

[Shri Ravindra Varma]

which are being trotted out by the management and though we gave a "Show-cause" notice to them asking them to explain as to why the mine was working in spite of the promulgation under section 22(3) of the Act on 21-4-77, it has not been possible to prosecute the then officers because it is a Co-operative Society and the Society's officers have changed. But that is not an adequate explanation and, when this came to my knowledge, I have ordered an inquiry to find out as to why we could not prosecute them. Then, Sir, he raised the question of helmets and shoes. That only shows his concern for the miners from head to foot. That is why he has talked of helmets and shoes. I know that there are occasions when, because of paucity of financial resources there is lack of proper equipment. But that cannot be the reason here. We will ensure that we have enough resources for this. Then, he made a pointed reference to the number of rescue stations and I can assure him that we are taking steps to increase the number of rescue stations.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What about rescue teams?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: As far as the rescue team is concerned, I will not be able to say exactly. But I can say that this accident took place in an open cast mine. It was a cast mine; it is lime quarry. The accident took place around 6 p.m., when the workers had finished the day's work and were actually leaving. This place, as I said earlier, is somewhat removed from the District headquarters; it is near Ramganj Mandi near Kota District. The accident took place on the 22nd April. The information was received by the officers of the D.G.M.S. in Ajmer only on the 23rd, and immediately the officer left Ajmer and he reached the site at 2 a.m. on the 24th; this means he started immediately and reached there even at midnight. The D.G.M.S. himself came to know of it on the 24th and he proceeded immediately

from Dhanbad by plane to the site of the accident and he has given a preliminary report to me. Therefore, I can assure the hon. Member and the House that when the investigation is completed, if it is shown that there has been negligence or it is shown that there is a case for a court of inquiry to be appointed, we will certainly do so. But that depends on the findings, of the inquiry.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Why don't you do it now?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Not now.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR IRON AND STEEL COMPANIES (RESTRUCTURING) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL, 1978—Contd.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I was very happy to hear the Member from the Opposition, showing his great concern about the policies of the Janata Party, and I am very happy that we have such alert Members who draw attention to this whenever they feel that we have deviated from our policies. But may I say that this was a misplaced concern? The hon. Member from the Opposition, when he spoke, said that this particular Bill was contrary to the election manifesto and the economic policy and the statement made by the hon. Minister only two days back. Why did he think it was contrary? This is because he thought that instead of decentralisation, which is the policy of this party, this Bill was leading towards centralisation. I think that this particular conclusion is based on misapprehension. If one looks at the present position of the various organisations under the SAIL or the Ministry, one would find that today there are a large number of companies, though not directly related to steel-making, under the SAIL. And that leads to much greater centralisation. The purpose of this Bill, as it was mentioned, was to so re-structure that there is decentralisation in a concrete

manner. All integral steel companies alone would be under the SAIL, and the subsidiary companies which include a construction company, refractory manufacturers, etc. will all now be independently reporting to the Ministry—which they are doing also; but instead of going through the SAIL they will be directly reporting to them. And to that extent one stage is removed. To that extent, it is decentralisation of power and delegation of power. I commend this 3 P.M. is decentralisation of power and decentralisation of authority and delegation of power. I commend this. I appreciate it. This was done with a view to bringing about effective functioning and operational efficiency based on a unified direction and linking the product groups. I would like to caution the hon. Minister on one or two points. It was mentioned very rightly that in the international situation today, India is producing very little steel. Even Korea is going to overtake us. China produces much more. Japan produces ten times more. Iran would be overtaking us. All these countries except Japan came into steel production very recently. When we bring about this change. I am sure the hon. Minister would take care to see that the selection of persons at the top level is made in such a way that you definitely get the most effective results, you achieve your objectives and do not get into difficulties by having people who are not in a position to take right decisions and actions. Secondly, I would like to draw his attention to another problem. I am not particularly suggesting that it is so in his Ministry. But it is the general experience that even in the case of autonomous corporations there is a tendency to direct them from the Secretariat in Delhi. I believe that the hon. Minister would keep it in mind to see that decision-making is left at the Board level and the autonomous corporations are allowed to function as autonomous corporations. I was very glad to hear from him that delays lead to increase in costs and that our Government does not believe in delays. I am sure he will see that the delays are avoided and the results are obtained.

Lastly, I want to caution him that he should see that in the process of having one integral company, the individual plant efficiency and competitive aspect amongst the plants may not be lost sight of. This is very essential to avoid inefficiency and any kind of complacency because the total company would be showing the results now instead of individual companies and individual plants. This is another area where his attention is called for.

I would make a few suggestions. When this Bill becomes Act and the different corporations are either merged directly into an integral company or report directly to the Government, some of them, particularly those which are today subsidiary companies whether it is a refractory company or a designs company or a mine, should provide expertise and guidance to other producers also in the country and not merely to those which are governed by SAIL. It may be Mysore Iron and Steel Works or any other company either in the small or medium or large sector. Suitable expertise and guidance should be provided to them also so that their own standards are raised. This is a national service that this corporation and other corporations coming under this Bill could do. This aspect must be kept in mind. We should not have a narrow view or vision. I would also draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that his expert organisation, the SAIL International, needs a lot of toning up. In the international market, particularly for selling, you have to be competitive not only in price and quality, but in your response time and in your service before and after sale. And I don't think one can sav with great confidence that it is so with the various governmental organisations which are engaged in export today. I think it is true of SAIL International also. They will have to take quicker business-like decisions. And, Sir, there is also an interesting comment that I have heard and I think the hon. Minister might enlighten us. Very

[Shri Viren J. Shah]

often, for a very little service or, in fact, for no service rendered by SAIL, whenever any steel is exported, because of canalisation, without doing a penny's worth of work or contributing to that, they charge a commission, may be of 2 per cent or more which is in no way commensurate with the services rendered. The only result is that it adds to the price of the product which is to be exported. I think, when they do the reorganization, they would also look into this Sir, the hon. Minister has told us in great details to the extent it was necessary as to why this Bill is brought not a day too soon and why this Bill is essential in the interest of advancing the progress of the steel industry in the country which is largely in the public sector. And I am glad that the Indian Iron and Steel Company's shares also are brought under the SAIL, directly so that it also becomes a part of the composite, integral SAIL Company. I am not too sure today whether one can say with great confidence that the Indian Iron and Steel Company is managed in the best and most efficient manner. I think that requires to be looked into.

With these words, Sir, I support and commend this Bill to the House.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, the hon. Minister while introducing the Bill said that he does not want to be a drain inspector. But, Sir, the tragedy is that if the rats get into the drain, then one has to be a drain inspector and there is no other alternative.

Sir, I do not know who has given the name, 'the restructuring of the Public Sector Iron and Steel Companies' but he must have had a sense of humour, rather a funny kind of humour. It is far from truth. It is not restructuring nor is it reconstruction. It is a plain and simple demolition and destruction of one of the finest public sector units, the hard core of the steel plants which flourish

ed in the face of such stiff and determined opposition from the private lobby headed by Mr. Tata. It flourished and that is why it has to be now curtailed. They failed to break it from outside. So, they got their own man inside and not an ordinary man who is now heading the whole Ministry. Sir, one can say many things about the many-sided splendour of Shri Patnaik but one cannot even in the wildest dreams doubt or accuse him of disloyalty to the private sector. He is firmly wedded to private sector. As one hon. Member of Lok Sabha said in the debate over the restructuring, he is the votary and one of the beneficiaries because, was he not one of the biggest iron ore mine-owners and has he also not been trading in the steel shares? He is allergic to the public sector and now, as a Minister, he has turned on the public sector with a vengeance. But he is clever. There is a method in his madness and he wants to go slow, step by step. The first aim of the Bill which he has not disclosed candidly is to split the co-ordination which was being done by the SAIL, a sort of sorting body. While you have plants like the Durgapur plant, the Rourkela plant, the Bhilai plant and the Bokaro plant, you could sit and make broad formulations and policies as we are having in the Coal India. The Coal India is the holding body. There you have the WCCL. Then you have the ECCL and then the BCCL. You have the same set-up. They come and discuss and sort out the problems. That is how the coal production has gone up from 70 million tonnes when it was taken over to 102 million tonnes last year. But that is exactly what Mr. Biju Patnaik is unhappy about, namely, that co-ordinating body has been knocked out, and he wants to bring some of the vital units under his solid grip. That is the whole intention of the Bill. Let us not be wishy washy about it. And, then after this co-ordinating thing is knocked out, comes the second step. The step is why do not we have a joint sector because after this co-ordination is

gone, the performing units will not be as good as they were in the past, because your book is full of praise, because after all we have been able to produce nearly 6 or 8 million tonnes of saleable steel. So, when we start losing, then will come the theory, why not allow the Tatas to expand a little more, why not have the Birlas, why not have the Singhanias? They are doing some fine jobs. And in the third stage we will hand them over to the tycoons. These are the three big steps. (Interruptions) I do not make profit out of the Mukunds.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): He only makes profit out of words.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: These three steps are the basic aim of the present Steel Minister. So, Sir, the Bill is rather mischievous, diabolical and sinister and that is why I oppose it with all the power I have at my command. We are not under-estimating his ability for ruthlessness because the first firing after the Janata Government came to power was in the Rajahara mines. He can be ruthless. Eleven workers were shot dead there, just after this Government came to power in April or May of 1977. The next firing took place in Bokaro. And, this month, on the 5th, according to official news, ten workers have been shot dead in Bailadila. But what is stated unofficially, including by the leading members of the Janata Party in the Bhopal Assembly, is that the death figure might have already reached 100. So, Sir, who are the people who are being killed? They are the poor Harijans and Adivasis. So, Sir, what was the idea? Why did I say that the aim is to scuttle the public sector? The aim is, as has been stated, the whole thing will wither away. That is exactly the word. I remember, Mr. Patnaik mentioned. He is doing it with the intention that it withers away. What was the idea when it was set up? The Fact Sheet, which was produced by the Government of India, stated . . .

SHRI PILOO MODY: According to the good Government of India. ,

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I do not say that it was good. Some of the things that you were doing when you were not in the Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha were good also.

What was the aim when the SAIL was set up? It was stated in the Rajya Sabha on December 6, 1974, that the SAIL has been set up with the following main objectives:

(1) To plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of the iron and steel and associated industries in accordance with the national economic policies and objectives laid down by the Government from time to time.

(2) To co-ordinate the activities of subsidiaries and to determine the economic and financial objectives and targets and to review, control, guide and direct the performance with a view to securing optimum utilisation of all resources placed at their disposal.

(3) To act as an entrepreneur on behalf of the State, and

(4) To formulate and recommend to the Government a national policy for the development of iron and steel.

These were the aims for which the SAIL was set up. Now, Mr. Biju Patnaik in his very brief speech stated in a sweeping manner, what can I do, it has become too flabby, so I want to streamline. He has mentioned the word 'streamline' ten times in his five minutes speech. If you want to get rid of the flabbiness, is that the way to do it? You can do it by reducing the overhead costs by reducing the number of officers, by reducing the amount of salary which is paid to the officers. That is the way to reduce the overhead costs...

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: You have at last come to the point.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am saying that we support you to reduce the flabbiness but your entire intention is to increase the flabbiness unless it becomes so big that only the Tatas can bear it, and nobody else. That is the whole problem . . .

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Or Mr. Biju Patnaik.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: He stated..

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: His whole argument has got caught.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: ... also in his speech in the other House that steel production is very little and we do not stand anywhere on the steel map of the world. That is true. And that is why, the Study Group which was set up by the Ministry pointed out what should be the policy regarding steel and the first policy was, as reported in the report for 1977-78, that expeditious completion and expansion, construction work of continued schemes, build-up of production in the steel plants to attain maximum capacity utilisation, and then much greater emphasis on research and development effort. This is on page 19, giving what should be the task of the Steel Authority. Then it goes on to say on page 37: "The detailed project reports for setting up of the new steel plants, one at Visakhapatnam and another at Vijaynagar have been received and are under consideration at present." So, a huge task is there. The task is to renovate, to expand, to diversify, to modernise and then to set up new steel plant. This is what Mr. Biju Patnaik says in the report. And what he says in the other House, I quote: "The expansion of the steel plants is finished." I would like to know which face of Mr. Biju Patnaik is true—what he stated in the Lok Sabha that our expansion is finished, or . . .

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Don't get out of context.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: . . . or what he stated in the report for 1977-78.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Mr. Kalyan Roy, you have already taken 10 minutes on your introduction.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: There are no points.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I do not have a point to finish the public sector. That is true. You are quite right here.

So, Sir, I am opposing the Bill. Now I have to give certain facts about the way the Steel Ministry is handling things. Sir, I would say about IISCO. Here is a letter of Mr. Chandrajit Yadav which was referred in both the Houses and Mr. Morarji Desai said also the other day: I will prove to the hilt how the management are responsible for sickness. That is quite correct. The man who made the IISCO sick is no other than Mr. N. R. Dutt. You know very well. I am coming to that. And in this House, as Mr. Chandrajit Yadav ultimately stated and in the letter also of 5th July, 1975 he stated that services of Mr. N. R. Dutt as Adviser to IISCO were terminated in July, 1974. Now, he has been asked to vacate the Company's quarter at Burnpore. Further, he stated: "I have already issued instructions that Shri Dutt be asked to vacate Company's bungalow." He is responsible for the sickness of IISCO and only two months back, Mr. N. R. Dutt who was retired compulsorily has been brought as a Director of IISCO by no other person than Shri Biju Patnaik. I have talked about it in Durgapur, in Burnpore and in Delhi. They say: Please don't ask us; it is the choice of Shri Biju Patnaik. The man is retired; he has been already guilty; he purchased land in the name of IISCO and case is going on against him and also Mr. Chatterjee and this man is brought as Spe-

cial Adviser to IISCO. Do you expect IISCO to flourish or to go down? I do not want to go into the details of IISCO. But you will be surprised to know that the entire purchase, the major purchase, of iron ore for IISCO is coming from S. Lal and Company, a Birla group of concern and Rungta Concerns, another Birla group of concern. Sir, you would also like to know that the entire Burnpur and Kulti is dominated today by thirty-six contractors; thirty-six contractors are dominating Burnpur and Kulti. In 1973-74, these thirty-six contractors employing less than 5,000 workers were paid one crore and fifty lakhs rupees according to a statement made in this House on 22nd November, 1974. Mr. Biju Patnaik has stated on 29th July, 1977, that these thirty-six contractors employing 5,000 people have been paid in Burnpur alone, two crore and forty lakhs rupees and in Kulti, Rs. 52 lakhs. So, Sir, the entire atmosphere is an atmosphere of corruption. I expected that when he thinks of restructuring, he will consolidate the SAIL in order to have an integrated policy towards the steel plants, towards the iron ore mines, towards the manganese mines towards the dolomite mines, towards the lime stone mines and so on so that the steel production goes up, the human resources are properly mobilised and the profitability goes up.

He is talking of the National Mineral Development Corporation which is supposed to look after the question of iron ore raising. But what about the Iron Ore Board? He has stated in the Consultative Committee that the Iron Ore Board is looking after the production and making preparations for the iron ore industry. Now, he is saying here that the National Mineral Development Corporation is going to look after this. Which is true? He neither believes in the National Mineral Development Corporation nor in the public sector steel industry. He is giving contradictory speeches in different places. There-

fore, Sir, in view of this, I would say that the restructuring will spell doom and disaster to the entire steel industry and, particularly, to the iron ore industry.

Sir, you are aware that Mr. Biju Patnaik is threatening that one hundred thousand iron ore workers are going to be retrenched in the course of six months. About 3,000 have already been retrenched in Bailadila. Another 7,000 are waiting to be retrenched. The atmosphere is tense. May I ask Mr. Biju Patnaik one thing with all humility? You have built up a huge infrastructure in Bailadila. You have spent crores of rupees. You are sacking the skilled workmen one after another, who are mainly coming from Bolangir in Orissa. May I ask: what is the point in spending crores of rupees in Donimalai? You have stated in your report that you are spending crores of rupees in Donimalai and Kiriburu. On the one hand, you are sacking, retrenching and laying off iron ore workers and burning their huts and, on the other hand, you are recruiting people in the iron ore projects in Donimalai and Kudremukh. I would like to know: what is the policy? Where is the integrated policy? Sir, I am sorry to say that the iron ore situation is very grave. Things have reached a boiling point. I would like to make a solemn declaration in this House that we will not allow a single worker to be retrenched; does not matter how many workers you shoot down, how many huts you burn. You did not even care to go to Bailadila and see what had happened there. I had to rush. You did not care to go to Bailadila to see how many people have been shot down and how many huts have been razed to the ground. This is the way you show sympathy with the workmen. You talk about Indira Gandhi's repression. There is no doubt that Indira Gandhi repressed people; she shot down people. We have never forgotten what had happened in Bangalore and the case

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

of Rajan in Kerala. May I ask Mr. Biju Patnaik; are you aware that the Secretary of our Union, Shri Indrajit Singh, has been arrested? He has one son and one daughter. His wife was dragged out of the house. He is a big hefty fellow. He was arrested in Visakhapatnam. His wife was dragged out of her quarters. The children were crying 'Don't take away our mother'. The police assaulted her. She is a hefty Punjabi girl and she is rotting in jail. There is nobody to look after her son and daughter. Is that the way you are replying to Indira Gandhi? You talk of repression, you talk of sufferings, of atrocities, Mr. Piloo Mody.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: What subject are you talking about?

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am talking about iron ore. I am talking about exploitation and sacking in the iron ore sector which Mr. Shah will never understand with the hidden property he has elsewhere. He will never understand that. So, Sir, I say that you do not have the steel policy also. Your policy is to hand it over to the tycoons. You have no iron ore policy because you are retrenching people in order to boost up production in the private sector. In the iron ore sector you have got practically four big houses—the Birlas, the Rungtas, the B. G. Patnaiks and the Misrilal Jains. These four people control nearly 70 per cent of the iron ore production in the private sector. You want to curtail production of iron ore in the public sector in order to force Durgapur, Bhilai, Bokharo and Rourkela to go to private sector to buy iron ore, to force the Japanese to curtail their offtake from the public sector and to switch over to the private sector. This is your intention.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Very clever.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You are to wind up now.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am winding up. With these words, thank you very much for the help . . .

SHRI PILOO MODY: He has gone short of invectives.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am thankful to you for asking me to wind up. I am not supporting you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You say something on the restructuring of the NMDC and wind up.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PILOO MODY: He was going to sit down and you have again prompted him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You had started with the NMDC and ended up with something else.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I have pointed out about the sad situation in the NMDC.

SHRI PILOO MODY: What paper are you quoting from?

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am not quoting from any paper. I am quoting from the memorandum which was sent to the Steel Minister, which has not been replied to by him. I have to put it before the House. So, Sir, I have said that the situation in the NMDC is grim not because of what he is trying to make out. The Japanese have cut down their offtake by two million tonnes. The whole background is that the Minister is creating an artificial crises in Public Sector mines. In this connection, I would like to mention one more point. Take the case of the Babubathan project. It is one of the finest projects. It has a huge deposit of iron ore. Now it is being scuttled. I am saying it. Probably, Mr. Biju Patnaik is disturbed

panies? We want to have these doubts cleared.

Doubts were expressed in the Lok Sabha about the future prospects of steel projects like the Salem Steel, Steel projects in Visakhapatnam and in Vijayanagar....

SHRI KALYAN ROY: They are abandoned. They are finished.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: The Minister said in the other House that that was not possible because of the policy of the Government as there was no money at all.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: He said very categorically that they are finished. Everything is finished.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Please wait for his reply.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: The Minister also said in the other House that once in five years a single plant, half plant or even a quarter plant can come. So, we want assurance from the Minister whether there is any prospect for bringing about a new steel industry like the Salem Steel, the Vijayanagar Steel and the Visakhapatnam Steel. According to the original programme the Salem Steel industry has to start production before 1980. But in the face of the fear expressed by hon'ble Minister in the Lok Sabha we have also started doubting we want an assurance from the Minister whether it would be fructified in the present circumstances.

The Salem Steel Co. which was one of the subsidiaries in SAIL is sought to be taken out and dissolved and brought under the control of the Integral Co. The aim of SAIL itself is very clearly stated at the very inception that it is going to produce more and also bring about integration of many other steel productions and also iron ores and other connected ores. If so, there is no necessity to bring about another Bill under the name of

Integral Company saying that we want to have better management and more efficient administration. Unless there is proof to say that the SAIL or subsidiaries under the control of the SAIL are inefficient or are not managed in a better manner, there is no justification to bring a Bill to destroy the SAIL, a great monument that was brought about by the late Steel Minister, Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam.

SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, so far as the stated objectives of this Bill are concerned, one can hardly find an objection to the main features of it, but the trouble arises when one comes to reflect on the implementation part thereof. We have had sad experience in the past.

There were all sorts of schemes coming up from the Ministry. For instance, one of the previous Ministers had the scheme of one thousand mini-steel plants. What happened to that? Neither implementation nor the scheme was based on reality. There was a largely shrinking market and how could they see that these thousand mini-steel plants find market for their production? So, this sort of thing happened. Now we also had the experience in the recent past of a washery which was giving profit to its management—a steel plant—being transferred to Bharat Coke under the Ministry of Energy and I am told that it is now running at a loss. This sort of things just cause apprehension.

Now my first apprehension arises because this Bill has not been favoured with the opportunity of receiving opinions of those who are mainly concerned, I mean the workers, the representative of trade unions and other concerned—and might be specialists from outside. This Bill has emerged out of the four walls of the Ministry and, naturally, the bureaucracy has a long tradition of putting their strong imprint on whatever emerges out of the Ministry. Therefore, I apprehend that the bureaucracy will further be

[Shri Syed Shahedullah]

strengthened and entrenched in the administration that is contemplated. Now, there was hardly any decentralization. Centralisation is hardly relevant in this matter for as I said there was hardly any decentralization. There was parallel centralization, one can say. There were so many companies with parallel centralization, parallel lines of bureaucracy within the Administration like a Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary and there were, similarly, highly paid officials within the plants and outside. Also several boards were working parallel, creating only delay and losses. But what does he do with them? If he is going to trim the organisation, then would he dismiss this unuseable and unuseful junk in the top? It is a top-heavy administration everywhere. So, ultimately what I apprehend is that when it comes to trimming the organization, in the name of trimming or streamlining the axe will fall on the lower rungs and only workers will find themselves unemployed. That is what might happen. The bureaucracy will see to it. They have a method of proliferating themselves, finding excuses for increasing the strength of officials and their salaries but, at the same time, doing all this with ease.

It is unfortunate that in this country patriotism is conceded to industrialists and highly-paid officials but patriotism is not conceded to the workers or the general public. They are always thinking as if the workers are robbing somebody. When the workers protest for their legitimate dues, it is always thought that they are raising a hue and cry without any reason. Anyway, these apprehensions arise in my mind. I have already said that the Minister had himself initiated certain measures and we felt very much entrusted when he constituted consultative study groups for all these things, for instance, for expansion of steel, marketing and price, welfare, workers' participation in the management of industry, and all that. He had consti-

tuted six such groups. Now I am told that all these consultative study groups consisting of trade union representatives and others have submitted unanimous reports. Before bringing this Bill, the trade union representatives and others who have to achieve the production targets might have been consulted, discussions might have been held with them. I do not know why their co-operation was not solicited or encouraged. The Bill has come out of the four walls of the office. I do not mean to say that the Minister has no initiative, but, as I have said, the bureaucrats have their own way of looking after their own interests. Instead of bureaucratisation decreasing, I apprehend further bureaucratisation. All this taken together will mean top heavy administration charges. I have already said much on this. So I do not want to repeat.

Now I come to another apprehension. There is a talk of transfer of units to Delhi from Calcutta, the export and import organisations and manufacturing units. There is no reason, why they should be transferred to Delhi. Do we not find the multinationals working from one place in several countries. It is not necessary that all the organisations should be put under one umbrella in Delhi. I have also heard that one organisation which was in Ranchi earlier but was taken to Delhi is now proposed to be transferred to Delhi again. Do you think of the workers' interests? Do you take into consideration the interests of the workers as well when transferring them from one place to another?

. 'बनाया आशिया जिस जा, वहीं सैयाद
आ पहुँचा,

जहाँ रहते हैं, जहाँ जाते हैं वही मिनिस्टर का
हाथ पड़ जाता है और उसको खींचकर फेंक
दिया जाता है ।

Anyway, in this manner, the whole business of transfers, the top bureaucracy may get beyond you. Sometimes it does happen that whatever the

intentions of the Minister concerned, things get beyond him by the actions of the bureaucracy.

They somehow manage to get their suggestions accepted and get things done in a manner which is not in the interests of the workers or production. Coming to the question of expansion of industry and marketing, I had an occasion recently to present a paper in the CSIR management seminar, regarding development and utilisation of technology in the rural areas in the villages. In preparing that paper I had to go to certain areas just to enquire where the difficulties were. I found that certainly little things were creating difficulties. For instance, the steel plants could not supply less than 50 tons in one deal. I can understand that. But it only calls for another organisation, small local organisation, so that small quantities could be given to the local cottage industries and small industries and they could flourish. What happens? They want 50 ton wallas. But these 50 ton wallas—I mean those who buy 50 tons or more in the deal—sell at high black market price, and the consumers will have to pay for all this ultimately and the small industries cannot flourish. I found in another place that there was a scope for a foundry. If a foundry were there, more iron could be utilised. A foundry could develop and feed small industries. How has all this to be done? Has this to be done by the Centre or by the State? At least the initiative should come from the Centre and those concerned with steel production so that these things could be done.

I would request the Hon. Minister to firstly consult the concerned workers engaged in production and marketing. He did set an example in the case of study groups. Why the commendable example he has set been followed in the case of this bill? Should he not have followed it in this case also? I would appeal to him to have a Consultative Committee for such measures in working out his future programme.

I cannot suggest it now that the Bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha. How can I do it? Anyway, I would suggest to him that this should be done.

Sir, I want to add a few words on personal note. Shri Kalyan Roy's speech attracted my attention. He was uttering certain things about repressions and tragedies. My mind was moved. When a mind is moved, it recalls certain things. I come from the district of Burdwan which was the target of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

बर्द्वान में खड़े होने की जगह नहीं।

अब सोने की जगह मिली।

But how? Shri Shiv Shankar Choudhri, Secretary of the last District Congress Committee before the Independence, was shot dead in a street of Burdwan. He was my friend. He was too old. Was he going to shoot anybody? One of the Congressmen, a supporter of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, told me that the man who killed him could have killed Jesus Christ. Even he, a Congressman, could not tolerate that. The British Government had tried to kill him in Dum Dum jail and other places, but could not. Everybody knows it. Old Congressmen here know it. Such an episode—the British Government's brutal assault on him in Dum Dum jail—has found its place also in a reputed Bengali literary production which has got some award or so from the Government. Anyway I am not going into all these details. But since a comparison with Indira Gandhi was made, I naturally had to react in this manner. I know at least the situation has not come to that extent that the last Secretary of the District Congress Committee before independence could be killed on the streets. And he was killed before the Emergency came, let me remind you. It was not during the Emergency. Emergency started in Bengal seven or eight years ago. Anyway because my sentiments were aroused, I had to utter this. At the same time, I will say that when he has said things like this, one

[Shri Syed Shahedullah]

has to reflect, the present administration has to reflect, whether they are also heading towards the same position as that of the previous administration. They have to reflect, from the facts supplied by him and others and also by our representatives in the Lok Sabha and here and by the newspapers, whether they are proceeding in the same way. So, Sir, I conclude with this request to the Minister that whatever be the position, there should be no unemployment and if he has to use the axe, let him use it at the top and not at the bottom.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, listening to some of the speeches of the preceding speakers, particularly of Mr. Kalyan Roy, I was wondering how words could be pulverised and meanings distorted to suit one's own prejudices and predilections. Sir, according to Mr. Roy, the Bill is not meant to restructure the SAIL but to demolish it. I would request him in all humility to re-examine the Bill afresh and tell the House exactly how, in what aspects, this Bill is going to demolish the SAIL. Rather my grievance is that it is going to strengthen the SAIL all the more by making it a coterie from where all the outside elements will be eschewed. It will consist of only the Chairman and the General Managers of the operating companies and thus, in fact, become a close coterie.

Sir, the SAIL had so long been a holding company. It had all the authority without any responsibility. Now, this Bill seeks to make it not only a holding company but also an operating company. In that context, Sir, I really fail to understand how the SAIL is going to be demolished, how it is going to be destroyed. Sir, one may be carried away by one's own emotions. This is only human. But one should not bring in extraneous matters to perhaps settle personal scores; one

should not cite arguments to suit one's own prejudices. May I ask him in all humility, Sir, how shooting by the police comes under the responsibility of the Steel Ministry? If there had been shooting in Bailadilla, of course, it was unfortunate. But it was not under the orders of the Steel Ministry that the workers were shot.

Wherever the blood of any 4 P.M worker spills, naturally our sympathies are with the worker. I can assure my honourable friend that I am also a man who is in the field of the working class. And we have no sympathy with the police wherever police excesses are committed. But in this particular instance, if anywhere any unfortunate firing has taken place, be it in an iron ore project or elsewhere, how is it relevant, how is it germane to the Bill which is under consideration? Rather, as I said, this Bill is yet another testimony to the dynamism and vision of the Steel Minister because he wants to integrate all the various operating companies into one coordinated operating integral company which would help him in augmenting not only production of steel but also, I hope, in reducing the price of steel. If we look at the picture of steel production in this country, it is really a dismal picture. Production is going up. In Rourkela the utilisation of the installed capacity of the steel plant is 96 per cent today. Production is going up. But the cost of steel is also mounting. Recently the General Manager is on record to have stated that he cannot bring down the price on account of the rising cost of wages. Here I wish to enter my caveat. The General Manager should also tell us by how much the entertainment expenses are going up, by how much the fringe benefits of the top officers are going up. The real challenge to the Steel Minister would be, the real test of this Bill would be, whether the cost is also going to come down in the future years or not. I visited China in 1956. At that time China had a small iron plant in Wishan which could not then be

compared even to our Burnpur steel plant. If today in China the production of steel could have reached fantastic heights, if South Korea is going to overstep us, if Iran could overstep us, what prevents us from producing more steel? Why are we putting constraints on production of more steel? Why should the Steel Minister say that he does not see even a quarter of a steel plant in the future years? This is really a matter which requires much objective thinking. I do not believe that there is no demand for steel in this country. If there is a slump in demand, it is only because of the increasing price of steel for which now the SAIL is going to be the *chhatrapati* of the steel industry in this country. It is going to hold all these companies under its umbrella. Now, the Steel Ministry is answerable to this House. When is the Steel Ministry going to bring down the cost of steel? I do not contribute to the theory that the increasing cost of wages has resulted in the increasing cost of steel. On the other hand, the top heavy administration, the fringe benefits, the entertainment allowances, the fabulous scale of entertainment that is meted out to visiting dignitaries . . .

SHRI KALYAN ROY: And the contractors.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: . . . for building up image, it is on account of these things that the price of steel is going up. I humbly request the honourable Minister of Steel to put his foot down on the SAIL to see that not only production increases, not only utilisation is 100 per cent, but the cost of steel, saleable steel, goes down.

There is another matter to which I would like to make a reference. It is my own misgiving. It is about MECON. MECON has done many wonderful jobs. But now MECON has no job. It is now being transferred to SAIL . . .

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It is not being transferred.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: I mean, it is going to be further strengthened. When MECON has no work, when the Bhilai plant is complete, when the Bokaro plant is complete, when no other steel mills are coming in this country, what does this MECON do? Why is it going to be extended? I quite agree with him that it must be helped. The MECON must be helped for expanding its activities outside the country. But helping is one thing and sustaining is quite another thing. If it is thought, if it is contemplated that the MECON will be sustained without any work, then I would suggest that the MECON should be asked to fend for itself, or else to face the natural consequences.

Similarly, the Hindustan Steel Construction Limited has no work now, and the idea is perhaps to see that the Hindustan Steel Construction also similarly spreads out so that it can find some work for itself in the foreign countries. The intention is good. But if the Hindustan Steel Corporation is going to sustain itself without any work, at the cost of the tax-payers of the country and the consumers, then certainly it will be a matter for reconsideration.

About the NMDC Shri Kalyan Roy and some other speakers have said that it is being truncated to buy iron ores from the private sector, from the Tatas which will ultimately demolish the NMDC. I am afraid that the ghost of private sector is haunting the minds of the hon. friends. What the NMDC has still to achieve is to keep some of the captive mines for operating plants and to utilise the remaining mines for manufacturing pellets so that they may be exported. We have got fines in Bailadilla in Noamundi and in so many other places in Orissa also. Instead of treating them as junk, if these could be converted into pellets and exported to foreign countries, this will not only

[Shri Surendra Mohanty]

earn foreign exchange for the country, but our technical staff sitting idle without any work could also be utilised in the process.

Having said all that, I would not have made this reference unless the Minister himself had not referred to it on the floor of the other House. A very serious situation has emerged. When all these operating companies will come under one umbrella, the SAIL, doubts and misgivings will arise about sons of the soil and their future in the various steel mills located in the respective States. The hon. Minister has referred to the fact that while about 700 technocrats were transferred from Bokaro to Bhilai, in his own words, there was a mini war in Bhilai because they wanted Chhatisgaris to be employed there, and ultimately the Government succumbed to it. The Government yielded to that pressure. Naturally, the Government has to yield because in a democracy the Government has to respect the aspirations of the people.

I am coming from Orissa. I know what is happening in Rourkela. Today, for the information of the hon. Minister I can say that the annual intake of engineers in Rourkela steel plant is only 2 per cent. The intake of Doctors is dwindling and dwindling till it comes to zero per cent. When the Rourkela steel plant was started and when the recruitment was made through the local employment exchanges, the local Doctors could get employment in the Rourkela steel plant. But, now, after they have come under the SAIL, its employment potential is wide open and persons with MD qualifications are applying from outside for posts requiring lesser Degree and they are getting employment and the employment opportunities of the sons of the soil are shrinking and shrinking. Therefore, my humble submission to the honourable Minister would be to see that this distortion is corrected.

The SAIL will have a Chairman and Directors of the operating companies and two or three units like the Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines and the Megha-hatuburu Iron Ore Project. My point is that when it is going to be converted into a close coterie and all the outside elements are going to be eliminated, my theory is that it is going to be over-centralised instead of being decentralised. It is going to be over-centralised. Over-centralisation also has some of its merits because it can give some purpose, some direction and it can lead to the assumption of more responsibilities and authority and it can discharge those responsibilities more meaningfully. But, if the coterie operates in a different way and if it leads only to bureaucratisation and if it bites more than what it can swallow, then, Sir, its consequences will be disastrous.

Lastly, Sir, while welcoming this Bill, which is a very welcome measure and which is in the interest of streamlining the entire steel industry which has grown really flabby, I would beg to the honourable Minister to apply his mind to see that not only the production of steel increases in the country despite all the constraints, financial or otherwise or the artificially created constraint of lack of demand, but also the prices diminish so that the entire Indian steel industry is put in proper shape.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice one thing. If a country like Japan, which has no iron ore and which it is hauling all the way from Bailadilla in India and from other places, which has no coal and which it is getting from Manchuria and which has the highest labour cost in Asia, may be in the whole world, can produce steel much cheaper than India can produce, then, why should Indian steel, with all the iron ore that India has got, with all the coal, with all the limestone and with all the cheap labour available in the country, should sell at the highest price? I hold the officialdom, the bu-

reaucracy, responsible for this and I do not wish to repeat what I have said already. I would only request the honourable Minister to apply his mind not only to the question of the wages of the labour *vis-a-vis* the increase in cost but also to the fringe benefits of the officials, their perquisites, the lavish entertainment and other such things being indulged in by these projects. (*Time Bell rings*). Since you have rung the bell, Sir, I do not want to add anything more to what I have already said. With this fervent appeal to the honourable Minister, I welcome the Bill.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Syed Nizam-ud-din) in the Chair]

श्री रामानन्द यादव (बिहार) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं इस बिल का विरोध करता हूँ। पहले तो मैं सोचता था कि पटनायक साहब जो हमारे स्टील मंत्री हैं, एक अनुभवी व्यक्ति हैं, पुराने प्रशासक हैं और स्टील डिपार्टमेंट को अच्छे ढंग से चलायेंगे। लेकिन जैसे-जैसे समय बीतता गया, वैसे-वैसे हमारा विश्वास इनकी दक्षता में, इनके अनुभव में घटता गया।

मैं यह भी सोचता था कि वे शायद अब अपने पुराने विचारों को बदल दिये हैं। इनके पुराने विचार थे कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर को मजबूत किया जाए और प्राइवेट सेक्टर में इनका विश्वास था उस आइडियोलोजी में। लेकिन मैंने यह सोचा था कि शायद सगत कुछ ऐसे लोगों की हो गई खिचड़ीपुर सरकार में, जो कुछ उग्र विचारधारा के रखने वाले हैं, जैसे सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के घटक और कुछ दूसरे जो प्रगतिशील लोग आये हैं, उनकी संगत में आने से इनके विचारों में कुछ परिवर्तन होगा। लेकिन वह परिवर्तन नहीं आया है।

मैं समझता हूँ और मेरा विश्वास है कि यह बिल इन्होंने अपने मन से नहीं, बल्कि

इस देश के जो प्राइवेट सेक्टर के मैनेजर्स हैं, खास करके जो स्टील में लगे हुए हैं, इस देश के पूँजीपति हैं, उनके इशारे पर दूरगामी उद्देश्य से इस बिल को मंत्री जी लाए हैं।

मैं कल्याण राय जी से शत-प्रतिशत सहमत हूँ कि अन्ततोगत्वा इनकी नीयत यह है कि कुमारमंगलम साहब ने जो स्टील का स्ट्रक्चर इस देश में खड़ा किया और सब से बड़ी पब्लिक ग्रैंडरटेकिंग हिन्दुस्तान में स्टील लिमिटेड खड़ी की, उसको खत्म कर दिया जाये। क्यों? नीयत क्या है? कुमारमंगलम साहब ने बड़ी मेहनत, बड़े विचार, दूसरे देशों के जो स्टील स्ट्रक्चर हैं वहाँ प्रोटेक्शन का जो तरीका है, वहाँ के लोगों को बुलाकर इस स्ट्रक्चर को खड़ा किया था। किन्तु मंत्री जी अपनी कमजोरियों को लोगों के सामने नहीं जाने देना चाहते, अपनी कमजोरियों को छिपा कर रखना चाहते हैं क्योंकि स्टील का प्रोडक्शन इनके समय में गिरा है। और यह विभाग भ्रष्टाचार का अड्डा हो गया है, काम इसमें ठप्प पड़ गया जिससे स्टील का प्रोडक्शन खत्म हो गया है। यलो स्टील जो बाहर से मंगाया जाता था स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन से, इन्होंने प्राइवेट व्यक्ति को वह दे दिया बाहर से मंगाने के लिए। इतना ही नहीं इस देश के जो पूँजीपति थे उनको ला-ला कर इस स्ट्रक्चर में भरना शुरू कर दिया है। आज मैं देख रहा हूँ कि जो काम हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड करता था उसको रहने देना चाहिए था, लेकिन चूँकि स्टील इंडस्ट्री में, उसके प्रबन्ध में ये असमर्थ हो गये हैं, इसलिए उसको खत्म करना चाहते हैं। आज वहाँ स्ट्राइक है। गोली चल रही है। बोकारो में क्रेन वर्क्स बहुत दिन से स्ट्राइक कर रहे हैं। कांटेक्ट लेवर कहता है कि उसे रेगुलराइज करो। भ्रष्टाचार का अड्डा वहाँ पर बना हुआ है। उसको ये नहीं संभाल पा रहे हैं।

[श्री रामानन्द यादव]

अल्यूमीनियम का प्रोडक्शन घट गया बाहर; से मंगाना पड़ रहा है। यहाँ भी ये असमर्थ हो गये हैं।

श्रीमान्, इस देश के जो आयरन ओर के सप्लायर हैं हमारी स्टील मिल्स को और सप्लाई करते हैं। उड़ीसा और दूसरी माइन्स के जो आनर्स हैं उन लोगों की आइरन ओर की कीमतें इन्होंने बढ़ा दीं। उड़ीसा में जो प्राइवेट सप्लायर्स हैं आयरन ओर के, जो रूडकेला को देते हैं उन्हें 12 रुपया प्रति टन बढ़ा दिया गया है। यह फ़ैसला जुलाई या अगस्त 1977 में फाइनेलाइज हुआ और इफैक्ट में आया अप्रैल 1977 से। यह क्यों हुआ? जब कि प्रोडक्शन की कीमत नहीं बढ़ी। मजदूरों के वेजेज नहीं बढ़े तो फिर उनके पैसे बढ़ाने की क्या आवश्यकता थी? इसलिए कि वह आपके दोस्त है। तो मैं यह देखता हूँ कि इनकी नीयत इस स्टील इंडस्ट्री को ठीक से चलाने की नहीं है। पहले तो इन्होंने यह कहा कि प्रोडक्शन इसलिए कम है कि कोकिंग कोल नहीं मिल रहा है। इन्होंने प्रस्ताव रखा कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी के सामने कि कोकिंग कोल स्टील माइन्स को दे दिया जाए। हम लोगों ने पास किया। अच्छी बात है आप ले लीजिए। लेकिन इन्होंने आर्डर दिया कोकिंग कोल आस्ट्रेलिया से मंगाने के लिए। टेंडर दिये और टेंडर आए है। जो इन्होंने टेंडर मांगे हैं उनके लिए पांच देशों ने कोकिंग कोल की सप्लाई के लिए टेंडर दिये हैं। मुझे लगता है कि यह शायद आस्ट्रेलिया को देंगे, और किसी देश को देंगे मैं नहीं जानता। लेकिन अफसोस है कि कुमारमंगलम साहब ने या दूसरे लोगों ने कोल इंडस्ट्री को नेशनलाइज किया उसका इन्होंने लाभ नहीं उठाया। इन्होंने कोयला नेशनलाइज इसलिए किया था ताकि स्टील इंडस्ट्री को फीड किया जा सके। हमारे यहाँ कोकिंग कोल की कमी नहीं है, काफी मात्रा में है और वह कोयला है जो स्टील के काम आता है, उसके व्यवहार में

आता है। मुझे अफसोस है यह जनता सरकार उसको डेवलप करने के लिए कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं। यह बाहर से कोयला मंगायेंगे। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ क्यों मंगायेंगे जब कि एनर्जी मिनिस्टर कहते हैं कि हमारे पास कोयला काफी है। हम सप्लाई कर सकते हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि यह रस्सा-कसी क्यों चल रही है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस सरकार के सामने पब्लिक सेक्टर के जितने कारपोरेशंस हैं उनको चलाने के लिए कोई सिद्धान्त है? मैं यह भी देखता हूँ कि जो हिन्दी में कहावत है 'अपना-अपना राग और अपनी-अपनी डपली' वैसा इनके यहाँ चल रहा है। मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बिल लाकर जल्दी से पास कराना चाहते हैं इससे ऐसा लगता है कि इनकी नीयत साफ नहीं है।

श्री बीजू पटनायक : इसको रहने दो।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : अगर आपको बुरा लगता है तो हम क्रिटिसाइज नहीं करेंगे। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि वे यह चाहते हैं कि ब्यूरोक्रेसी मजबूत हो। मिनिस्टर साहब सत्ता के भूखे हैं। वह चाहते हैं कि हम विभिन्न यूनिट बना कर के डायरेक्ट अपने संबंध मिनिस्ट्री से रखें और उम पर उनका कंट्रोल हो। यह इनकी नीयत है कि विभिन्न सैप्रेट यूनिट बना करके अपने लोगों को बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्टर और चेयरमैन बनाये। मेरे मित्र कल्याण राय जी ने भी कहा था कि अभी-अभी किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को लाए है जिसका पिछला इतिहास अच्छा नहीं है। इस बिल को ला करके जो यह समझते हैं कि स्टील इंडस्ट्री को ठीक से चला पायेंगे, वह इस बिल से नहीं हो सकेगा। यह इस स्टील इंडस्ट्री को ठीक से नहीं चला पायेंगे। इससे इनको नुकसान होगा। आपको चाहिए थ कि

जो स्ट्रक्चर आपको मिला है उसको अच्छी दक्षता से चलाते, उसका प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाते और उसमें जो खामियां हैं उसको दूर करने में कोशिश करते। इसके विभिन्न अंग हैं, उनको मजबूत करने की कोशिश करते। लेकिन नहीं किया और आपने उस तरफ से हट कर के एक नया शोसा छोड़ दिया। आपने हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड को खत्म कर दिया। हिन्दुस्तान स्टील का दफ्तर रांची में है, उसे वहां से हटा कर यहां लाया जा रहा है, ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है जब कि यह रांची सैन्ट्रली सिचुएटेड है। कुमारमंगलम् साहब ने कोई गलत काम नहीं किया था। उन्होंने सोच समझ कर ही इस दफ्तर को रांची में रखा था, लेकिन आप उसे वहां से उठा कर यहां ला रहे हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इस बात का ख्याल रखें कि अगर स्टील का दफ्तर आप रांची में नहीं रखेंगे तो बिहार के लोग चुपचाप बैठने वाले नहीं हैं। वहां के लोग आपके खिलाफ ऐजीटेशन करेंगे।

श्री बीजू पटनायक : यहां के नौकर कहा जायेंगे।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : इससे हमें मतलब नहीं। हम जहां रहते हैं जहां पर यह दफ्तर है—वहां के लोगों को नौकरी में लेना चाहिए। आपको शायद मालूम होगा कि बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री ने पत्र लिख कर कहा है कि रांची में जो गवर्नर हाउस है, उसे इस काम के लिए देने को तैयार हैं।

श्री बीजू पटनायक : ऐसा तो उड़ीसा वाले भी कह रहे हैं।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह जो दफ्तर आप ले जा रहे हैं इसका औचित्य क्या है? मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आप क्यों बिहार के खिलाफ हैं और क्यों आप वहां से दफ्तरों को उठा कर दूसरी जगह ले जाना

चाहते हैं। अगर आप दूसरे स्थानों पर चाहते हैं तो नये दफ्तर खोलिये। आप बिहार से भारत रिफ़ैक्ट्री के दफ्तर को भिलाई ले जाना चाहते हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या बिहार के लोगों को दफ्तरों की जरूरत नहीं है? आप जानते हैं कि बिहार के लोगों में प्रान्तीयता की भावना थोड़ी भी नहीं है। मैं तो यह कहूंगा कि बिहार प्रान्त में जितने अधिक दूसरे प्रान्तों के लोगों को नौकरी दी जाती है उतनी अन्य प्रान्तों में नहीं दी जाती है। बिहार के लोग दूसरे प्रान्तों के लोगों के साथ भाई-चारे का सम्बन्ध रखते हैं। आप समूचे छोटा नागपुर के एरिया को देख लीजिए, आज जमशेदपुर में कौन लोग काम करते हैं? क्या वे सब के सब बिहार के लोग हैं? ऐसी स्थिति में मैं कहूंगा कि आप सैल के दफ्तर को रांची में ही रहने दीजिये, उसको वहां से मत हटाइये। अगर आपने सैल के दफ्तर को वहां से हटाने की बात सोची तो निश्चित रूप से वहां के लोग एजीटेशन करेंगे और हम लोग उसको लीड करेंगे। इसी प्रकार से मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि आप रिफ़ैक्ट्री के दफ्तर को बिहार से भिलाई ले जाना चाहते हैं, उसको वहां से मत हटाइये। अगर आपने वहां से इन दफ्तरों को हटाया तो इससे वहां के लोगों को बहुत नुकसान होगा। आप तो हमारे पड़ोसी हैं, इसलिए इन सब बातों को जानते हैं।

अन्त में मैं यही कहना चाहता हूं कि आप इस बात को देखें कि आपकी नीतियों के कारण स्टील का काम कहीं प्राइवेट हाथों में न चला जाये। कहीं हमारे देश के प्राइवेट पूंजीपति लोग इस उद्योग पर भी हावी न हो जायें। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो भी सैल के दफ्तर या अन्य दफ्तर बिहार में अथवा रांची में या अन्य जिन किसी स्थान पर भी हैं, उनको आप वहीं रहने दीजिये। इन दफ्तर के साथ वहां के लोगों की नौकरी का प्रश्न भी जुड़ा हुआ है। इन दफ्तरों के कारण उन लोगों में एक प्रकार का मैटल

[श्री रामानन्द यादव]

सेटिसफ़ेशन है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का विरोध करता हूँ।

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am going to be quite brief in my comments on this Bill. Sir, to a great extent, I support the views expressed here by my hon. friend, Mr. Mohanty, with regard to the restructuring proposed by in the Bill. Certainly, Sir, if an improvement in production and efficiency is the object of it, then we should not have any objection to it. Actually, when the holding company was started, the idea was to bring these five public sector steel units under one management and that has been achieved. Actually it is the SAIL which owns these five steel-producing units and what the present Steel Minister is going to do is that he will acquire further the operating powers with regard to these five units. Certainly I do not have any such apprehension that this procedure or the action which is being taken by him now is going to result in any inefficiency or that it is with an intention of handing it over to the private sector, as visualised by my hon. friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy. There is no evidence for saying that nor is there any indication of it. (Interruptions) Let me have my say.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO (Orissa): Whether it is SAIL or FAIL, Mr. Kalyan Roy has gone to pick holes.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: Whatever it is, what I am saying is this. The acceptance of what you call the mixed economy in the industrial development of the country even by this Government gives an indication that they would like to have both the public sector and the private sector. Of course, there is only one private sector steel mill here, and the five others are already owned by SAIL. He wants to bring those five

under the operation of SAIL. Let us wait and see their performance and how this will result in their efficiency and how competitive we are going to be in the international market. Actually, out of the installed capacity of 10.6 million tonnes 8.6 million tonnes is in the public sector and with the expansion we expect to go up to 12.6 million tonnes. Even though as compared to other countries we are very much behind in this production, let me hope that with this efficiency that we will acquire we will be able to increase our competitive ability to sell our steel in the international steel market. Let us give a chance to Mr. Patnaik and see how it will work.

Then, so far as the other subsidiaries are concerned, there is no point in saying that they should continue to be there, i.e., the MECON and the HSCL. Most of their work is over and it is necessary that they must concentrate on doing some job in the international field. As the work in the national field is very limited and after the work in the Kudremukh project and some other small ones is over, the HSCL will have nothing to do unless we think of bringing up more steel industries in this country about which I am very doubtful whether we will be in a position to do that in view of the international glut in the steel market.

I would like to mention one thing with regard to the NMDC with particular reference to my State, i.e., Karnataka. It is the NMDC which did the prospecting and all other work for bringing up the Kudremukh and Babagudam projects. The Kudremukh project has already started, it is on the run. It has been working and it is going to be one of the most prestigious iron ore projects in the country. Let us hope that we will be able to earn, as expected, a substantial amount of foreign exchange and also provide employment to a large number of our people. So far as the project reports are concerned, it was said that the Kudremukh has got 600 million tonnes

and Babagudam has about 1500 million tonnes of ore and it has two phases, the first phase and the second phase of the project. Now, there is a disheartening news to the effect that Mr. Patnaik is closing down the project. In fact, they have already ordered closure of the work there and a substantial number of people are already out of job. I am not one of those who say that whatever happens, we must go ahead with it. But, what I would like to say is that since so much money has already been spent, so much equipment already bought and so many structures built, now they should go ahead with the second phase and then keep it in reserve for the future and make use of it whenever we would like to have an additional iron ore project. I believe, Sir, that some representation was made to him as well as to the Prime Minister and an indication was given that they would go ahead with the second phase of it. The people employed there are not very large in number, may be just 500 to 1000 people, both skilled and unskilled. I would like to make an appeal here that he should not abruptly stop the work there but go ahead with the second phase and then verify and find out the actual ore capacity which is available there and can be extracted in future. I am not saying that it should be continued straightaway now along with the Kudremukh project. But later on you can see how these particular persons, both skilled and unskilled, can be absorbed anywhere else, because it has become a very sore point and I understand there is a strike going on and they are not allowing the machinery to be dismantled and moved. It is a serious problem. When they are talking of the Kiriburu and other one or two as captive mines they could think of it also in future. I mainly got up to mention this particular point because a representation has been made to me and I myself have also written to him about it. I would like Mr. Patnaik to apply his mind and see how at least the second phase of this project will

go through and then some method could be found to absorb the persons who may not be required later on, if they do not decide to go ahead with the project straightaway now.

Sir, as has been stated by Mr. Mahanti, at least in the preliminary stages, as it is going on in the Kudremukh project, it will be a good idea if they take more of the unskilled labour at least from the local areas. Otherwise that will create problems as has been expressed by some Members. For example, if the HSCL is given the contract and they give a contract to their own contractors and even for unskilled jobs people are brought from outside, that is going to create a problem. In the interests of keeping peace in these project areas, which are very interior areas, heavy rainfall areas, where work goes on only for six months in a year, it will be advisable to see that if the skilled people are not available, at least during the initial stages of the project for unskilled labour employment is provided to the local people. Thank you.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with great respect and regard I have been listening to the advice given to me by my colleagues in the Rajya Sabha. There is not much time as I am told that I have to complete it very soon and there is another Bill pending which will follow. I would like to touch upon those points that have been raised by various Members, beginning with Mr. Totu. I refer to the last part of his arguments on mini steel plants when some predecessor of mine talked of thousand steel plants and things like that and another predecessor went on like the founding father of the nation going and putting the foundation stones all over the country for major steel plants. I must admit, Mr. Totu, that I am not one of those exhibitionists and I do not want my name on the headlines of the newspapers on this kind of spurious efforts. I have never done that nor I am interested nor I shall do it.

[Shri Biju Patnaik]

The mini steel plants, as I said in the Lok Sabha, came in the wake of rising demand of steel and when there was slump, then they all nearly died. This Government again have put them back on an even keel by giving them various fiscal supports as well as by organising export possibilities for the products of these plants through the public sector corporation, namely, the Steel Authority of India, through its subsidiary, SAIL International Limited. Because of this kind of service both to them and to the re-rollers mostly in the private sector, we levy 2 per cent canalising charge, because they are to finance this kind of expenditure and not to take over the public sector by the private sector, as seems to be the lurking fear in the mind of Shri Kalyan Roy.

Mr. Totu mentioned about coal. Some other friends also mentioned about it. Let me assure the Members that there may be mini steel plants but there is no mini war between the Coal Ministry and Steel Ministry at all. We both are concerned on how to organise supply of good coking coal, of proper quality, of proper low ash content, properly washed and delivered in time to the steel plants so that their blast furnaces can continuously produce the molten iron. It is not only the question of coal; it is a question of power; it is a question of explosives and ultimately the question of transport by Railways. They are all totally integrated and, therefore, the Government as a whole in our Committees and in between the inter-Ministerial Committees and between the Ministers as colleagues, have been constantly making efforts to see to a co-ordinated effort, a determined effort to ensure that the ultimate objective of maximising steel production is obtained, as indeed is the desire of this House. Mr. Totu mentioned that the Energy Minister said that there is 20 per cent more production in power, while there is shortage of power. Mr. Totu forgets that there may be 20 per cent more production, but the

demand has also increased. Therefore, there is this shortage. That is why, the Janata Government is engaged in and has embarked upon a huge power programme of increasing power potential of this country by 16,000 to 18,000 megawatt. The total power capacity in this country is hardly 23,000 MW. This is what we wish to achieve in the next five years. So, we are conscious. I am sorry the previous Government did not take note of it and did not plan accordingly. Therefore, today, we find that there is power cut in West Bengal; heavy power cut. There is a 50 to 60 per cent power cut in Karnataka and the Karnataka Government has again raised the tariff rates.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What about the power position in Calcutta?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Calcutta, of course, has no power. The Calcutta power plant has been shut down because gentlemen like you who are supposed to lead the trade unions lead them in the most irresponsible fashion, if I may say so; most irresponsible trade unions.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: This is a wild and baseless allegation.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Trade union leaders like Mr. Kalyan Roy, Mr. Vice-Chairman, always function *ab initio* in absence. They force the poor workers to be shot down, while, in my opinion, such leaders should face the bullets. They never do so. I accuse these people as murderers of ordinary workers.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, Mr. Biju Patnaik can be called the butcher of Bailadila.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I cannot be called the butcher of Bailadila. Mr. Kalyan Roy, you are the butcher of Bailadila. You and your men, whoever the leaders are, train them to face the things. They push them to go and get themselves murdered. They

kill the police officers and then run away. He is talking about his great compatriot, Mr. Indrajit Sinha, or whatever his name. He ran away from there and he was caught at Visakhapatnam by the police. He is shouting about his wife or his little children or something, I do not know what. This kind of thing will not cut ice with the Janata Government.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Go on shooting.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Mr. Kalyan Roy, shooting is not my business. You have done enough. Your party, when it was in power, has killed enough Marxists. Every Marxist knows that. Do not tell me these stories.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What about retrenchment?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: This is not in my hands. I have explained it. Mr. Kalyan Roy, you talk of your socialist countries. Why don't you get an order for iron ore from our socialist countries? Get an order today and there will be no retrenchment. This is an order for you. I place the order through your agency, Mr. Kalyan Roy. There will be no retrenchment.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: He is not a Minister.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Let him become the Minister for two months. I offer him here. Come along if you have the guts. Take over. As a Minister, I offer him the position and give him the authority of the Ministry to go round the world and get this order. If you also wish to join him, you can do so. All the costs will be borne by the State. Find some order in the world and there will be no retrenchment.

Sir, this is not a retrenchment in the ordinary sense of the word. They are only temporary workers. They are contract labour and the contract is being terminated in due course and with proper notice. Mr. Kalyan Roy

himself has been shouting here that contract labour should be abolished. As God will have it, as the provisions will have it, contract labour is going to be abolished. They are ordinary labour, unskilled labour and floating labour. This is due to the demand and supply position. Sir, you know what is the position in Delhi. There are tens of thousands of contract workers working to build everything around Delhi. Does Shri Kalyan Roy bother about them? Has he not seen their little children lying on the pavements? Have we not all seen them building roads, buildings and so on? Has not Mr. Kalyan Roy, who goes round Delhi in his sleek limousine, seen them? He cannot even shed crocodile tears for them. Because he has caused this murder, he is now trying to get out from that. The country will not forgive such leaders.

Sir, Mr Viren Shah pointed out about the top management decisions and their relationship with the Secretariat and the delays that may entail because of the fear that there will be interference from the Secretariat. Sir, the whole purpose of making the Steel Authority of India, the original company, the holding company, was well conceived, was properly conceived by the then Government. Mr Kumaramangalam was dealing with this subjects. Although he was in the Government and I was in the opposition party, when he and Mr. Subramaniam came to Bhubaneswar, they discussed with me and I gave them my fullest support. Then this Bill was mooted here. The whole concept of making it a holding company is to co-ordinate the work of all other units. That was the concept. Even after so many years there is a little talk about it. The original concept was that in India all the steel units must be run, controlled and developed by one entity and that entity was the main Steel Authority of India—its production and its sales. Because it could not be done in a hurry, there were separate companies there. In between the Hindustan Steel Ltd. was there and when the

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Steel Authority of India was formed, the Hindustan Steel Ltd. became defunct, it was only a name.

I am surprised that my dear friend, Shri Ramanand Yadav, who is no longer here, who is a member of the Ministry's Consultative Committee—he knows everything, he has approved everything—has unnecessarily made a sort of speech saying that for technical purposes he is opposing the Bill. That to my mind is not fair. Everything has been discussed thoroughly in the Consultative Committee—not once, three to four times, and it has been approved by the Consultative Committee. As you know, the Consultative Committee consists of the leading members of the Opposition parties also.

Now I do not wish to refer to Shri Kalyan Roy a second time because of his natural viciousness, that only suits him. But he must remember one thing. This viciousness in my absence is one thing. Viciousness in my presence is only going to rebound pretty heavily, if he does things like that. I do not wish to come down to his level, but I can say that he has the habit of giving the figures wrongly, attitudes wrongly, and because of his habit of twisting things I always tell him that he is as straight as our proverbial, sweet 'jalebi'. He is as straight as 'jalebis'.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): As sweet also.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: What did he convey to me? Other Members conveyed some important points, he conveyed nothing. All he did was, like a jalebi he got caught in his own twist.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Spoke for the longest time and conveyed nothing.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: He only read out from the memorandum of the Association of the Steel Authority of India. As he went on reading it, he found that he was getting caught in

his own web. What does that memorandum of the Steel Authority of India proclaim to do? Through this Bill, Mr. Vice-Chairman, this is exactly what I am going to do, giving it all the authority to co-ordinate, all the authority to control, all the authority to direct and all the authority to see that after all development takes place. That is exactly what I am doing; that is exactly what this Bill proposes to do. Beyond that he has conveyed nothing, except threatening that he will allow a thousand workers to be shot—the great leader Shri Kalyan Roy. That is the only threat which, I think, has been recorded in this House, and I can assure Shri Kalyan Roy that the Janata Government will take due notice of his threat.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Please do.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Mr. Swaminathan mentioned about the Salem Steel Plant. I would remind Mr. Swaminathan that the last Government had dropped the Salem Steel Plant. The Janata Government, when it came, revived it. Not only revived it but it is going ahead on full speed and it will go into production, as the estimate at present is, between 3½ to 4 years and there is a great scope of, as I have said earlier, doubling its capacity also. So as long as this Government is there—and his colleagues' Government is there—he can be sure that proper thing will be done.

Then Syed Sahib raised certain valid points and some other friends also did so. They all talked of being beware of bureaucratisation. True, the public sector development in this country—not only in steel but in almost every large public sector plant—has tended to become bureaucratised. When we talked of public sector, the original idea was that it would be a socialised sector; it would be social sector. But it has almost tended to become a department of the Government and equally bureaucratic. I can assure you, Sir, that the Janata Government would do its utmost to streamline it

and not only de-bureaucratise it but try to keep it away from any effort at continuation of bureaucratisation. The purpose is to create an apparatus. As Sini Surendra Mohanty cautioned—and Shri Viren Shah also cautioned—when you make a high-powered body, you should select the right men so that the purpose for which this high-powered body is created is served and it fulfils its objectives. But, Sir, men cannot be brought from heaven. It is not always that you find the best man for the best job. Some times you have also to accept the second best man because the best man of the type that you want is just not there. Supposing you want all the leadership, all the knowledge, all the tolerance, all the generosity, all the right approach towards all the employees and everything. Such a man just is not taken off the shelf; he is just not available, with all the great technical experience and managerial experience. Some smattering of this and other thing you can get. You can get a finance man, you can get a personnel man; but you cannot have combination of all in one man. It is very difficult. All the world over, a search for such a man has been found to be difficult. So we are searching. We are not doing things in a hurry. We are proceeding carefully and I can assure you that I shall try my best to locate the best out of the available men in the country. Then we can only hope that with the power and authority, they will become bigger and better men than what they would have been otherwise and fulfil the national purpose.

Sir, one thing more and I would end. Shri Gowda mentioned about Babegudam which is one of our greatest deposits like Kudremukh, rather much bigger, much better. It is true that the N.M.D.C. was engaged in the first phase of the study. The second phase which will ultimately complete the feasibility study or the detailed project report should have been done and not abandoned because of the world slump today. Today no one is interested in the world of iron ore.

We have enough studies already made in our country which would last us for the next fifty years or more for our own steel production, or even increasing production. We have very large deposits which we have in Bihar, in Orissa, in Madhya Pradesh, in Karnataka and so many places. So whether the study of what is known as the second phase should continue is the open question before us. But I am happy to inform Shri Gowda that the Government have taken decision to continue the second phase so that a final project study is completed and detailed project report is made of this thing for future I hope that the world of steel market would improve in the next one year, two years, three years or sometimes which would improve so that our activity in the iron ore industry can also proportionately go up.

I have already talked about monozite ore. The Government has already purchased very large pieces of lands. Sir, I am not dismissing any project whether it is Vizianagaram, or Visakhapatnam or Paradeep or whatever it is. I am only looking at the national inputs required for that whether the cost of these inputs would justify the production of any item. Vizianagaram has the finest grade of iron ore. But it has got to haul coal from 2,500 K.M. All over this country, over the period of the last 50, 60 or 70 years industrial growth has taken place in such an unplanned manner, all kinds of industries, that you and all my colleagues must have noticed that millions of empties travel up and down over the long months resulting in unproductive haulage in our railways. How can the cost ever come down? Mr. Mohanty and some others asked to give them the authority. Let them manage properly. Let them cut the costs, the fringe benefits and all that and let the cost come down. I welcome that down to a thousand crores. The Railways raise it by Rs. 10 crores. That is the end of costing. Power rates go up. That is the end of cost

[Shri Biju Patnaik]

ing, Does the House realise that for many of the items, our selling price in India is nearly half compared to other countries? In the last four years we have not raised the prices of steel. Yet you demand, another two or three steel plants, Mysore Steel plant costing Rs. 1,500 crores, Rs. 2,000 crores but wherefrom the money would come? Unless Parliament allows a little price increase, wherefrom would the money come? All these are receiving our attention—how to get about it, how to create wealth from the people so that it goes to the service of the people. Which priorities? You have set priorities for the rural sector. All the majority investment of the nation is going to the rural sector. I am trying to find out ways and means from outside. We are thinking of putting up one port-based plant with the help of the Russians. It is being worked out. The first stage will be a blast furnace complex, to be followed up by similar things at Mangalore and one at Paradeep. We are considering all the possibilities in the steel sector and working out these projects.

I am sure my friend would not mind it if it is not at Vijayanagar but Mangalore—unless he comes from the Vijayanagar village—but it is the same State anyway. That is a different thing but, perhaps, the ore could be used, going all the way there. I do not say that it is not right but today, if you are on a committee, could you give the whole picture of what you will do? Because, transport bottlenecks and other bottlenecks and things like that are there. You have no power in your State. You have cut down power by 50 per cent. You have raised the cost by double. Then who will go there to your State? By raising the power tariff by double, your Government has raised the cost of production at Kudremukh by Rs. 5 crores, a budget which was not provided in the costing of the contract with the Shah of Iran. Please tell

me how one does get about it. I have talked to the Chief Minister about it and what he wants to do. Can the State and the Central Government function like this? Is this State-Centre relations? I do not understand. I do not know what he is going to do. If you have any influence on him, please convey it to him. These are not just matters of the State or the Centre. This is a matter of the whole nation. When you talk of a steel plant costing Rs. 2,000 crores, certainly it is not the Karnataka Government which is going to find the money; it is the whole nation. The railway transport system belongs to the whole nation. Coal has to be hauled from Jharia to Vijayanagar—a distance of 2,500 kilometres. This is a national route. Power generated somewhere else has to be diverted. Power from Andhra has to be diverted to Karnataka or power from Kerala has to be diverted to Karnataka. These are all national assets. We cannot just limit ourselves with a very limited sight with the so-called State powers, this and that. You can't say, because your Chief Secretary has done something wrong, that he should be sent to Delhi and I can't say that because a Secretary has done something wrong here in Delhi, he should be sent there. If we look at it like that it will be a bad day for the nation.

Sir, I have strayed from the point because it is a question of power. I think I have tried to meet all the points raised by my colleagues and I can only assure them that if in two years' time after the passage of this Bill I do not give you the desired results, I would have no objection to cancelling or repealing this Bill. I am only trying to project efficiency through this Bill. None of the insinuations or clap-trap, as they would say, of Mr. Kalyan Roy that this is a method of handing it over to the private sector or Tatas. Mr. Kalyan Roy probably does not know that the Government agencies own 47 per cent of Tatas. There are Government

Directors on Tatas' Board of Directors. So, nothing of the sort is going to happen. If at all, in the steel sector the public sector will assume, what is commonly known in his jargon, more and more commanding heights. If that satisfies him, I can commit myself on behalf of my Government.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill to the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN): The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for restructuring of the iron and steel companies in the public sector so as to secure better management and greater efficiency in their working and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. There are no amendments.

Clauses 2 to 27, the First Schedule and the Second Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was proposed.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, may I submit one thing? Mr. Biju Patnaik has correctly said that Government financial institutions today control roughly 49 per cent of the share of TISCO—48 or 49 per cent.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Forty-seven per cent.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Forty-seven or Forty-nine, does not matter much. Hardly one or two per cent less.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It does matter very much.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: The Tatas are now getting crores of rupees from the banks in order to develop the Ranchi and Hazaribagh coal deposits, which is denied to the public sector steel plants, and it is giving an opportunity to Mr. Patnaik to import coal from Australia which will cost Rs. 900 per tonne.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have already said that these figures are wrong.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Now the question is, when the Bill is going to be passed, may I ask him to take over TISCO and bring it under SAIL and for two years see what is the outcome?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, he has asked exactly a million dollar question because it will cost a million dollars to take it over. I shall certainly consider it, Mr. Kalyan Roy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE INSOLVENCY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1978

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909, and the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be taken into consideration."