

Financial assistance for the exporters of steel

*518. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH

ANAND:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:†

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give financial assistance to the exporters of steel; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, is it a fact that some of the private people, not the public sector, are exporting steel?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The question was regarding giving financial assistance to the exporters of steel. Whether they are private or public, the answer is: No, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir? What no, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether they are public or private, the answer to both is: No.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know whether the Hon. Minister—the next question will follow after that—is allowing some people belonging to the private sector to export steel?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have said that whether they are private or public, the answer to both is: No, Sir. Ob-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

viously, the Government is allowing the private people also to export.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have understood that. He is vague and adamant. I have understood Mr. Biju Patnaik. He does have that much of intelligence. I want to know whether there are private elements who are exporting steel and whether—now that you have not answered it—such applications have been made to the Government by those private sector people that in the matter of export of steel they should get financial assistance from you.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Whether any application is made or not, the answer still is: No, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Whatever I say, he has got one answer: "The answer is: No, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN: He means that he has not received any application.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I am not telling him whether we have received information or not. But the answer regarding giving assistance still is: No, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What can I do? Only you can call the Marshal here. All I say is this. The question is very relevant here. Is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to give financial assistance to the exporters of steel?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: No, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do not say, 'No, Sir,' again. It is relevant to this question. Have some people belonging to the private sector seeking to export steel, sought financial assistance from the Government? Now, to that, the answer will be 'yes' or 'no' according to what information he has got. The question relates to some people asking for financial assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether some people have asked or not, he has said that the answer is 'no'.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have said as to whether they have asked or not, I cannot say now. But the answer is: No. That is the policy of the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: There you are. You say as to whether they have asked or not that you cannot say now. How is it that the Hon. Minister coming here to answer the questions does not anticipate that supplementary questions of this kind, asking whether some people belonging to the private sector have asked for financial assistance even if the Government has not given them, will be there? This is a very relevant question, and I submit, Sir, the Minister is not divulging the information, he has that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the Minister says that he has no information, how can he give it?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: No, Sir, I cannot say that I have the information. I cannot furnish the information now. The question is whether any financial assistance is given for export of steel. To the question whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government, I have said: "No, Sir."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is how a Question Hour will go. Supplementaries arising out of the question will be asked. Such supplementaries the Hon. Minister should anticipate if he is an intelligent person. Mr. Patnaik is an intelligent man, rather a clever man or a cunning man, you may call him. But how is it that he is not prepared to answer this question? Therefore, I say, he is hiding something.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion, please. Please sit down.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: He is deliberately misleading the House.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not take down.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: ... (continued speaking).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is, he has replied that on hand he has no information. That is the main thing.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: He should anticipate the supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I would like to answer the question of the hon. Member. He has asked whether we have received any applications or not from people for financial assistance. People make all kinds of applications. But I have stated the Government's position. The main question is whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That you have answered.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: To that I have said so many times "No, Sir".

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not disputing that.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: He has asked me whether I have received any applications or not. I do not understand the importance of it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not for you to say. I am entitled to ask a question and it is for you to give a reply. Whether it is relevant, whether it arises out of the original question, the meaning and significance of this question, that is for me to decide and it is for the Chair to give a ruling on it. Mr. Biju Patnaik may tell us tomorrow if he is not in a position today to say whether some people have applied for financial assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, if you have no information today....

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I would like to know very clearly one thing. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta cannot have a privilege of age. I would like to know how it arises out of this question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It does arise.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It does not arise, in my opinion. (*Inter-ruption*) I am appealing to the Chair, not to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. Sir, the question may be read again.

"Whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give financial assistance to the exporters of steel;"

I have said categorically ten times "No, Sir". Now, he says his question is: Has anybody applied? I have said, some may have applied; I do not have the information now; but whether they have applied or not, the answer is still "No, Sir". So, what is it that he wants? If he wants to have the list of people who have applied, let him put another question and I will give the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The supplementary will arise. If you have no information today, after some time you may inform whether any persons have applied...

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have no knowledge. That is what I am saying...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Therefore, if you have no knowledge now, you can ask for notice and you can get the information.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: If he gives notice, I will give the answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I was a little surprised.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have given him notice. I have nothing else to say except that I have the unique experience of Ministers seeking to defy the Chair.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Nobody defied the Chair.

श्री नगेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या कुछ साल पहले स्टील के निर्यात के सौदे को घाटे में करके 5 करोड़ का सौदा घाटे का किया गया था यूरोप के किसी कट्टी के साथ—अर्थात् मैं नाम नहीं बताऊंगा—और उस घाटे के सौदे से कमीशन बना कर वह कमीशन श्री संजय गांधी को पेश किया गया था ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not arise out of this. Do you want to reply?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: There was some such allegation. The Government is looking into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Shrimati Ambika Soni. Not here. Shri Devendra Nath Dwivedi. Not here. Shri Nripati Ranjan Choudhury. Not here. Shrimati Amarjit Kaur. Not here. Shrimati Margaret Alva.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Sir, everybody is absent except Mrs. Alva.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: They have probably changed their stand like you and backed out at the last minute.

SHRI S. KUNDU: I thought you would also give me a walk-over. But, Sir it is very nice to reply to her questions.

India's stand on Pakistan's Resolution in the U.N.O.

*519. SMT. AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:†

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Margaret Alva.