

**SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA :** With your permission, I will like to answer that point. It is a relevant point and I am grateful to Mr. Krishan Kant for having raised it. Mr. Wadud Khan produced a programme of production on certain hypothesis. Now that hypothesis regarding the target of production to be produced by the steel plants is very much before us. This target was produced by the steel plants and not by Mr. Wadud Khan and it was linked up with certain conditions of power production, coal production and transport system. It means that if the transport system, power and coking coal were provided to the steel mills according to a certain pattern, then, of course, the result will be higher production. Mr. Wadud Khan did some more exercise and still they produced a lower figure. It will not be proper to blame the Steel Authority for linking up the conditions of power production or coal or transport system. Supposing the transport system completely fails, then what would happen ?

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) :** You have already covered that point.

**SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA :** I wanted to emphasise that point once more. Certain conditions were linked up with the target put forward by the Steel Authority. We have revised that target now and we hope that we shall exceed it provided we get the necessary help.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

##### The National Library Bill, 1972

**SECRETARY-GENERAL :** Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha :

"I am directed to inform Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 26th April, 1974, adopted the following motion in regard to the National Library Bill, 1972 :—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint four members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the administration of the National

Library and certain other connected matters, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Mahavir Das, Rattan Lal Jain, Shyam Dhar Misra and Patil Puttappa from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so appointed to the Joint Committee, may be communicated to this House."

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER REFERENCE TO THE SUPREME COURT REGARDING ELECTION OF PRESIDENT NOTWITHSTANDING DISSOLUTION OF GUJARAT ASSEMBLY

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY) :** Madam, Vice-Chairman, this House is aware that the term of office of the present President of India expires on the 24th August, 1974.

Under Article 62(1) of the Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the President is required to be completed before the expiry of the term. This House is also aware that the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly was dissolved on the 15th day of March, 1974.

A question has been raised as to whether election to the office of the President can be held notwithstanding the dissolution of the Gujarat State Assembly.

The Government is *prima facie* of the view that on a true and correct interpretation of articles 54, 55, 56, 62 and 71 of the Constitution, the electoral college consists only of the elected members of such of the Legislative Assemblies of the State as are in existence at or before the expiry of the term of office of the President. However, a contrary view has been expressed both inside and outside this House.

A question of far-reaching importance has arisen as to the composition of the