

गये हैं । यह सवाल है । जहाँ तक स्टोनोग्राफर्स की पोस्टिंग का सवाल है वह जूनियर आफिसर के साथ हों या सीनियर आफिसर के साथ हों, इसके लिए कोई हार्ड एण्ड फास्ट रूल्स नहीं हैं । आफिसर्स के लिए जो पूल है उसमें 32 सीनियर स्टोनोग्राफर हैं और आफिसर जो उनके कांफिडेंस की बात है चाइस की बात है उसके मुताबिक अभी उनमें से स्टोनोग्राफर लेते हैं । ऐसा करने से न उनकी सीनियरिटी के ऊपर कोई असर होता है, न उनकी प्रमोशन पर कोई असर होता है, न उनकी तरक्कवाह पर असर होता है ।

*325. [The questioner (Shri N. P. Chengalraya Naidu) was absent. For answer vide col. 28 infra.]

*326. [The questioner (Prof. Ram Lal Parikh) was absent. For answer vide col. 29 infra.]

Visit by an Iranian Trade Delegation to India

*327. SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outcome of the recent visit to India of the High level Iranian Trade Delegation so far as Kudremukh Iron-ore Project is concerned;

(b) by when the project is expected to start functioning; and

(c) what will be the revised total cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There was only a general discussion with the Iranian Trade Delegation on issues relating to Kudremukh Iron Ore Project. The Leader of the Delegation expressed his desire for a satisfactory solution of outstanding issues relating to Kudremukh Iron Ore Project during the ensuing visit of an Indian team to Tehran.

(b) The project is expected to be commissioned in August, 1980.

(c) The total cost of the project as sanctioned by the Government is Rs. 647.33 crores. The project is expected to be completed well within the sanctioned cost estimate and there will be no need for sanctioning a revised total cost.

SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has answered the question but I would like to put one more question. Regarding completion of the project he has said that it will be completed as scheduled. But in today's *Statesman* it has appeared that even though the work will be completed before schedule, the Iranian Government is not prepared to start functioning as per the agreement. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what action our Government will take in this regard.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is true that after the change of Government in Iran, the question in regard to the disposal of the iron ore concentrate which will be manufactured by this project has come up. When the Iranian delegation visited India, I had a discussion with them. The Indian team is also going to have a discussion with them. But I can share my information with the Members of this House that we are really landed in a difficulty because whatever be the situation there, Iran would not be in a position to receive the iron ore concentrate which will be manufactured in the Kudremukh Project. Therefore, we must have an outlet. But there too is a difficulty. This is a particular type of concentrate for which there is no ready market. But we are exploring the possibilities to see in what manner we can dispose it off. Unless we arrive at a final settlement with the Iranian Government, it would not be possible for me to indicate what course of action we will take.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Sir,...

श्री समापति : यादव जी, आपका सवाल तो हो जाए । क्या बीच में आपको खड़ा कर दूँ ?

SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Sir, I am given to understand that the Government is going to have a pelletisation plant in Mangalore. In this connection, I would like to ask the Minister when this project will start functioning in Mangalore, and what would be the total cost of the pelletisation plant.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the pelletisation plant is concerned, it is almost a must for converting the Kudremukh iron ore into pellets because we will have some market then. But that too will not solve our problem immediately because after all the installation of the pelletisation plant will take 32-36 months. Regarding the cost of the project, I require a separate notice. (Interruptions)

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : सभापति जी, मैं कुद्रेमुख गया था मैंने देखा है। आपके मुताबिक करीब-करीब तीन चौथाई पैसा वहां खर्च हो चुका है। जैसा आपने कहा ईरान से कोई निकट भविष्य में संभावना नहीं दिखती कि जो हमारा आइरन-ओर कंसन्ट्रेट है वह वहां जाएगा तो क्या ऐसी कोई संभावना नहीं हो सकती, जैसा आपने कहा पैलेटाइजेशन प्लांट मंगलोर में बनाना है, बैलाडीला में कहीं बनाना है, और उड़ीसा में भी बनाने की बात चल रही है, जब तक किसी दूसरे से हमारा समझौता नहीं हो जाता, हमारा माल वह नहीं ले जाते तब तक उसकी कहीं और खपत कर लें क्योंकि उस पर करीब-करीब साढ़े छः सौ करोड़ रुपया लागत खत्म होने तक लगने की संभावना है। हम कोई ऐसी पोलिसी बना लें कि जो माल बने उसकी खपत हिन्दुस्तान में ही। हमें उम्मीद है वह माल दूसरे मुल्कों में भी भेजा जा सकेगा। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप इसको युद्धस्तर पर प्राथमिकता देने की बात सोचें। जो भी आपके पास योजनाएं हैं उन योजनाओं के अतिरिक्त इस योजना पर हिन्दुस्तान का साढ़े छः सौ करोड़ रुपया

लग रहा है। यह पैसा पानी में न चला जाये इसलिए तत्काल कोई योजना युद्ध स्तर पर चलाएँ हमको हल करने के लिए आप कुछ बना रहे हैं या नहीं, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री सभापति : छोटी सी बात बता दीजिए।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of priority is concerned, it has to be given priority to convert a part of the Kudremukh iron ore into pellets. But I share my anxiety with the Members that that too will take some time. In between we have taken it up with Iran and I hope it will be possible for Iran also to take a part of the concentrate for the steel plants which will have a direct reduction scheme. Over a period of three years the total production will be 7.5 million tonnes. If it starts producing from September this year, at the end of the 1st year, the total production will be of the order of three million tonnes. Therefore, we shall have to take a view as to how we can dispose of this total production of 7.5 million tonnes. How much Iran can take, how much we convert into pellets, all these matters will be taken into account and definitely it will be given a priority.

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : श्रीमन्, बैलाडीला में 27 करोड़ रुपये पहले ही खर्च किये जा चुके हैं। वहां तो कम से कम यह काम शुरू किया जा सकता है। आप जानते हैं, बैलाडीला मध्य प्रदेश में है।

श्री सभापति : अब आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति जी, आइरन-ओर हिन्दुस्तान के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि सारे विश्व लिए एक

बहुत-ही महत्व का खनिज पदार्थ है। इसकी उपयोगिता आगे आने वाले समय में और भी होगी।

श्री संभाषित : समय बहुत कम है। आप बवाल पृष्ठित करें।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : श्रीमन्, मैं बहुत कम समय लूंगा। हमारे देश में कितना आइरन और धरती के नीचे जमा है, इसका अन्दाजा मुझे नहीं है, लेकिन मंत्री जी हमें इस संबंध में बता सकते हैं। लेकिन भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं को मध्यनजर रखते हुए क्या सरकार इस बात के ऊपर विचार करेगी कि जिस तरह से जापान ने समुद्र के अन्दर हमारे देश से आइरन-ओर खरीद कर इकट्ठा कर लिया है ताकि इसका उपयोग भविष्य में अपने कारखानों में वह कर सके और जिस प्रकार से अमेरिका तेल पैदा करने वाले देशों से तेल खरीद कर समुद्र के अन्दर भविष्य के लिए भंडार बना रहा है उसी प्रकार से भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या भारत सरकार भी धरती के नीचे जो इस प्रकार के खनिज पदार्थ हैं उनको बचाने का प्रयास करेगी? ...

(Interruptions) आप इसके महत्व को समझते नहीं हैं। जापान हमारे देश से आइरन और खरीद कर भविष्य के लिए इसको समुद्र में जमा कर रहा है। आपके आका श्री लोहिया ने बहुत वर्ष पहले यह कहा था कि इस आइरन-ओर को बाहर के देशों में नहीं भेजा जाना चाहिए ... (Interruptions)

श्री संभाषित : आप अब बैठ जाइये। मेम्बर जब बहुत ज्यादा आगे बढ़ जायेंगे तो मैं यह घंटी बजा दूंगा। मैंने

अब यह दूसरा तरीका अपना लिया है ताकि उनको आवाज न सुनाई दे।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the general proposition of the hon. Member is concerned, if I have understood him correctly, he wants that we should preserve the raw materials, and instead of the raw materials we should export the finished products. I agree with him on this general proposition. But at the same time, Sir, I will be glad if the Finance Minister gives me sufficient money to convert 15,000 million tonnes of the iron-ore into either pellets or steel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you can put them into the sea according to Mr. Yadav.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Yes, for storage for the future of the country. Mr. Chairman, you must know it. Other countries are doing it. You are laughing at it. You do not understand the gravity of the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. बैठ जाइये।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister has shared the anxiety with us twice. Will you also share the anxiety with us for the third time? In this business, in our relation with Iran, one had been involved Hinduja Brothers had been involved during the old Congress regime and during the Janata regime, and I do not know what is the position there. It is also alleged that because of the activity of the Hinduja Brothers we have lost a lot of money. I should like to know whether, having shared our anxiety in regard to this notorious Hinduja Brothers, whether he will see to it that the Hinduja Brothers are completely eliminated from this scene in the context of the Indo-Iranian relations.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as this project is concerned, it is known to the hon. Member that this was a direct agreement between the earlier Iranian Government and ourselves. We have taken it up with the Iranian Government which is ruling Iran for the time being. And in fact I had discussions with the Iranian Industry Minister and the Commerce Minister twice when the Industry Minister came in connection with the UNIDO Conference and the Commerce Minister led a delegation recently in connection with expanding trade and commercial activities. I do not know where the question of Hinduja comes so far as this particular project is concerned.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir,....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Promotions of employees working in Income-tax Department

***321. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees in the income-tax Department, Hyderabad Circle have not been promoted as Income-Tax Inspectors, despite their having qualified as such over 10 years ago and having put in nearly 25 years of service in that Department; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the employees concerned?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Commissioner of Income-tax, Hyderabad and will be laid on the Table of the House.

News item published in the "Indian Labour Journal" regarding agricultural labour

***325. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study published in the May issue of the Indian Labour Journal crossing the poverty line is a far cry for agricultural labour who constitute 26 per cent of the country's total labour force;

(b) whether it is also a fact as stated in the Journal that the minimum wage prescribed by the various State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act will have to be increased by a minimum of 33.6 per cent; and

(c) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) to (c) The author of a special article in the May, 1980 issue of the Indian Labour Journal has expressed the opinion that the minimum wages fixed by many State Governments for agricultural labour are not adequate to enable them to cross the poverty line.

The minimum wages for agricultural labour are fixed mainly by the State Governments. The minimum wages so fixed by them are not uniform; they vary from State to State. A statement showing the rates of minimum wages in the various States is laid on the Table. [See Appendix CXIV, Annexure No. 103.]

Government is trying its utmost to raise the standard of living of agricultural labour. The Government have been constantly advising the State Governments to revise the existing minimum wages wherever necessary so that the burden of agricultural labour in meeting their primary needs may be reduced. It is proposed to discuss this issue in the forthcoming conference of the Labour Ministers.