

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Sir, as I said, in this area we are thinking of a possibility of having a detailed bore-hole which can go in for a deeper drilling. That is still to be done and only when we get complete picture, we will try to see that deeper drilling is done

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: The hon. Minister has just now stated that this area has got 31.46 to 41.24 per cent iron content. If this is not an economical project for carrying out further development of the area, would you please inform the House as to what is considered to be a feasible percentage? What are the percentages which are considered to be economical in other parts of India and what is the quantity of iron ore available in the other mines which are being mined today? This is a relevant and pertinent question. Here it is categorically stated that 41 per cent is not necessarily the economic percentage as of today. What is the economic percentage as of today?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: We have mainly two types of iron ore, viz., hematite and magnetite. We consider hematite above 60 per cent as economical. In our country it varies from 60 to 68 per cent. Here it is magnetite kind of iron ore and when we consider the economic feasibility we have to take into account both the quality and quantity. As I told you earlier, the quality is very low. The quantity is only 44 million tonnes. We have found that so far as the magnetite ore is concerned, the percentage is the same. It varies from 31 to 36 per cent. For example, in the case of Kudremukh, which is the biggest magnetite order, we have found the percentage to be 39. In comparison to that, it has a very low percentage.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD: The Minister said that a survey is going on as far as the Kozhikode region of Kerala is concerned. This survey was started so many years ago. Will the Government definitely say how long it will take them to survey it completely and take a decision on this matter?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: As the hon. Member must be aware, luckily we have in our country a big reserve of iron ore. We are trying our best to make a proper survey throughout the country, but in other parts we have found bigger reserves with a better percentage. Naturally we give priority to those areas. Even then in Kerala the survey in this area was partly completed in 1971 and in the Alempara block it is going on. I can assure the hon. Member that every effort will be made to find all possible reserves and we will see that the work, which is going on in the Alempara area, is also completed as quickly as possible.

95. [The Questioner (Shri V. V. Swaminathan) was absent. For answer vide col. 119 infra.]

Investment in Iron ore mines

*96. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the investments made by the private sector for the development and conservation of iron ore mines during the last three years has been made;

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

(c) whether Government have directed the mine owners to invest more money for the development of iron ore mines; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the mine owners thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) and (b) Though no such survey has been made by Government, a committee set up by the Iron Ore Board has recently submitted its report covering, *inter alia*, the development and conservation requirements of iron ore deposits in Barajamda sector. A similar study with regard to Bellary-Hospet sector is in progress.

(c) and (d) Government have issued no such directive but the Iron Ore Board is

exploring various measures for adequate investments for the proper development of private mines of Barajamda sector. These proposals are under discussion with the mine-owners to ascertain their reaction.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Mr. Yadav has not replied to any of the points I have asked relating to this question. Anyway, I would like to know whether Mr. Yadav is aware that in the iron ore industry 368 mines out of 400 are in the hands of the private sector and they are in very bad shape. These 368 mine-owners, leaving aside the exploitation of workers and the high rise in the accidents have hardly invested Rs. 5 crores in the last thirty years. Though there are 900 million tonnes of iron ore deposits in this country. We had a thousand million tonnes of coking coal, most of them are burning because slaughter-mining by the private owners. What has happened in the coal mines is just exactly being repeated in the private sector iron ore mines. Here I have got a press interview of Mr. R. C. Dutt, Chairman, Iron Ore Board. He said that the private sector would have to step up its production and would have to invest Rs. 17 crores. So, what is your reaction? Have you made a survey of the investment that they have made during the last ten years and about the non-scientific mining which has resulted not in conservation, but in the destruction of vital iron ore? Do you think that Rs. 17 crores will be invested?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Sir, as I said earlier, as the Member himself has supplied the Information, it is a fact that in iron ore there is a big number of private owners who are doing the mining work. We have found that proper development and proper exploration have to be expedited and more rational and more scientific mining has to be done. And as the hon. Member himself has mentioned, the Chairman of the Iron Ore Board has set up two Committees. One Committee has very recently submitted its report and it has made certain suggestions, as to how the iron ore mines should be developed

and how the private owners should invest more money; and certain other suggestions, have also been made. And it is also a fact that the Committee has suggested that these private owners should increase the quantity also; the mining that they have been doing till now should be increased up to 8 million tonnes. For that, they will have to invest Rs. 12 crores more; and another Rs. 5 crores will have to be invested in a Central Crushing and Screening Plant. This question is being considered as to how to achieve these objective: which the Committee has recommended.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister that there has not been scientific mining or proper mining by the private sector, can he give me a single instance where the mining lease has been terminated under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act? And in view of the importance of iron ore and the attitude of the private sector would he think in terms of taking over the iron ore industry and having a proper scientific development all over the country?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I have not said that the private mining owners are not doing mining on a scientific basis. I have said that new technologies have been found, that new methods are there and that therefore they should adopt the latest methods, that they should do more scientific mining and that they should invest more money where it is necessary. We have received the Report very recently and we are considering it and in the light of the decisions taken, the Government will take all possible steps.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I put a very simple question whether in view of the allegations that I have made, he thinks that the Government should review its policy and take over the industry.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: This is a suggestion which we will consider.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Is it, a fact that the Barajamda mines have failed to supply the required quantity to the Rourkela Mills as a result of which production at Rourkela is much below the targeted on its installed capacity? Further, is it also a fact that there is now a very strong competition between Bokaro and Rourkela to get Barajamda ore and, if so, how is the Minister going to solve this problem?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: It is not a fact that because of lack of iron ore production at Rourkela has gone down. There were certain difficulties at one stage—that is correct—but the Rourkela Plant has got its own captive mine. Because of the shortage of iron ore there is no difficulty.

So far as competition between Bokaro and Rourkela is concerned, as the hon. Member knows, they are under one company and we see, as between our plants which are under one company, a proper and equitable distribution is made. Their requirements should be taken into consideration. Therefore, there is no difficulty on that.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Just now the hon'ble Minister said that a sum of Rs. 12 crores by way of investment is required by the private sector for increasing iron ore production. Giving him information, may I know, Sir, whether he is aware that the ore producers in the private sector have been underselling iron ore at a rate much below the international price or the price settled by the Iron Ore Hoard of the Government of India and they are also indulging in under-invoicing with the result that they are selling at a ridiculously low rate? Sir, pure iron is being exported to Japan and other parts of the world. This problem came up before this House in the last session. Now in view of the requirement of Rs. 12 crores as investment by the private sector their next step would be asking the Government for loans. Sir, the private sector has enough investment capacity with them. Will

the Government keep this in mind and be alert on this issue? May I know how this investment is going to be made by the private sector? Will the Government be careful that there should not be any talk of giving them either loan or subsidy because they are financially well off?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Sir, iron ore price is not based on the sweet will of the private miners. The M.M.T.C. is there for it. We fix up the price. We take all factors into account. As for the other part of her question, namely, investment through private mine owners, as I said earlier, we have received the suggestion and we will have a meeting with them. We will see to it that our mines are properly developed and that all possible steps are taken to exploit iron ore properly.

श्री रवी राय : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि बाराजमडा के जो माइन्स आनर्स हैं, वे ठीक समय पर आइरन ओर नहीं दे पाते, इसलिये कैप्टिव माइन्स में बनानी पड़ती है? क्योंकि इसी सदन में पिछले सत्र में मालवीय जी कह चुके हैं कि बाराजमडा ठीक समय पर उनको ओर नहीं दे पाता, इसलिये राउरकेला से आइरन ओर लेना पड़ा। दूसरा सवाल मेरा यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय सदन को बतायेंगे कि इस बारे में जो दो कमेटीयाँ बनाई गई थीं उनकी रिपोर्ट अभी तक आई है या नहीं?

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : मैंने बताया कि जितने बड़े प्लांट होने हैं वे सब अपनी कैप्टिव माइन्स रखते हैं। हम यह खतरा नहीं ले सकते हैं कि दूसरे को माइन्स का मैनेजमेंट कर रहे हैं उनके कार्टेज किसी तरह की दिक्कत पड़े। इसी लिये जो पब्लिक सेक्टर में बड़े स्टील प्लांट हैं उनके अपने कैप्टिव माइन्स हैं। टिस्को और इस्को जिसका टेक ओवर किया, उन्हें भी कैप्टिव माइन्स रखने की जरूरत पड़ी। उसको हम ठीक तरह से देखना भी कर सकें . . .

श्री रवी राय : मैंने पूछा था कि मालवीय जी कह चुके थे कि बाराजमडा के बारे में कमेटी

बनाई गई है तो उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट अर्थात् तक क्यों नहीं आ पाई ?

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : मैं वही बता रहा हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमने सफाई इन्वॉयर करने के लिये अपनी कॅप्टिवमाइन्स रखी हैं। यह बात सही है कि वहाँ इस बात की शिकायत थी कि वहाँ प्रोपर इन्वैस्टमेंट नहीं हो रहा है, प्रोपर इन्वैस्टमेंट नहीं हो रहा है, इसीलिये कमेटी बनाने की जरूरत पड़ी। बाराजम्दा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आ चुकी है, यह हमारे विचाराधीन है। और दूसरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट दिसम्बर के अन्त तक आ जायेगी, तब हम उस पर विचार करेंगे।

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, I am sure the Government knows that so far as iron ore mining in Goa is concerned, it is entirely in the hands of the private people. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of this fact that this iron ore is exclusively exported to Japan and Japan insists that it will not accept any ore which has less than a particular amount of iron content in it. The result is that only the top-grade iron ore is exported and iron ore of less iron content is allowed to remain there unutilised. Mountain-heaps of this iron ore is lying there without any use. Will the Government look into this wasteful practice?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Sir, it is correct, as the hon. Member has said, that the Goa iron ore mines are mainly in the hands* of the private sector; I agree with him. And it is exported to Japan. But hon. Members might be knowing that Goa iron ores are mainly what we call blue dust and fines, and we have been exporting it to Japan and Japan has never made any complaint. Rather they have a preference for the kind of iron ore which we have exported from here. Regarding the other part of the question that they are not properly exploited proper exploration is not made and scientific methods are not applied. I have not received that kind of complaint. But as the matter has been raised by the hon. Member, I would look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Industrial Relations Bill

97. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR : SHRI KRISHAN KANT: SHRI J. S. TILAK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(u) whether Government have finalised the Industrial Relations Bill; and

(b) if so, when the bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b) The Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह : मुसाफिर इस बिल को न लाने का खास कारण क्या है ?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: "The main purpose of the Bill is to help industrial relations.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the hon. Minister for how long this Bill is pending before the Government? I think in the last session or in the session before last he said that it was before the Cabinet Committee. May I know who are the members of the Cabinet Committee and whether they have got time to go into it or not? And what are the reasons for the delay? I am asking this question because there is a feeling among the labour that the Bill is being shelved. May I know whether the Government will clarify the position and say by what time they would finalise the Bill, or have they shelved it till the Sixth Plan?

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir.