

RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 7th March, 1975/the 16th
Phalguna, 1896 (Saka)*

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

†Technique for Turning Ordinary Graphite into Diamond

*206. SHRI SITARAM SINGH :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI M. P. VARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence
scientists using high explosives in Kanpur
have developed technique that can turn
ordinary graphite into diamond; and

(b) whether there is a proposal under
Government's consideration to give pre-
ference to this new technique for further
development; if so, what are the details
thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI
J. B. PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir,
there was a news item in the "Financial
Express" wherein Dr. Tamankar, who is in
charge of the Research Laboratory in
Kanpur, is reported to have said that they
have been able to manufacture instant
diamonds by putting certain materials
under tremendous pressure. I want to
know whether the honourable Minister
has received any information from the
Kanpur Laboratory or whether the ho-
nourable Minister is saying something from
his own knowledge.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : My own
knowledge is based on the information

†Transferred from the 27th February,
1975.

‡The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Lokanath
Misra.

received from the Kanpur Laboratory and
there was no such report from the Director
of the Laboratory.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, I do
not know whether the information of the
honourable Minister is the final information
on the subject. But the PTI has sent out
a news item like this, Sir:

"Efforts were made to produce
instant diamonds at the Defence Metal-
lurgical Research Laboratory, Kanpur
the Director, Dr. R. B. Tamankar told
the annual meeting of the Metallurgical
Association of India here yesterday. Dr.
Tamankar, however, said that his labo-
ratory has not yet produced instant
diamonds as yet. But the high pressure
explosive technology developed at the
laboratory has been found to be extre-
mely useful in crystallising certain new
materials...etc., etc."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You
need not read all that.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir,
when I read this news item I thought that
we could show some interest in this be-
cause, if we could manufacture diamonds
like this, they can become marketable
and our country can earn money. There-
fore, Sir, I would like to know from the
honourable Minister whether he has got
any specific information from this Labora-
tory as to whether they have been able to
find out something.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : I have some
specific information at my command...

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, now
the information comes out.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : No. He has
mentioned about some experimental possi-
bilities. But the point is that we have not
made any efforts in that direction because
the process of manufacturing diamonds
is extremely costly and it is not worth the
game.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, Dr. Taman-
kar is a very well-known metallurgist and,
therefore, some credence will have to be
given to what he has been reported to have
said. May be that we are not in a position
to manufacture diamonds as yet. But am
I correct when I say that some very valuable

alloys, of which there is a shortage in the country, can be manufactured by this process? Have they come to that point at least, Sir?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : Sir, this question refers only to the manufacture of diamonds. So, if the honourable Member wants to know about any other material, he must put a question separately.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, he must have been supplied with some more information also.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : Sir, he must put a separate question.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, I seek your protection. When they collected information from Kanpur, he would not have just said, "No. We are not producing diamonds." He would have said something else also because he could not have said just in one word or in one sentence. It cannot just be one word or one sentence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Evidently, Mr. Goray, they would not have received much information. All right. Next question.

Diversion of Steel by Firms for speculative purposes

*384. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some firms at Howrah in West Bengal have recently been punished for diverting steel for speculative purposes ;

(b) if so, what are the names and addresses of the firms ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one of such firms was managed by I. R. C. I ; and

(d) if so, what is the name of the representative of I. R. C. I, in the management

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Aziza Imam.

board of the firm and what action has been taken against him ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Diversion of Steel by Firms for speculative purposes

Certain allegations of violation of the provisions of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order 1956 have been made against the following firms at Howrah in West Bengal :

(1) M/s. Amar Industrial Equipment, 54, Dasarath Ghose Lane, Howrah.

(2) M/s. C. R. Manna & Company, 23, Halder Para Lane, Howrah.

(3) M/s. Mepco & Company, 20, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Road, Howrah and 6-A Nutan Para Road Lillooah, Howrah.

(4) M/s. Shalimar Works Limited, Fere shore Road, Sibpore, Howrah.

(5) M/s. Calcutta Steel Forging and Fabricating Industries. Dr. H. K. Chatterjee Street, Howrah.

(6) M/s. The India Machinery Co. Ltd., Dassnagar, Howrah-5.

(7) M/s. Hind Overseas Pvt. Ltd., 4, Bhujagandhar Road, Howrah.

(8) M/s. Sankar Iron & Engg. Works Pvt. Ltd., 52/1, Dr. Abani Dutta Road, Howrah-1.

Cases relating to most of the above mentioned firms are under investigation/ action.

(c) and (d) M/s. India Machinery Co. Ltd., has been given financial assistance by the Industrial Re-construction Corporation of India Ltd. However, the I.R.C.I. is not managing the unit. This Unit is being managed by a Board of Management, appointed by the Government of India, on which the I. R. C. I. is represented by Shri S. K. Chakravarty. As the case is still under investigation, the