

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 9th September, 1974/ 18th
Bhadra, 1896 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Steel Authority of India Ltd.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

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

(a) whether any technical and administrative assessment of the functioning of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has been made by Government ;

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

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve its functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) Government is in constant touch with the work and functioning of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. though no separate assessment has so far been made. Government is watching the progress of the present set-up and suitable steps will be taken for further improvement as and when necessary.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I think the Minister had said sometime back that he was making an assessment of the working of the SAIL which probably needs to be trimmed. This very idea of holding companies is a half-baked idea. It has been taken from abroad

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

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even where it has not been properly tested. According to late Shri Kumara-mangalam, the idea was to develop an industrial culture rather than the Secretariat culture. Instead of that, now we have got two Secretariats—one in the Ministry and another in the SAIL. Mr. Wadud Khan is the coordinating Officer and not the Minister...

AN HON. MEMBER: He is the Chairman.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: He is the Secretary of the Ministry. Shri Kumara-mangalam's idea was to develop an industrial culture. It means that there should not be people becoming industrial advisers to the Government of India itself. Now Mr. Wadud Khan continues merrily with what he wanted to do. The idea was to have subsidiary companies so that SAIL could bring about overall financial and input co-ordination. But what is the position now ? I would like to know whether it has made any improvement in the last two years. The plants remain under-utilised and supply of inputs is deficient. No new sources of input supply have been organised during the last two years. Of course, profits have increased. It is not in terms of physical production, but by virtue of increased price. May I know in this respect as to what has been done ? Then, I will ask my second question.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: So far as I am concerned, I did make a general observation in the last House that a technical and administrative assessment will be made of the functioning of the SAIL, which we are constantly doing, as I have said. The SAIL organisation is spreading. It is taking care of the requirements of the steel industry and its expansion. It has wide powers and if I may say so it has authority to spend money, to organise its own subsidiaries and make organisation for co-ordinating the inputs, whether it is iron-ore or coal or anything else. It is also responsible for

overall co-ordination and is responsible for offering all the information of working under the overall policy of the Government. The industrial culture takes some time to grow. We are responsible to the Parliament for the implementation and the development of a policy for public sector. It is quite natural that the SAIL, besides creating its own organisation, has also to keep in touch with the Secretariat organisation and, therefore, it is highly necessary that the secretariat pattern of organisation also function along with the organisation of the SAIL to extend its co-operation with a view to achieving effective co-ordination.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, the honourable Minister has replied about what the powers of the SAIL are. I think we all know about it. That is the whole question. It has powers, I think, more overriding powers than the Minister himself and Mr. Wadud Khan is behaving—I have seen that for the last two years he has been behaving—in a way that it seems he is a Moghul and nobody can interfere with his work. Probably he is finding it difficult to give the information required by the Parliament. The Minister may not accept it. But I know what has been happening for the last two years. And, Sir, even if the Minister wants, if the Secretariat wants, some information, probably he may give or he may not give. He is more busy politicking rather than looking after the job of production of steel. Besides that, he is essentially a man from the sphere of oil and to build up an industrial culture, the person required should have experience in steel. But this person is having experience only in oil and not in steel. So,...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: He is a cosmetics man. He is a Cosmetics Manager.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: He was not in steel previously. He was only in oil, in fatty oil...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: So, Sir, everybody is saying this. But one thing is clear and that is that he has nothing to do with steel and he had nothing to do with steel before coming over here. So, Sir, I want to know certain things in this connection: How can a man who had nothing to do with steel or the steel industry build up an industrial culture? Sir, he was more interested in politicking during the past two years and I am sorry to say, Sir, though the Minister may not agree with me, that he has almost become a Minister and the SAIL has become almost a Ministry instead of having to do anything with the steel industry and the SAIL has become a cog in the wheel. I would like to know from the honourable Minister, who has said that that he is making assessments of its technical and administrative functioning, etc., whether this assessment is going to take five years or two years or one year or six months I would like to know whether the honourable Minister will be able to give us, give the Parliament, the assessment of its technical and administrative functioning so that we know, the Parliament could know, the country could know, how it has been functioning so far. The basic question in India now is to have self-sufficiency in steel production. May I know whether any outline has been drawn for this, by what time you are going to achieve self-sufficiency, what has happened to the plants in South India, whether they have been delayed inordinately in spite of the SAIL having come in and whether the plants are in doldrums now? I would like to know the position with regard to the plants in South India and also whether proper funding has been done or not. There is another thing. Now, he is looking after every thing, Mr. Wadud Khan. Recently, Sir, the Durg DCC sent a telegram to the Minister and also to the Prime

Minister asking how the mixed waste coke was sold off without tenders having been called for. I do not know whether the Prime Minister intervened or who else intervened. Later on, that mixed coke included good coke when it was sold off and they were making a lot of money. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether any inquiry has been held into that to find out how they were allowed to sell the waste coke without calling for tenders. Then, Sir, I would like to know whether the pricing policy, the policy of equality of prices, which he announced earlier in the statement for the small-scale sector and also for the bigger units, has already been implemented or not.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I beg of the hon. Member not to make such charges against the Chairman which he does not deserve.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: All are facts and we believe them to be facts.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: What I say about him should be accepted by the hon. Member because I have to deal with him more than what the hon. Member is dealing with him. He is of course dealing with the technical problems also which are involved ; there is no doubt about it but above all he is a very good Administrator and if the Administrator comes at the head of a big organisation like SAIL, there should be nothing to prevent him. In generality it is bound to take a little time to see how well the SAIL has succeeded and what further improvements have to be made in its performance but it should have nothing to do with criticising a man who is almost doing his work quite efficiently...

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Who is responsible for all the mismanagement?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Opinions always differ. My hon. friend who is a very experienced Parliamentarian and Administrator may have some thing to say about a thing and I may have some thing else to say about it. But when power is centralised at some institution, there are two points to say about it. It is for the Government to see that proper co-ordination and integration is made of the quantum of work between that organisation and the Government Secretariat. We are at present very busy seeing to it but the overall situation is that the SAIL is trying to do its best within the parameter sanctioned to it by the Government. It is trying to do its best. The SAIL should get the credit of making improvements in its performance of the work that it faces. Sometimes, here and there, there might be lapses. As soon as the hon. Members draw the attention of the Government and the Minister, we take care to see to it and make investigations and report to the House.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Mr. Chairman, I asked him specific questions about coke and about the target of steel production and steel plants in South. All that thing also I had asked.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am sorry. So far as the steel plants in the South are concerned, Mr. Wadud Khan or the SAIL has nothing to do with it, with the delay or anything. We know about the financial constraints that confront the Government today. It is quite possible that the steel plants in the South which are very much on our programme, might get somewhat delayed. We were also asked this question and I had the same answer to give to them that in view of the economic difficulties and the difficulties in the availability of resources, there might be some delay and for this, neither the SAIL nor the Chairman of the SAIL could be blamed.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: What were the difficulties ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I have already mentioned the difficulties.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: What are the sources of difficulties"? Kindly-spell it out.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I have already mentioned the difficulties. The moment you start acquiring land, you have to set up an organisation, then place orders, making advances, placing orders with HEC and with foreign concerns, entering into agreements with them, asking them to prepare feasibility reports and all this means provision of sterling and dollars and, therefore, I said that it is quite possible that it might get somewhat delayed. It is a fact which I have already said and I think ...

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: On a point of order, Sir. When the question comes...

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am answering the question of the hon. Member,...

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: When the question of steel expansion in South comes, there is absolutely no sense of urgency. The hon. Minister says that for want of resources etc., it could not be done. This is something that we get every time, this parrot-like reply. Some sort of drive must be there. There is absolutely no drive. The whole thing is—I do not want to use any word—everything is bunkum.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I refute the charges made by the hon. Member. There is the sense of urgency before us. It is precisely because we have some sense of urgency, we attach importance to priorities and when priorities come, obviously something gets delayed and there is no alternative to that. So far as my hon. friend raised the question of new steel plants, I have already replied that.

In regard to delays, I have already said that it is inevitable that steel plants take a long time to attain the targets set for them. It is still a few years off before we can say that all the steel plants of India will attain the targets which should be satisfactory from the point of view of Members of Parliament. Some of them are already doing well. For instance, Bhilai is doing quite well. It has attained a capacity of 85 per cent. Rourkela has also made profit. Durgapur has not been able to make profit and in Bokaro the programme of expansion is going on. It is bound to take some more time. So far as the other point made by the hon. Member, about mixed waste is concerned, I have not the particular information at present with me. If I get the information, I will pass it on to him.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about the pricing policy ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is nothing wrong with the pricing policy so far as that concerns the distribution of steel that is available to the S.A.I.L. for the people. We have already said some time back in both the House* that a priority had been fixed for the supply of steel that is produced in the country. The first priority goes to the Defence ; the second priority goes to major or core industries. In this way there is a priority. The State Govern-ments also get it. Now, whatever steel goes in rakes to the stock-yards has a little higher price for supply because the stock-yards have also to get some money for their establishments. We are now trying to see that the small producers, small consumers of steel and pig iron, who get their stocks from the S.S.I. Corporations, are, able to get their products at somewhat reduced prices.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, the reply to my first question, namely, whether by the next Session he will

be able to give us the technical assessment of the functioning of the S.A.I.L. has not yet come.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, a number of Tata personnel have found berths in the S.A.I.L. Mr. Wadud Khan is a Tata man, Mr. Billimoria, who is the Director (Personnel) Manager of the Hindustan Steel, is also a Tata man. In view of this fact and also in view of the fact that marked down steel is being sold in the black market by the Tatas at fantastic prices steel ingots without the finish are being routed to the Tatas so that they can net in hundreds of crores of rupees in this way. This is one thing. I want to know whether it is a fact. Secondly, I want to know whether it is a fact or not that Mr. Wadud Khan is trying his level best for the expansion of TISCO but deliberately throttling the expansion of D.S.P. and leaving the A.S.P., the Alloy Steel Plant in a half finished stage by sinking huge capital and deliberately making it unprofitable. I want to know whether it is a fact or not.

SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH: Sir, Mr. Niren Ghosh does not realise that Mr. Wadud Khan has improved the transportation in the steel plants. The movement is faster now. How can he make such wild allegations ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The Minister will reply.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, I want to know whether it is a fact that during the next five years the import of spares would go up from 22 per cent to 23 per cent. Have the Action Committee of the Planning Commission said so ? If so, why ? The Action Committee of the Planning Commission have said that this is the estimate that the import of spares, which is now 22 per cent, would go up to 23 per cent in the next five years. Why ? Under the plea of diversification, carbon steel

and alloy steel, which was under the Industrial Policy Resolution reserved for the public sector, is now being given to the private sector. Why ? Also, Sir, is it a fact that 400 firms have misused the steel quota and they have been blacklisted or de-listed ? Or what action has been taken against them?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Several aspects of the question have been put by the hon. Member. First, he asked as to why we should take men from Tatas, like Billimoria and others. Obviously, when there are experienced steel men available in the country for various jobs, we would not try to have people from vegetable sellers and scrap dealers. We would obviously like to have some experienced people in steel. So we try to pick up men who have had some experience in this line. These men have shown very great improvement. I would not like to qualify and pay tributes to each individual officers, as it is not the practice in this House.

With regard to the import of spares having been increased, it is quite possible that we may have to import a large quantity of spares, because sometimes our public sector units are too busy with their own work. Therefore, in order to expedite the programme, willy nilly, whether we like or not, we have to depend on imports. Or, alternatively, if there are private sector units who can supply us these parts, we do have a policy to make them running also, because plenty of money is invested there also.

With regard to black-listing or distributing units, wherever we find people misbehave, we certainly try to see that we do not get supplies from them. We do not know whether we are entitled to black-list. Perhaps we cannot do. But we do stop getting supplies from them.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, he has not answered one of the most important points, whether carbon and alloy-steel which were exclusively reserved for public sector, in the name of diversification, are now being given to the private sector ...

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: So far as our policy is concerned, we always give preference for the supply of goods to them. The proposal of expansion of TISCO is already before the Government. We do not know what is going to happen to this in the present circumstances. But so far as the expansion of ASP is concerned, it is very much before us, and as soon as these conditions are fulfilled, and we are aspiring that these should be fulfilled, the normalisation of conditions is there and availability of the equipment and parts which are needed is there, we shall certainly look into the programme of expansion of ASP.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: I would like to be reassured of what the hon. Minister has said about Mr. Wadud Khan. I think you will agree that it would not be very fair to name a person who is not present in the House. But I may still try to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that this kind of working of a joint set-up like the SAIL under a single person, who becomes virtually a Czar, has been questioned earlier in this House. So there are doubts about the functioning of so many steel plants, Bhilai, Durga-pur, Bokaro, Rourkela, etc. Last time, when this question was raised, the hon. Minister was of course kind to Mr. Wadud Khan. I would like to know whether he gave an assurance at that time that the question of decentralizing SAIL and separating the managements of Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro and making them autonomous and independent, is under the consideration of the Government. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister, after his being in this office for

quite some time now, and as one having great experience, has come to realise that the separation of these four major steel plants of our country and their autonomous management, will be more helpful than the present set-up ? What is your experience ? And will you seriously consider separating the managements and releasing them from the top "Czar" ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, decentralisation on the basis of autonomy is the key strategy of the Government so far as the steel industry is concern. Even Mr. Wadud Khan, who is the Chairman of SAIL and whose main function is to co-ordinate and to create a liaison between Government and the Steel Authority, issued some statement that this giantism will not do and, therefore, all the steel mills like Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur and Bokaro they are all conceived of on the pattern of as much autonomy as is possible for us to give them in as short a time as possible. But there will be a little time-lag and Government is very much agreeable and willing and responsive to the entire concept of autonomy and decentralisation.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार के सामने किसी स्तर पर कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था का सुझाव दिया गया था कि यह जो इस्पात है इस के कारखानों का विकेन्द्रीकरण हो और छोटे छोटे इस्पात के कारखानों का जाल बिछा दिया जाय और उसमें यह भी सुझाव दिया गया था कि बाज जो बड़े बड़े कारखाने हैं जैसे रूरकेला है, भिलाई है, बोकारो है, दुर्गापुर है, उन में बाज जितने मजदूर लगे हुए हैं, अगर इस्पात के कारखानों का विकेन्द्रीकरण हो जाय और छोटे छोटे इस्पात के कारखाने खोले जायें तो यहां जितने मजदूर लगे हुए हैं उस से बीस गुने ज्यादा मजदूर उन में काम करेंगे और यदि यह सुझाव सरकार के पास है और इस सदन में पेश किया गया है तो इस सरकार ने

इस पर अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की और क्या इस पर सरकार कोई कार्यवाही करने की बात सोच रही है या नहीं ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : श्रीमन्, मुझे यह एक बड़ी आकर्षक योजना प्रतीत होती है और इस पर कुछ विचार किया जा रहा है, लेकिन इस के तकनीकी और आर्थिक पहलुओं पर, जो इस तरह की अड़चन हैं थोड़ी बहुत, उन पर सरकार विचार करेगी और आनेवाले महीनों में इस बात पर जरूर विचार किया जायगा जो कि हम इन बड़े बड़े कारखानों का कितना बोझ हल्का कर सकते हैं छोटे कारखानों को बढ़ा कर, क्योंकि बड़े कारखाने भी जरूरी हैं कुछ ऐसा इस्पात बनाने के लिए कि जो छोटे कारखानों में हम नहीं बना सकते हैं। तो इन सब मामलों पर सरकार विचार कर रही है और यह भी विचार हो रहा है कि उस में हम कोयले का इस्तेमाल करें या गैस का, यह प्रश्न गंभीर है और हम उन पर विचार कर रहे हैं और माननीय सदस्य ने जैसा कहा है, वह होना चाहिए। उस से ज्यादा आदमियों को काम मिलेगा और विकेंद्रीकरण भी हो सकेगा और ज्यादा आदमियों का संग्रह एक जगह नहीं होगा।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I would like to know whether the powers of the Minister in relation to the Steel Authority have been precisely defined and whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Steel Authority has direct access to the Prime Minister. In this connection I would also like to know what steps have been taken to clean up the contractors' gang in IISCO at Burnpur and whether in this connection the Minister is aware that some trade union organisations in Burnpur and Kulti protested against the removal of Mr. A. Ray, the Custodian of IISCO and the proposed removal of the Chief Personnel Officer, Mr. P. Chatterjee as a result of the machinations of the contractors and other vested interests and, finally, whether

an officer of the Kulti works of IISCO has also been removed in similar circumstances. I should like to know whether the Minister has personally investigated into all these complaints coming from the representatives of the workers of these particular plants.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Firstly the duties of the SAIL have been very concretely defined. It is a long list; I need not read it out but if the hon. Member so wishes I can pass it on to him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes ; you do it.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The functions of the SAIL are quite specifically laid down but as and when we consider it necessary we do try to modify them and we shall go on modifying them. So far as the complaints ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What about direct access ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: What' direct taxes ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Not direct taxes ; direct a-c-c-e-s-s.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Direct access of whom ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Chairman of the Steel Authority.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We go by an established protocol which is there in ti's lion. I am not aware of any individual going and having direct access to the Prime Minister. At any rate it is not my duty to go and spy to find out who sees whom.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have not asked him to spy. It does happen in the Administration that some people have direct access to the Prime Minister disregarding the Minister and I want to know whether this standard applies here.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Prime Minister is always entitled to see anybody. She can call any Secretary or any official to have direct information about the work that is going on in any Ministry. It is not my function, it is not for me to find out whom she meets.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you must protect me. I asked ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please understand his question ?

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: It is not a question of the Prime Minister calling anybody. The point is whether he has got direct access to the Prime Minister. That was his question.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, I have already submitted that the Prime Minister...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He has understood the question. If he wants to reply he can. Anyway, what about the other part of my question about complaints ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: That I am going to reply. So far as complaints regarding Burnpur are concerned, we receive complaints of different kinds from the workers, from the officers and so on and we make very serious enquiries about them. Some complaints were made by some people about Mr. A. N. Ray but we did not find there was much ground in them. Why we reorganised the entire set-up of the IISCO was already stated by me in both the Houses. We are reorganising it ; we have extended the take-over period now and we have created another organisation in the hope that the work will now be expedited. Whenever any complaint is ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: About Chatterjee ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: About Chatterjee we have received some complaints but because that case is in a court of law we cannot make any comments about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, he is confusing. Will you kindly help me ? I have not asked about complaint; I said protest by the workers' union against the removal of Mr. Ray and also the proposed removal of the Chief Personnel Officer. Mr. Chatterjee and the removal of an officer at the Kulti works.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: In the interests of the senior workers who have now been relieved or requested to go I do not wish to go into all the details and it will not be fair for me here to give all those details which led the Government to take certain patterns of decisions. We have no such serious complaints against anybody and if anybody was removed he was removed in the interests of IISCO.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I never spoke about complaints against the officers. You should kindly explain to him because he has misunderstood the whole thing. I was asking about protests against the removal of these officers by the unions ; exactly the opposite thing I asked. The complaint was against the Steel Authority and those who removed them.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There are groups and groups of workers. Some group is organised to make a complaint against one set of officers and another group is organised to make a complaint against another set of officers. Therefore I do not wish to go into them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is whether there was a protest or not.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There was a protest; there was a counter-protest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right; he wanted only that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: And you ignored them ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I know all about it.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: As far as I know «ver since Company Law started being amended from time to time the policy of the Government has been to discourage holding companies in the private sector, that is preventing one set of people having their tentacles spread over many companies. Secondly, in regard to many of these steel plants the position in the past has been for the Government to separate them so that there should be efficient management. When these steel plants were becoming too big and it was felt that concentrating them in one hand would be undesirable the HSL was broken up virtually. All the plants were working independently and even Bokaro was formed as an independent steel company. Now, the trend today is of having a holding company with one secretariat officer controlling all the four or five existing steel plants and any other plants that may come up in future under the Steel Ministry. I think this is a retrograde step. As it is, the Minister has conceded that none of these steel plants in producing to 100 per cent •of its capacity. Even Bhilai, which is supposed to be doing well, is producing only 80 per cent or probably less of its •capacity. Rourkela is still less, though it is earning a profit. A high cost is being paid by the consumer towards the profits that these steel companies are making and the consumer is suffering. So, the point is, though the SAIL has been in existence for the last three years, it has not been able to show improvement either in the cost of production or in the maintenance of the steel plants. They have not been properly maintained and they are not producing to capacity anywhere in the public sector. May I ask the Minister whether he will reconsider the whole set-up of an organisation like the holding company called SAIL and

try to decentralise the administrative control, authority and running of these steel plants in order to bring about more efficiency ? That is No. 1 suggestion. Secondly, what I want to know is whether the Minister has paid any special attention to what is called the maintenance aspect of the steel plants. The maintenance of most of the steel plants is very poor. What is the report of Shri Wadud Khan, who is the coordinating authority ? May I know whether maintenance has improved in any way in any of these steel plants whatsoever ? Thirdly, is it not a fact that Bokaro is being dogged by the same type of trouble which we have been witnessing in regard to Durgapur in the last so many years and Bokaro is not functioning well ? If so, will the Minister explain why it is so ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, several questions have been put together. So far as the concept of holding company in the public sector is concerned and the concept of consortium in the private sector—if I may use the word and put it in his mouth with his permission—is concerned, these are two different concepts. The concept of holding company is very much with us and we propose to carry it and consider it for some time and see what changes should be made. The holding company has certain great objectives and one is to avoid as much bureaucratisation as it is possible because hon. Members are very keen on removing bureaucratisation. So far as the other questions are concerned, well, I do not remember them. Yes, maintenance is one of the most urgent problems that Government are faced with, whether it is steel, power, cement or any other industry and it should be and it is our effort to see that we improve the maintenance of these things. There is no trouble in Bokaro. It is going on according to schedule. There may be some delay. •.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Can you make that statement here ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: What I am saying is there may be some delay in the case of Bokaro because of delay in the procurement of machines or parts which have either to be imported or manufactured by the Heavy Engineering Corporation.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in these days of austerity, when officers' telephones, etc. are being cut, SAIL is accommodated in Connaught Circus on a monthly rent of Rs. 1 lakh and hardly ten people are working in the spacious building?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Well, the subscribed capital of SAIL is more than Rs. 1800 crores and in order to maintain its administration and coordination, obviously some money will have to be spent. We have been constantly trying to reduce the expenditure and we have reduced the expenditure.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Is it a fact?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says he is trying to reduce the expenditure. It means he agrees.

Now, we have spent forty minutes over this Short Notice Question. Let me go to the second item, Papers to be laid.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report of the Central Excise (Self Removal Procedure) Review Committee (Volumes I and II) and related papers

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers: —

(i) Report of the Central Excise* (Self Removal Procedure) Review Committee (Volumes I and II).

(ii) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the Report mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. For (i) and (ii) see No. LT/74.]

Notification of Government of Gujarat

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Government of Gujarat, under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 read with sub-clause (iii) of clause (c) of the Proclamation dated the 9th February, 1974, issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat: —

(i) Notification No. (GHN-246> GST-1074-(S. 49)-(30)-TH, dated the 25th March, 1974.

(ii) Notification No. (GHN-255> GST-1074 (S. 49)-(31)-TH, dated the 25th April, 1974.

(iii) Notification No. (GHN-261> GST-1074/(S. 49)-(32)-TH, dated the 9th May, 1974.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (iii) see No. LT/74.]

II, A copy each (in Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Government of Gujarat, under sub-section (5) of section 86 of the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969, read with sub-clause (iii) of clause (c) of the Proclamation dated the 9th February, 1974, issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat: —

(i) Notification No. (GHN-230> GSR-1074/(U)-TH, dated the 2nd April, 1974, publishing the Gujarat Sales Tax (Amendment) Rules, 1974.