवाय :** जीपें मिली हैं, रुपया मिला है, आदमी मिले हैं— इस की जांच होनी चाहिए।

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :** Whatever be the argument for the takeover of this particular unit of the B.I.C., the fact remains, and I think the Minister will confirm it, that this particular unit was a losing concern while the other units were very profitable concerns. What exactly is the idea behind taking over a losing concern and thereby taking over the possible losses of a part-private company by the Government? Is there any particular justification for doing this hastily when it is said that the matter is under consideration? Why could not the Government consider the take-over of the entire concern instead of taking over the losses of a part-private company and thereby putting the Government to a loss?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY :** The President of India, the L.I.C., and the Unit Trust of India have got about 39.5 per cent of the shareholding of the B.I.C. As far as this particular unit is concerned, structurally, it is not one which is likely to make a loss, but due to the mismanagement this unit has made a loss. In view of the fact that the company had made an offer to hand over the buildings and land at a nominal value and to make some adjustment in regard to the liabilities Government came to the conclusion that in view of the export potentialities of the shoes and the requirements of the defence services, this unit is bound to make profit, and having come to that conclusion, Government have decided to take over this unit.

#### Bonus to Coffee Board Workers

\*4. **SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :**  
**SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALN :**  
**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :**  
**SHRI P. GOPALAN :**

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 340 on the 12th November, 1968 and state :

(a) Whether Government have examined the question of payment of bonus to the Coffee Board Workers;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) if not, when the examination is likely to be completed; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :** (a) to (d). The question of admissibility of bonus payments to the employees of the Coffee Board is still being examined by the Government. The decision is expected to be taken shortly.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :** May I know why Government have adopted a alukewarm policy towards the Coffee Board Workers so far as bonus is concerned? During the last three years, the representatives of the Coffee Board Union and the Commerce Minister met and settled all other issues except bonus. May I know why Government have delayed so much the payment of bonus to the Coffee Board workers?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** This matter raised a number of issues including the issues of the admissibility of bonus in the Coffee board as well as its repercussions in the other boards. Therefore, inter-Ministerial consultations were necessary, and this took some time. But I can assure the hon. Member that there will not be any further delay.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :** During the last session also the same reply was given; the

Minister may change but the reply is the same. The workers in the other public undertakings have been given bonus. May I know why the Coffee Board Workers who are also working just like the other workers are not being given bonus? Why are Government adopting a negative attitude towards them so far as bonus is concerned? Will Government take a decision on this matter without further delay?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT** : I have said that there will not be any more delay.

**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN** : The question of bonus for the Coffee Board workers has been pending for the last seven years. I do not know whether the hon. Minister knows that some of the disputes and demands of the Coffee Board workers were in the court, and there was a compromise between the Commerce Ministry and the representatives of the Coffee Board workers at a meeting where I was also present, and some compromise was arrived it, and the cases were withdrawn on the compromise that some issues would be settled then and the bonus also would be given immediately. But seven years already over and I would like to know the reason why there is delay in settling the issue. The Coffee Board workers include the Coffee House workers as well as those in the estates. May I know why Government have been thinking over this problem for the last seven years without arriving at a decision? While the cases in the court were withdrawn there was a compromise that when the other questions were settled this also would be looked into. May I know the basic reason for this delay? Will the hon. Minister immediately find out whether there was a compromise and some settlement some years ago, and if so, what the settlement was, and see that this matter is also settled immediately?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT** : I confess that I am not aware of this settlement and whether it has been delayed by seven years, and whether the settlement relates to this particular matter. The payment of bonus is under the terms of the Act. As I have explained, firstly, the main difficulty was in regard to the question whether the Bonus Act would apply to the Coffee Board. There is a legal difference on that question on the ground whether the Coffee Board is an industry or not. That

question has to be gone into first. There are differences of opinion about it. Then, there is the question of its repercussions. Even if we allow it here, what would be its repercussions on the other boards? There, definitely, the legal opinion is absolutely very clear that in the case of the Tea Board, Silk Board etc. this should not apply and it does not apply to them. So, the question of its repercussions on those boards is also there. This needed inter-Ministerial consultations and this has caused some delay. But I may assure the hon. Member that I shall look into it and a decision will be taken with the utmost expedition.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU** : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Coffee Board workers have contributed to the increased production of Coffee which would entitle them to a bonus? Secondly, I would like to know whether if this bonus is paid, it will not be reflected in the prices of Coffee which are already too high both in the internal and in the external markets.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT** : He is asking me for an opinion.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU** : I want to know the facts.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT** : He has expressed an opinion, and he wants me to confirm it. I am not in a position to confirm it.

**SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM** : May I know why the hon. Minister is thinking of mixing up the Coffee Board with the other Boards and thinking of its repercussions on other boards? Each case must be taken by itself? May I know whether the hon. Minister will consider and settle this agelong question which has been pending for a very long time. The Coffee Board itself is endeavouring to give the bonus. So, why should Government come in the way?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT** : I only spoke of the considerations which came in taking a decision. But as I have said, a decision will be taken as early as possible.

#### **Shortage of Coking coal for Steel Plants**

\*5. **SHRI DEVEN SEN** : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :