

Dr. A. K. Ghosh, Economic Advisee in the Ministry of Industrial Development;

Shri K. B. Rao, Director General, Technical Development;

Shri P.D. Kasbekar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

Then there are :

Shri R.V. Raman, Adviser Planning Commission, Joint Secretary in charge of the administrative section in the concerned Ministry.

Shri G.A. Shah, Joint Secretary in the Department of Company Affairs and

Shri T. K. Tikku, Director in the Ministry of Industrial Development as Member Secretary.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Wonderful.

TAKING OVER OF B. I. C.

*386. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :†
SHRI S. KUMARAN : DR. Z. A.
AHMAD : SHRI S. G.
SARDESAI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the present Chairmen and Directors of British Industries Corporation;

(b) what are their shareholdings ; and

(c) the reasons for not taking over the management by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : †(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Government along with the public financial institutions has a substantial share holding in the British India Corporation. These Interests are further secured by the appointment of five Directors by the Government, out of the present total strength of nine, on the Board of Directors of the Company. Government is, however, keeping a close watch on the working of the company and the action taken by Government, from time to time, in the public interest depends on the changing circumstances of the Company.

STATEMENT

Names of Chairmen and Directors of the British India Corporation and their shareholdings are given below :—

Name	Shareholdings	
	Ordinary	Preference
Shri P. N. Mathur (Chairman)	In form No. 29 filed by him he has undertaken to take from the company and pay for 10 preference shares of Rs. 100 or 200 ordinary shares of Rs. 5 each being the value of shares prescribed as qualification shares for the office of Director of the said Company.	
Shri B. P. Bajoria (Vice-Chairman)	400	...

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

Name	Shareholdings	
	Ordinary	Preference
Shri R. Tantia (Managing Director)	2200	63
Shri S. P. Singh	200	...
Shri S. N. Bilgrami	200	...
Shri T. N. Sharma	200	...
Shri K. N. Mookerjee	500	...
Shri J. Chopra	200	...
Raja Bajrang Bahadur of Bhadri	200	...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : For the life of me I cannot make out anything. According to the Statement it appears that whereas Shri P. N. Mathur has been appointed the Chairman, how is it that Shri R. Tantia continues to be the managing Director even in the changed set-up ? Why he is needed I cannot understand. Also from the list it appears that Raja Bajrang Bahadur of Bhadri who is usually favoured by the Congress Party is also there. I do not know why. This Raja Bahadur is a luminary in certain circles. Therefore I would ask when we shall get rid of this Raja Bahadur. A Talukdar of UP is not certainly suited for looking after an industrial concern which has been mismanaged by people. I would also like to know why certain other big business people are here. Cannot Government find other people not connected with big business to man this Force ? Anyhow I would like to know why there is this fascination for Mr. Tantia that he should still continue as Managing Director simply because he is a multi-millionaire.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As is known to the House, Mr. Tantia is an industrialist and he has fairly good knowledge of the management of Industry.

Therefore he is on the Board of Directors.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He is a good industrialist, a good multimillionaire, has good knowledge and therefore must be on the Board of Directors.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put a good question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What about Mr. Bajoria there? Yesterday there was reference to Mr. Bajoria in the other House. A book has been published narrating the scandal and corruption of Bajoria-Jalan house and I find Mr. B. P. Bajoria as the Vice-Chairman of this concern. Do I understand that we are letting in such managerial business talent outside the business circles that we can not find other people in order to man these posts and, if so, why the Government is not appointing them? Finally I would like to know why there is delay in taking over this entire concern and nationalising it ? It is a fit case for nationalisation.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD: There has been no proposal before the Government to take over or nationalise this Company.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There is proposal. We have made the proposal in this House. On a point order. He is deliberately misleading the House. A proposal has been made in this and the other House again and again. How can he say that there is no proposal before the Government? What is your ruling?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The Government has no proposal.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You must examine your English when you say that there is no proposal before the Government.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : There is no proposal but what the hon. Member has said may be a suggestion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, what is the difference between a suggestion and a proposal? In this case can you guide us? We need your protection because of lack of knowledge of the language. Suppose I say the hon. Minister should go out of the House for the present, it may be a suggestion, it may be a proposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right. Dr. Ahmad.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I do not understand why the hon. Minister emphasizes the fact that there is no proposal. If there is no proposal a proposal should be made by the Government; that is our contention. In view of the fact that 40 per cent of the shares of this Corporation are held by the Government and in view of the fact that the bulk of the production of this concern is for the Government I cannot understand why you are waiting for somebody to make a proposal and why you are not making a proposal yourself for taking over the management of this concern. It is a fit case for the Government. It would be perfectly justified with such a large percentage of shares in your hand and the bulk of the production being for the Government. But still you hesitate and you have given almost the

entire management for a number of years to a private concern. Therefore I want to know why the proposal does not come from you, from the Government.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : This is a suggestion for action. With your permission I would only like to add, sir, that a few years back the affairs of the company were enquired into by a retired Judge of a High Court and after that, keeping in view the recommendations of that enquiry, Government have taken certain steps to improve the affairs of the Company and we find that there has been improvement. After that if we feel that it should be taken over, that is a different matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is another attempt to mislead the House. The reference to the retired Judge was not whether the company should be nationalised. Sir, you, having a judicial mind, know very well how you can confine yourself to the terms of reference. Therefore this is misleading. There was never any terms of reference of that kind to the Judge.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मैं गवर्नमेंट से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस कम्पनी का राष्ट्रीयकरण न करने का कारण यह है कि पिछले चार-पाँच सालों में इस कम्पनी ने कई संस्थाओं को अनुचित ढंग से सहायता की है और उन संस्थाओं में नेशनल हेरल्ड भी एक है ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य का आरोप सही नहीं है ।

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : I fail to understand how Mr. Bhupesh Gupta can understand the meaning of the word 'proposal'. He being a bachelor he cannot understand that; I can understand that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I sympathise with the person who understood your proposal.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: So far as the Government is concerned, this company is managed by a Board of Management and when the company is managed by a board appointed by the Government the question of nationalisation does not arise because it is a Board appointed by the Government. The question can be whether it is run better or not. To that I would like to have a reply whether there is any chance of bettering or improving the result of this company by any method which the Government thinks proper.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : There has been improvement in the affairs of the company, and I can give you these facts for a period of three years. In 1968 this company was running at a loss, but in 1969 it earned profit. In 1970 also it earned profit. Still, Sir, as the hon. Member has suggested, there may be scope for better management of the company, and we are taking steps so that there may be further improvement not only in the management but also in the working of the company.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over. Short Notice Question.

12 NOON

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DEMAND FOR A RAILWAY LINE FROM UJJAIN TO KOTA

1. SHRI N. K. BHATT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a persistent demand for a railway line from Ujjain to Kota via Mahidpur, Agar, Susmer and Paton for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the demand; and

(c) whether Government are aware that one Shri Ratan Lai Parmar, a freedom fighter of the area, is on fast unto death since 8th May, 1972 in protest of the indifference of the railway authorities to the legitimate demand of the people ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) While there has been no persistent demand, a few representations were received, for construction of a broad gauge rail link from Ujjain to Toda Rai Singh via Kota and Mauaidpur.

Due to paucity of funds and *prima facie*, lack of adequate traffic justification, it has not been possible to consider construction of this line.

(c) It is learnt that Shri Parmar has gone on fast.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Sir, between Ujjain and Agar a railway line is already existing but it is narrow-gauge line. When it is the policy of Government to convert narrow-gauge into broad-gauge, I would request Government to examine the possibility of extending the railway line between Ujjain and Agar to Kota, because this will connect the very backward areas of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where there are no other means of communication.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI There is already a broad-gauge line connecting Ujjain with Kota which is almost running parallel to the line which is now being demanded by Mr. Parmar. So, Government is not considering at this stage construction of this new broad-gauge line.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: In the report of the States Reorganisation Commission a special recommendation was made in respect of Madhya Pradesh because this new Madhya Pradesh, from

the communication point of view, is very backward, and there was a positive commitment and recommendation that special efforts should be made to develop this area particularly in respect of communications. From this point of view may I request the hon. Minister to examine the possibility of laying the railway lines for which there have been demands in Madhya Bharat and Vindhya Pradesh regions of Madhya Pradesh ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The proposal to link Makhi with Guna is under consideration ; the link is being constructed. With regard to this particular line, the hon. Member should know that the construction of new line generally involves a heavy initial capital investment. The line which is now being agitated for is 300 kilometres long and it would approximately cost about Rs. 38 crores and the Railways do not have the resources to construct this line more so when already a broad-gauge line is existing and is running parallel to this line.

SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA : The hon Minister must be aware of the fact that the new railway line from Guna to Maksi is under construction and that before final administrative approval of this line was given a survey of the line in question was ordered by the Railway Board, and looking to the convenience of the public and the backwardness of the area it was considered economically feasible to construct a new railway line from Kota to Ujjain via Mahidpur, Zilawar, Ziler-Paton and Susmer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA : This is the question Was there a survey ordered for this line from Kota to Ujjain via Mahidpur ? I say there was a survey and it was found feasible. What action has been taken on this survey report. ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is the question.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Sir, there has been no survey carried out. It was only an estimate made that for constructing the line of 380 kilometres an investment of about Rs. 38 crores would be involved. No survey as such was made of this line.

श्री श्री० के० सखसेचा : जैसा श्री मंत्री जी ने बताया, उज्जैन से कोटा को जोड़ने वाली लाइन पर 50 करोड़ रुपए का खर्चा आएगा। क्या आप बता सकते हैं कि मध्य प्रदेश में एक भी नई रेलवे लाइन डालने की आपने कार्यवाही की है ? मध्य प्रदेश में रेलवे लाइनों की कमी है। जैसा कि भट्ट जी ने आपका ध्यान आकर्षित किया, स्टेट रिआर्गनाइजेशन कमीशन ने रिकमेंड किया था, उसके बाद भी, स्टेट रिआर्गनाइजेशन कमीशन की रिकमेंडेशन के बाद भी कोटा की लाइन या इन्दौर से दोहद की लाइन नहीं बनाई गई। जितने भी प्रपोजल मध्य प्रदेश के बारे में रखे जाते हैं उनके बारे में आप कहते हैं कि पैसा नहीं है जबकि अन्य क्षेत्रों में 50 करोड़ तक की नई लाइन दे रहे हैं। क्या यह मध्य प्रदेश के साथ पक्षपात नहीं है ?

شہری مسعود شفیع قریشی : ماننے
مسدودہ کو اس بات سے تسلی ہوگی
کہ ایک نئی لائن گونا سے مکھی
تک بنائی جارہی ہے جس پر
9 کروڑ 60 لاکھ روپے خرچ آئے گا
اور اس کی تعمیل کا کام جولائی
1973 تک مکمل ہو جائے گا - ایسی
کوئی بات نہیں ہے کہ مدھیہ پردیش
کے ساتھ کوئی سوتیلے پن کا سلوک
کیا جاتا ہے - جب بھی ترقی
سرورے ہوتا ہے اور جسٹیفیکیشن

ہوتا ہے تو نئی لائن دی جاتی ہے۔

†[श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : माननीय सदस्य को इस बात से तसल्ली होगी कि एक नई लाइन गुना से मँवसी तक बनाई जा रही है जिस पर 9 करोड़ 60 लाख रुपये खर्च आयेगा और उसकी तकसील का काम जुलाई, 1973 तक मुकम्मल हो जाएगा। ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है कि मध्य प्रदेश के साथ कोई सीतेलेपन का सलूक किया जाता है। जब भी ट्रैफिक सर्वे होता है और जस्टीफिकेशन होता है तो नई लाइन दी जाती है]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

कारों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि

*380. श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : क्या औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री 11 मई, 1972 को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 136 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या हिन्दुस्तान तथा फियट कार बनाने वाली कंपनियों ने सरकार से अपने उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने की अनुमति मांगी है ?

†INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF CARS

*380. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 136 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th May, 1972 and state whether the companies manufacturing the Hindustan and Fiat cars have sought the permission

†[Hindi transliteration. †]
] English translation.

of Government to increase their production ?]

औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री (श्री मोइनूल हक चौधरी) : फियट कार बनाने वाली कंपनी से हाल ही में अपनी उत्पादन क्षमता का विस्तार करने के लिये औद्योगिक लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने हेतु एक आवेदन पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है। इसकी जांच की जा रही है।

†[THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : An application for grant of industrial licence for effecting expansion of production capacity has recently been received from the company manufacturing Fiat cars. It is under examination. †]

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

*384. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the small scale industries which have imported machines and equipment for undertaking manufacture of plastic containers are lying idle for want of Government's approval for food packaging ; and

(b) if so, the number and production capacity of such units and the foreign exchange spent by them for importing machines and equipment ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL-HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) The Government have not received any representation from small scale units regarding their capacity lying idle for want of Government approval for food packaging in plastic containers.

(b) Does not arise. ††
†English translation.