

have gone up in the case of sugar, edible oils, cement on account of.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you trying to bring them down?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 42

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस पर हाफ-एन-ऑवर डिस्क्शन होना चाहिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह ठाकुर : सभापति महोदय, बढ़ती हुई कीमतों से आज आम आदमी चिंतित है। मैं आपके माध्यम से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: We have already given notice for a half-an-hour discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing it
श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह ठाकुर : महोदय,

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए। यह क्वेश्चन ऑवर है। क्या मजाक है। ... (व्यवधान)...

Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. I have called Question No. 42. It has already been decided that there will be a short duration discussion.

Yes, Question No. 42.

Suggestions of FICCI for setting up integrated steel plants

*42. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested the setting up of integrated steel plants in the private and joint sectors and also for increasing the capacity of mini steel plant in the private sector; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):
(a) No Sir.

*Not recorded.

(b) Does Not arise.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: चैयरमेन महोदय, कोई सवाल करने से पहले मैं आपसे प्रोटेक्शन चाहता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: वह तो है हमेशा।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: सरकार के इन मंत्रियों से हमें खतरा है। इस सरकार के जो मंत्री हैं, उनसे हमें खतरा है।

श्री सभापति: किनसे? इनसे?

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: महोदय, मैं बताता हूँ, मेरी बात सुनिए। इन मंत्रियों से हमें खतरा है। अरुण नेहरू जी तो स्टील मंत्री भी नहीं हैं। यह तो बेचारे सबस्टीट्यूट कर रहे हैं। परसों 30 तारीख को, सेशन के पहले दिन जो फर्स्ट क्वेश्चन था, वह एअर-बस के बारे में था।

श्री सभापति: तो कहां एअर-बस और कहां स्टील?

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: आप जरा मेरी बात सुनेंगे, तो फिर प्रोटेक्शन देने की कोशिश करेंगे। आप मेरी बात सुनेंगे तो प्रोटेक्शन हो जाएगी।

श्री सभापति: जल्दी-जल्दी कीजिए। यह क्वेश्चन-ऑवर है। इसमें छोटे-मोटे सवाल होने चाहिए।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: मंत्री महोदय ने एक क्वेश्चन के जवाब में कहा— "The matter is under consideration." That was the answer. कल तीसरे क्वेश्चन के जवाब में....

श्री सभापति: कल का सवाल नहीं, आप इस सवाल पर सप्लीमेंटरी कीजिए, प्लीज।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: जब कहा गया कश्मीर के बारे में, कि कोई कमेटी बनाई है? तो कह दिया कि नहीं बनाई। जब हमारे मेम्बर ने बताया कि कमेटी बनी है तो उसके बारे में जवाब देना शुरू कर दिया।

श्री सभापति: आप अपने सवाल पर ही सप्लीमेंटरी कीजिए।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: आज मंत्री महोदय ने यह जवाब दिया है— "नो सर"। मैंने पूछा था कि फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चेम्बर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एण्ड इंडस्ट्री के प्रेसिडेंट की तरफ से कोई सुझाव आया है?

श्री सभापति: वह कहते हैं कि नहीं आया।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: मेरे पास यह अखबार की कटिंग है, 18 मार्च की। बहुत लंबा-चौड़ा स्टेटमेंट

दिया है उन्होंने। इसके जवाब में उन्होंने कह दिया—
"नो सर"। अब मैं क्वेश्चन क्या करूँ इसके ऊपर?

श्री सभापति: आप उनका स्टेटमेंट देख लीजिए या आपको कुछ कहना है?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, the Ministry or the Government does not react according to a press statement issued. We have received no communication at all from FICCI and unless we receive a communication, how can we discuss an issue on the basis of a press report? But if the Member would like to raise any points in regard to that press release, I am willing to answer the question.

But the question is:

फिक्री ने जब कुछ लिखा ही नहीं है मिनिस्ट्री को, तो मैं क्या कह सकता हूँ।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: फिक्री के प्रेसिडेंट ने प्रेस में स्टेटमेंट दी है 18 मार्च को। उन्होंने बड़ा लंबा-चौड़ा स्टेटमेंट दिया है।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप सप्लीमेंटरी पूछिए सवाल पर।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: अगर आप उसका जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हैं तो ठीक है। प्रोटेक्शन हो गई। मैं अब क्वेश्चन करता हूँ। क्या मंत्री महोदय, यह बताएंगे कि आपके स्टील सेक्टर में आर० वेंकटनारायणन जी ने कहा कि आठवीं योजना के बाद, जब आठवीं योजना कंप्लीट हो जाएगी, तो 24 मिलियन टन स्टील की प्रोडक्शन होगी। अब आज की स्टील की प्रोडक्शन और आठवीं योजना के बाद नौ मिलियन टन का गैप रहता है। यह चार मिलियन टन सेल प्लांट से तैयार होगा, तीन मिलियन टन, जो आज वाइज़ेग का प्लांट खुलने जा रहा है, उससे होगा। तो मुझे मंत्री महोदय बताएं कि दो मिलियन टन का जो गैप है, यह कहाँ से पूरा होगा?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, the estimate at the moment is that at the end of the Eighth Plan, we would have a total production of 24.7 million tonnes. Out of this, 13 million tonnes would be from SAIL, 3 million tonnes from TISCO, 2.70 million tonnes from Visakhapatnam and about 6 million tonnes from the secondary sector which includes the mini steel plants. This comes to about 24.7 million tonnes. We are not seeing very major shortage.

The main thing is to increase the capacity "utilisation. At the moment, it is only about 74 per cent. In the previous

year, it was 72 per cent. Basically, 'we have to ensure that from 74 per cent, progressively, we go up to 80—85 per cent. If we achieve that, I do not think we will have a shortage.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल: मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि जो प्राइवेट स्टील प्लांट हैं, उससे 6 मिलियन टन प्रोडक्शन हो सकेगा। आज उनकी कैपेसिटी सिर्फ 2 मिलियन टन की कंटी के अंदर है और आप फरदर लाइसेंस देने के लिए नहीं जा रहे हैं। आपकी यह पॉलिसी है।

दूसरा, आपने कहा कि 72 और 74 परसेंट प्रोडक्शन है। "टिस्को" की पिछले साल 110 परसेंट प्रोडक्शन हुई तो आपके प्लांट की 72-74 क्यों है?

मैं मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में लाना चाहूंगा और जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह बात सही है कि पिछले साल में 33 मिलियन टन आयरन ओर वर्थ 675 करोड़ रुपये की हमने एक्सपोर्ट की है? अगर हम इसको कन्वर्ट कर लें स्टील के अंदर, तो कितनी ज्यादा हम फारेन एक्सचेंज और अर्न करते हैं। इसीलिए मेरा यह सवाल है आपसे और इसीलिए यह स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है "फिक्री" के प्रेसिडेंट की ओर से कि इस कंटी के अंदर इंटिग्रेटिड स्टील प्लांट नहीं बनाए जा सकते। जो प्रधान मंत्री जी आज देश को देने जा रहे हैं, वाइज़ेग स्टील प्लांट, उसके ऊपर 9 हजार करोड़ रुपया खर्च हुआ है। आप अपडेट करना चाहेंगे, जो पिछले स्टील प्लांट हैं, तो उसमें 6 हजार करोड़ रुपया लगेगा, कंटी एफोर्ड नहीं कर सकती। इसलिए क्या आप यह जो मिनी स्टील प्लांट हैं, प्राइवेट सेक्टर के अंदर, उन्हें लाइसेंस देने जा रहे हैं? अगर देने जा रहे हैं तो आपकी उसके बारे में क्या पॉलिसी है ताकि जो आयरन ओर हमें बाहर भेजनी पड़ती है, वह न भेजनी पड़े?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, first of all, I would like to correct a few points. On Visakhapatnam, we have, so far, spent Rs. 5,000 crores and the likely expenditure is going to be about Rs. 7,800 crores.

As far as the mini steel plants are concerned, we have 179 units making 3 million tonnes. What we are seriously considering now is to give licences to four mini steel plants for capacities in excess of 2.5 lakh tonnes because, as the hon. Member mentioned, there is enormous potential for increasing the production and it will also be at lower cost than the

others. Therefore, we are thinking of giving licences for capacities in excess of 2.5 lakh t. p. a. because what is really important in the case of mini steel plants is the cost of power consumed. If the units are small, the cost of power is very much high. Therefore, we are seriously thinking of going in for higher capacities. When you are talking of a one million plant, you are talking in terms of an investment of Rs. 1,000 crores, which is not very easy for the private-sector to take up. But we are considering it and, if possible, we will do so.

As regards iron ore, we have a lot of reserve. If we have the capacity to make another 10-15-20 million tonnes, we will conserve the iron ore. But since we are not making it immediately, it does not make sense not to export.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Iron ore merely is not enough for setting up steel plants. Coking coal is also not there. But what is important in this is not the amount spent on Visakhapatnam. What is going to be the cost to reach the total capacity? If we continue to persist with the blast furnace route and not go in; -for the direct reduction process, what is likely to be the per tonne cost of steel? With Visakhapatnam being what it is and what it is likely to be after you invest the entire money, may I know from the hon. Minister whether they have any policy? There is perennial shortage of steel. Of course, if we reach the full capacity, all our public sector plants would be able to meet a substantial part of our needs. But it is unavoidable. The hon. Minister himself has said that they will give licences for midi and mini steel plants. In this connection, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any policy of adopting a particular technology because large many technologies have come for setting up steel plants?

If they have made any thinking or home-work on that, I would like to

know, which is the technology which has commended itself most to the Steel Ministry?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, the hon. Member has made very pertinent points as far as the new technologies are concerned. Certainly these are being examined at the moment and the total cost of position is being looked into. We have a total package as far as the steel industry is concerned. We are having discussions with the Planning Commission for the Eighth Plan. Once a final picture emerges, it will be easier to give further details.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Per tonne cost of Vizag on the basis of today and the times to come.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Cost is a part of the exercise which is being done. I cannot say with finality what the cost is going to be.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I seek your protection, Sir. He knows the total cost and he knows what is going to be the per tonnes cost, including depreciation and interest. (*Interruptions*). It is not fair. He is withholding the per tonne cost including depreciation and interest. What will be the position at that time?

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: The cost is very high. That is why he is hiding the fact.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: What is there to hide, why should I hide?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Give us some indication.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, there have been press reports that the Orissa Government is planning to put up its own integrated steel plant. What is the Central Government's policy in allowing the State Governments to put up integrated steel plants in the State sector, not the private sector? Is the Central Government planning to allow State Governments to put up their own integrated steel plants?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: As far as Orissa is concerned, there has been exchange of views and exchange of views is still continuing with the Chief Minister. There is a provision in the Eighth Plan for a steel plant in Orissa but unless the Eighth Plan is finalised, it is not possible for us to give final comments as to where the steel plant would be in Orissa. We are going to have a steel plant there, but we are discussing various options with the State.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Not the location. I want to know whether you are allowing the State Government to have a steel plant.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: These are still matters of discussion with the State. They can make various proposals, we will make various proposals. There is no finality to it. As and when there is finality, we would let you know.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: What is the position of Vijayanagar steel plant? Will it be provided with sufficient funds for production?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: As far as Vijayanagar steel plant is concerned, we have recommended its inclusion in the Eighth Plan. The Eighth Plan is not finalised as yet. So, I cannot say beyond this at the moment.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Some 20 years back Salem steel plant was started in Tamil Nadu as an iron-ore based steel plant. Now it has been just reduced to a re-rolling mill. Does the Government have a definite proposal to upgrade its manufacture. to see that the Salem steel plant again becomes an iron-ore steel plant?

Secondly, the difficulty in the steel sector is the scarcity of pig-iron throughout India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. 25 per cent of the motor pumps are being manufactured in Tamil Nadu. Some factories are facing the danger of

closure due to the shortage of pig-iron. Therefore, I want to know whether the Government has got any proposal to increase the production of pig-iron by about 10 to 12 per cent of the total steel production so that the required amount of pig-iron could be supplied to small scale industries? If so, what are the details? If not, I would like to know the reasons for that. So, my first question is about the Salem steel plant and the other about supply of pig-iron to small scale industries of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: As far as Salem is concerned, if any details are required, I would need a searate notice for that.

About pig-iron, the small scale foundry is facing shortage of pig-iron which used to be supplied by integrated steel plants under the public sector. Now to take care of the constant shortage of this commodity Government has already delicensed the pig-iron industry. Pig-iron can now be manufactured in smaller blast furnaces. Some private sector entrepreneurs have already shown interest in such production and after it has been delicensed and with additional production coming in, we hope that will solve the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 43. Absent. Question No. 44.

*43 [*The questioner (Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji) was absent. For answer vide Col., 30 infra.*]

Decline in tea production

*44. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of shortfall in the production of tea in the country as against the target during the Seventh Plan period and the consequential fall in the foreign exchange earnings;

(b) what was the country's share in