

एक खत भेजा कि बांगला देश मान्यता सम्मेलन की तरफ से आप लोग एक निर्दलीय प्रदर्शन करे और जनसंघ भी अपना प्रदर्शन टाल दे। श्रीमान्, जरा इसको सुन लीजिए। जो कुर्सी कांग्रेस का प्रदर्शन 9 तारीख को होने जा रहा है और जो अजनतरीय है, जनतंत्र के इतिहास में कभी नहीं सुना होगा कि रूलिंग पार्टी सरकार की पालिसी के सबंध में कोई प्रदर्शन करे। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगर भूपेश जी सही मायनों में यह बात कहते हैं—कहने के लिए नहीं बल्कि काम के लिए, तो रूलिंग कांग्रेस के 9 तारीख के प्रदर्शन को समाप्त कराये और जनसंघ को भी राजी कराये कि जो उनका अगला प्रदर्शन होने वाला है उस को वे न करे। एक निर्दलीय आधार पर प्रदर्शन हो, ससद हो रही है। 12 तारीख तक शायद, 12, 13, 14 किमी भी दिन रख ले, 15 को तो स्वतंत्रता दिवस है, तो आप यह प्रदर्शन किमी भी दिन रख ले, निर्दलीय, जिस में किसी दल का झंडा न हो, केवल बांगला देश का झंडा हो ताकि किसी दल को उसमें आपत्ति न हो कि यह कुर्सी कांग्रेस का है या सगठन कांग्रेस का है या ससोपा का है, या प्रसोपा का है या जनसंघ का है या किसी और दल का है। वह एक निर्दलीय प्रदर्शन हो और केवल बांगला देश का झंडा उसमें हो और किसी दल विशेष का झंडा उस में न हो। इस लिए मैं आपके द्वारा कुर्सी कांग्रेस से विशेष रूप से अपील करता हूँ कि वह 9 तारीख को अपना प्रदर्शन हटाये और जनसंघ के लोगों से मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह भी अपना अगला प्रदर्शन न करे। एक निर्दलीय रूप उस को दे जिस में किसी दल विशेष का झंडा न हो, बल्कि बांगला देश का झंडा हो और जयप्रकाश नारायण जी से भी मैं इस सदन की मार्फत निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो उन की प्रतिभा है और जो उन की शक्ति है, उसके और सारे दल के साथ वे भी इस निर्दलीय प्रदर्शन में आये ताकि सारे देश के आदमी एक होकर बोलें कि बांगला देश को अद्विलम्ब, तत्काल मान्यता दी जाय और हर प्रकार की सहायता, जिस में

नैतिक, भौतिक और सामरिक सहायता भी है, उनको दी जाय। इस सबंध में मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता किन्तु . . .

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने सुन लिया है आप की बात को। आप बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण कार्य कर रहे हैं देश का और शायद इस कार्य में सभी दलों को एक मंच पर ला सकेंगे आप, ऐसी शुभकामना ही इस अवसर पर मैं कर सकता हूँ और इस के साथ ही मैं दो बजे तक सदन को स्थगित करता हूँ।

The House adjourned for lunch at nine minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled, after lunch, at two of the clock, THE VICE CHAIRMAN, (SHRI A. D. MANI) in the Chair

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) Mr Vice Chairman Sir, I beg to raise a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Steel and Mines

Sir, today we are discussing a very vital sector of our economy, our national economy. The total investment in the Hindustan Steel Limited comes to about 33% of the total investment in the public sector and so, Sir, when we are considering the functioning of the public sector, the functioning of the economy in the country, the Hindustan Steel Ltd comes first and also the Ministry of Steel & Mines

Mr Vice Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that today we are to discuss the functioning of the Ministry of Steel & Mines and also the Hindustan Steel Ltd and it seems that we are discussing the tragedy of the Hindustan Steel Ltd in this country for the last fifteen years. When we created the idea, when Shri Jawaharlal Nehru created the idea of the Hindustan Steel Ltd, he wanted the steel industry to be in the public sector in spite of the opposition from the western powers and the idea was that we should create the infrastructure for building up industries in the various sectors of our life and we wanted it to be an efficient monument of public sector. But its working for the last so many years has unfortunately brought us to this conclusion that the dream of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru has not been fulfilled but rather it has become a tragedy of the Hindustan Steel Ltd and in the steel industry in this country

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Sir, in 1969-70 the loss was Rs 10 crores. And in 1970-71, in spite of the fact that there was super boss Mr Chandy—he is super to the Minister and super to the Cabinet because he can have the authority to decline Government's policies even without referring to the Cabinet—our hopes have been blighted. Mr Chandy is super to the Cabinet because he recently announced in Bangalore that prices will be raised in the Hindustan Steel. In 1969-December he raised the prices before the Government announced. Mr Vice Chairman, Sir, in spite of what he said, it looks that his hope has been blighted and there would be a loss of Rs 10 crores in Hindustan Steel. I am glad that the present Minister has not allowed him to increase the price of steel this year which he wanted so that he could show the profit.

What has been the effect of the price rise in steel? The Hindustan Steel has not gained. Who has gained? The Tatas. They have increased their dividends by 10 per cent even after paying profit tax. And the policy which we are pursuing has not helped the public sector of Hindustan Steel, but it has helped the private sector. Hindustan Steel does not pay all the taxes which the Tatas and IISCO pay. But in spite of that there is loss. Up till now, probably there has been a loss of 200 crores. With 200 crores, we could have built two Bhadrak. This is the position. Sir, Bhilai is down by 20 per cent, Rourkela and Bhilai are going down by 40 per cent. The production is really going down. Everywhere, whether in Japan or elsewhere, steel plants expand, they do it with the profits they earn; they have not to borrow every time. Even if they have to borrow, they pay back and expand. That is the position, Sir. The position about Bhilai is that it is operating at about 80 per cent, Rourkela 60 per cent, and Durgapur 40 per cent. What is the outlook for the next year? Durgapur production will go down to below 40 per cent. Rourkela melting shop roof accident has taken place. Therefore the production of Rourkela is going down to less than 40 per cent. Bhilai was expecting a rise in percentage. The production is not going up, whereas there are indications leaking out that production at any time might be brought down drastically.

Mr Vice Chairman, Sir, this is the situation. And since Mr Chandy was made the Chairman, what has been the position? The utilization capacity in 1968-69 was 63 per cent, in 1969-70 it was 63 per cent, in 1970-71, 50 per cent and in 1971-72 it will go down to below 50 per cent. That is the expertise of management of Hindustan Steel that the great Chairman, Mr Chandy, has brought in.

Mr Vice Chairman, Sir, I am sorry today because we are building up a picture of socialism on the efficient functioning of the public sector. But, Sir, if the public sector fails, these bureaucrats or anybody who is responsible for that should be responsible for tarnishing our image, our ideology, our programme and every thing. May I know, Mr Vice Chairman, Sir, whether during all these years, excepting some instances here and there any top most men have been taken to task? These bureaucrats always have excuses. I did not want to go into details or into what the Public Undertakings Committee have said and so many other things. These bureaucrats have run the Hindustan Steel. I am pained today because, Sir, when I say, 'Nationalise the banking industry, nationalise these industries in the country', and so on, this dark picture of Hindustan Steel is put before us. Are we going to run public sector undertakings like this? So I am sorry, I am pained, I am grieved today that up till now those persons, bureaucrats or anybody who has not been punished, dismissed or discharged for failing in our duty towards the public sector.

They have indulged in an anti-national activity. That is why, I say, it is very difficult.

What is the position in this country in the matter of distribution of steel? People are paying high prices. On one wagon people are earning between Rs 2,000 and Rs 20,000.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) Not high prices but fantastic prices.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT Hindustan Steel which makes this material in the country is going in loss. Who then is earning? Neither the people are getting cheap steel nor the industry is earning, the middle men are earning. The Joint Plant Committee allots steel. Now there is a priority Committee also which allots steel. But has an inquiry ever been made as to how the steel reaches the market and why people pay high prices? It looks as though the Government, the traders, the blackmarketees, everybody is in league. If you see the newspaper everyday you will find a quotation for steel, steel in the blackmarket not at controlled price! Any person, for building a house or a factory, what is he doing? He is buying from the market and converting white money into black money. Who is responsible for the transformation of white money into black money? Has any inquiry ever been made to find out how the steel reaches the market? Has any action been taken? Has anybody been imprisoned? Has any sentence been awarded to anybody? The daily press is quoting what the price of steel in market is while the controlled

price is something else. Open daylight robbery is being done and we are watching helplessly as if we cannot squeeze this black money and stop this blackmarketing. Hindustan Steel is the biggest supplier in the Government of India and yet nothing has been done either by the States or by the Centre.

Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir: I would not like to go into details because I had raised certain points earlier itself how the question of refractories was not taken up at the proper time. No planning was done.

Before I go to the vital question of the violation of the Industrial Policy Resolution, I would like to bring to your notice a very important thing. We are providing for the maintenance of the different steel plants but the maintenance of all the steel plants is very poor. The maintenance portion—the implements, the instruments, the workshop—is a very important part of the investment, but the maintenance of all the steel plants is poor and is becoming poorer every moment. Not only that, I was coming to a very important thing in the sense that every year the Hindustan Steel imports spares worth Rs. 10 crores while Tata imports spares worth Rs. 1 crore only because they have a workshop where they make their own spares within the country. I do not know why the Government of India and the steel plants have not made any arrangement for the manufacture of spares within their own plants. While the private sector can make them and utilise them for their own steel plants, the public sector does not do anything about it.

Another thing about which I was mentioning is refractories. What has happened to our refractories? The Indian made refractories are suitable for the Tata plant or the IISCO plant but these Indian made refractories are not suitable for Bokaro. We must import everything! That has become the habit of our bureaucrats. Can you look into the way it is so? We were an exporting country but now we have become an importing country importing Rs. 150 crores worth of steel every year.

Another interesting point is Rs. 45 crores were allotted for technological development under the new balancing system. When recently the meeting of the Planning Commission with Hindustan Steel took place, they asked why they have not utilised the amount for technological development of HSL. They had no answer. On the other hand, the HSI people told the Planning Commission that even if all the plants utilised 95 per cent of the rated capacity the profits would not rise because steel would not grow in quantity, only pig iron would.

It means that there is something basically wrong. When higher quantity of pig iron

comes and we cannot convert it into steel, there is something wrong with the plants and its working. We are exporting pig iron. The price of pig iron is 50% of the JPC price. This is how HSI is functioning. It means they can not spend the money for technological development or research and development and on the maintenance system. They have to import spares every time and they have no made arrangements for spares in their own country. It is estimated that if the plants work up to 85% capacity they can be profitable and the total needs of the country could be very well met.

Another point is about the violation of the Industrial Policy Resolution. The question is when you decide to give mini steel plants whether there is the question of violation of the Resolution or not. The Minister said that the mini steel plants have been working for a long time and it is no violation. He is an eminent advocate of the Supreme Court and an ex-Advocate General of Madras. He was giving arguments. Supposing a copy book is made by a book binder and that is in the public sector, the argument will be given that if the cover is made by somebody else and the inside paper will be by somebody else then they can go to the private sector separately. What is happening is by giving the mini steel plants making of sponge iron can be done in the private sector, from the sponge iron or from scrap you can make steel. These two separate plants can be in the private sector and they do not violate the Industrial Policy Resolution. It is a strange concept or interpretation of the Resolution. You know that at many places the Industrial Policy Resolution has been violated. The Alloy Steel has been given to the Birlas. There have been many violations. This is an additional violation. I feel pained because we had a lot of expectations from Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam because we knew his commitment and ideology because we expected that when he comes to the Ministry he will make a complete departure from all the old methods of interpretation and working and will give a picture of how a socialist can function and help in creating a socialist society. So I feel sorry and pained. I asked a question the other day and I hope he will reply to day whether to the mini steel plant and Government financial institutions are giving loans or not. If they are giving loans and even the Tatas, the Birlas or the Dalmas, not with their own money but with the money supplied by public financial institutions, they carry on, that will only help the private sector. Can that money be utilised for making steel in the public sector and follow the Industrial Policy Resolution? We would like him to give a reply to these because I am seeing today, whether it is the Mono

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polies and Restrictive Trade Practice Act or the Industrial Policy Resolution, our basic concept in proposing that policy was that we did not want the big business houses to control our economy and the political structure of the country but if by deviation, by giving them chance to go to the backward areas, by splitting up the composite plant into small sections and sending them to the private sector, we encourage them, in that way as we are doing, then we are not going to fulfil our resolve of creating a socialist society, or an egalitarian society where inequalities will not grow. We will be helping the inequalities to grow and the monopolists to grow. If we are to do that, why are we coming in for the amendment of the Constitution? It in practical shape we are going to do all these, why do you want an amendment of the Constitution? Is it only for showing to the people that we want the right to property to go? On the other hand by our policy, we want the right to continue as previously

Mr. Vice-Chairman, along with this, another thing which Mr. Chandy in his period has done is about the slag. Day before yesterday I asked a question as to whom the slag which is produced in the different plants is being given. From the reply given by the hon. Minister on 30th July it is very clear that the slag has been given on a 20 year contract to the ACC. That is probably from one steel plant. In the case of another plant a 10 year lease for the slag has been given to Messrs. Birla Jute Manufacturing Co. and you cannot revise the agreement before 30 years. The slag of Rourkela has been or is going to be given to Dalmia Jain on a lease for 40 years. May I know whether this is the way to curtail monopolies? Are we not correct in feeling that the public sector has become the infrastructure for the growth of monopolies? Is it not very true? Could not this slag have been converted into clinker by the Hindustan Steel itself? What is now going to happen is in the very periphery of the Hindustan Steel the private monopolists will building up clinker factories where the clinker will be made and then sent to cement plants, or fertiliser plants or for making insulating wool. Could not our industries have utilised it? Could not have Government utilised these for making cement in the public sector? That is why I say the basic outlook has to change. It is the bureaucrats who do all these things. And all this has been done in the regime of Mr. Chandy who is presumed to be a committed person. I am sorry for this but what am I to do? I have to bring such unpleasant things before the House.

Now I will come to the question of two agreements which the Hindustan Steel dur-

ing the Chairmanship of Mr. Chandy entered into, one with the United Engineering of America and the other with the Soviet Union. The basic question covered by the agreement with America is the question of making rolling mills. The CFDB, a subsidiary of the HSL, cannot make these rolling mills; it is only the HSL that can make them and the agreement is really for them. And it is interesting to find that for three years after the agreement was signed we have not been able to make use of it. It was only when this question was raised in the House that some attempt was made so that the CEDB's name was brought in for making these rolling mills with the help of the United Engineering and the Ahmedabad Advance Mills and the Bharat Steel Tubes have been asked to help the CEDB. The United Engineering could have directly given the same assistance. Sir, the agreement is very interesting. It says that HSL cannot even disclose whatever United Engineering may have to Heavy Engineering. The agreement is there and even if we do not utilise any know how from the United Engineering we have to pay Rs. 7½ lakhs every year. We have not used anything for three years and we have been paying 100,000 dollars every year simply because we have entered into an agreement. If we have to have rolling mills why should we not make them? I have discussed this with many experts, even Mr. Suri, and he told me that 80 to 90 per cent of the rolling mill parts our design engineers, our consultants can make. Sir, I am not against foreign collaboration but I want foreign collaboration only for such things for which we really do not have the know how. Where our engineers, our development and research institutions can do why should we not go to them instead of having a foreign collaboration? This is an area where our engineers have gone ahead. This is a non-exclusive licence.

Now, it has been forced on the people, Bharat Steel Tubes and Ahmedabad Advance Mills. Only after the question was raised here to show that the agreement is useful this is being done.

Now, I come to the other agreement with the Soviet Union, Tajpromexport. I am conscious of the help that the Soviet Union, as a friendly nation, gave to Bhilai and Bokaro and all that, but even with friends you cannot afford to lose dignity. You cannot afford to lose self respect. Even in individual relationship dignity is much more important. Nobody can afford to lose it. Here is an overall agreement with the Soviet Union. If any agreement has to be entered into, please see that it is entered into only for that part of the machinery and equipment which is not available in this country. It will be interesting to note what the agreement contains. It says: preparation

of proposals for long term plans of the ferrous industry development. Cannot our economists or engineers do it? What are we doing in this respect? Then, it says, studying demands for ferrous products and determining the ways to meet the requirements of the national economy in ferrous metals. Cannot we do it? Cannot our technologists do it? Cannot our engineers do it? Then it says carrying out all the designing work required for the units of a project with possible assistance of designing agencies from the public and private sectors. Even if we are to take the help of the public and private agencies they will dictate to us. Cannot we decide about the things that are available in the country and decide for ourselves? It is rather degrading how the whole agreement has been entered into and the way it was entered into. Mr Chandy at that time did not have permission to enter into the agreement. After signing the agreement he came to the Embassy and later on wrote a letter saying that this has to be approved by the Government of India. That shows that he did not have the approval of the Government of India when he signed it, because he writes a letter later on.

Another interesting thing is this. The agreement provides that the Soviet consultants could come and go anywhere. Our people will have to receive them and will have to see them off. Even this is entered into in the agreement. When the Soviet consultants, the Soviet experts come, you have to give them air conditioned rooms, air conditioned travel and all those things. You have to give them three rooms. I do not object to that, but when Indians go there, they will be two in one room. I am not worried about it whether it is one room or two rooms, but when an agreement is entered into this is how we tell the world that we treat foreigners much better than we treat our own people. Many people feel that it is disgraceful to enter into such an agreement. Such clauses have been entered in this agreement. These conditions were not there when the Bhilai agreement was signed. It is also in the Bokaro agreement. That shows that when the Bhilai agreement was signed, the Soviet respected us as a nation. They respect any nation with a will and the determination. Now, they feel that we are going to them abegging. Today we consider the Soviet Union as friend, but we must behave with them. Deal with them on the basis of equality. We need them, but they also need us and one relationship should be on an equal footing. Anyone would react if such agreements are entered into. I do not want to deal with the agreement relating to Durgapur for want of time. There are so many things arising out of the agreements but the basic approach has to be there. In regard to the things which we can do in this country, are we prepared to

do them or not? We are in the habit of relying on others even when we can do things ourselves. They understand us as a friend more if we do things ourselves. What is happening today? North Vietnam and the Vietcong, both of them, take the help of the Soviet Union and the Chinese. When Mr Kissinger goes to Peking and Hanoi gives a warning to China, it gives it in the strongest possible terms to the Chinese. North Vietnam and the Vietcong have shown that they have a will of their own, even though they need the help of the Soviet Union and China.

That is indignity, that is what is happening. While going into these agreements, I have found all these things. There are many other things, I do not want to say anything more. The time has come when whether we want industrialisation, whether we want militarisation, whether we want anything in this country, we as a nation must keep our head straight and talk to others, to friends that we want equality, that we cannot be subjugated, this feudal relationship with any country, with America or England or the USSR will not do, we have the capability and talent in this country which can make a new India. A socialist India provided we have the will and the determination. There, the Government has to show it.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY (Tamil Nadu) After having heard the speech of my predecessor, I have to express a different opinion with regard to the salient features which are made out in this House. When I read this Report for 1970-71 of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, it is so nice to read and it looks as if there is nothing wrong with the Ministry. But actually when we examine the working of the steel plants, there is much to be said against them, and I only wish the present Minister who has taken charge—he is experienced both at the bar and in other fields also—will see that these things do not occur again and that he will improve upon them. I shall not go into all, but shall now go into certain aspects. As he has made out, these mills are one of the valuable assets for our country and they supply the raw material for the improvement of the economy of our country. So far as these three plants are concerned we all know that these three plants have incurred very heavy losses, not to the tune of Rs. 10 or 20 crores but to the tune of Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 crores. Durgapur is one of these plants. It has incurred very heavy losses. The previous speaker has made out the case that foreign collaboration as well as the agreements are defective. These three plants have come into being with the help of foreign collaboration and assistance but the actual working is done only by the Indians. I do not find any reason why there is a heavy loss incurred. There is the

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Heavy Engineering Corporation in Ranchi also. This has also run into heavy losses and there is a lot of local politics being played there, and the labour problem is extremely unsatisfactory. The loss cannot be made up even in spite of our imaginative improvement that could be introduced in these plants. And the remote satisfaction of nationalisation of the plants in the private sector also does not come into play at all because I have not seen that the private sector has incurred a heavy loss as the public sector. It might be possible that at the initial state there may be teething troubles and it is bound to run into a loss. But actually after having started it, some years back, in 1965 or even earlier, say, in 1956 or 1957, till this date, for thirteen or fourteen years, the loss is being incurred. It is being said that next year or the year after we will improve the position and we will get gains. But actually they are running into a loss. It is a sad picture that we are unable to run the public sector undertakings profitably and show to the country that we too can run these in a better way. But so far as the private sector plants are concerned, they have been running at a profit, not now, for four years together, for forty or fifty years, the Tatas, Tisco, IISCO and others. If they were to be subsidised, it must be due to some reason. But now they have no subsidy from the Government and they get larger profits. Instead of suggesting that Mr. Chandy did this or that, or that the members of the Board are not behaving well, instead of going into those aspects, I only wish that there should be some people of character. Unless the entire character of the persons who run the show changes, we cannot get any profit at all. So we must go to the very root as to why there is loss, when the other private sector plants make profits, why is it that we incur loss in these public sector undertakings?

If public sector undertakings continue running into losses, there is no case at all to insist on nationalisation of industry. Sir, when the steel industry was started in Mr. Nehru's times, we were told that honey and milk will flow in the country. But now we find that the international price of steel is much lower than our own price. There is another strange thing. Japan gets scrap from us, manufactures it and sells it to us at a profit. I wonder, when we are making losses, how the Japanese people get iron ore from us, make steel, export it to us and make profit. If they can make profit, why cannot we too make profit? As a matter of fact, we should be able to manufacture steel much cheaper because we save on exporting the iron ore and then again getting it back. I wish we could sell it cheaper than any other country. We are expected to be self-sufficient in other respects. But in the case of steel the demand is higher

than the supply. Sir, steel plays an important part in our economic development.

Sir, in this context the Government of India have set up three other plants. It is naturally a very good thing. One of these plants is located at Salem. If this plant is to be run profitably, then it has got to be fed well. Raw material, coal, iron ore, all these things must be supplied without interruption. If the supply of these things is interrupted, then it will go into wreck and ruin. We should profit by the past experience and avoid pitfalls. Such mistakes should not be repeated in the new plants that they are going to set up. I wish this plant Godspeed as also to the other plants that are going to be set with the Government help. With the raw material that is now available in plenty, these steel plants must be fed well.

Sir, the previous speaker made out a case for avoiding foreign collaboration. According to him, as far as possible, collaboration should be avoided. He quoted some of these agreements also which are detrimental to our interest. He said when we ourselves have able engineers there is no need to depend upon them. It is all right to assert that. I do not belittle the efficiency and the ability of our own engineers and our youngmen here who can be compared easily with engineers from other countries. But in the beginning, in any industry we have to have some sort of collaboration so that the foreigners give us their experience in addition to our own. Let us first gain some experience, and after gaining experience, let us do away with foreign collaboration.

Sir, so far as the views of the earlier speaker about agreements are concerned, I agree with what he said about shortfalls and shortcomings. And, therefore, while starting any new industries the past experience should be taken care of by the Ministry. I hope they will avoid such things.

Sir, about the public sector undertakings I have already made my point. But I will say two important things with regard to the National Coal Development Corporation. We all know that in coal-mining there is no question of replenishing whatever we have extracted from underneath the earth. That is why there is difficulty in planned way of extraction and exploitation. That is why the Survey Department has come into existence and large parts of the country have come under survey. Sir, we have plenty of minerals. I am very glad that the Government have decided to give priority to geological survey for exploitation and extraction and they have been put under the same department for purposes of co-ordination. This is a very good idea. I hope they will succeed in it and the effort will make a good headway.

Sir, I find that even in the N.C.D.C. there is loss. Till 31-3-70 the loss amounted to about Rs. 5 crores odd. Even in the previous year the loss was of the same order.

This sort of loss should not be allowed to be incurred hereafter. This may be due to labour trouble also. Now we are thinking of constructing a new India. At the same time, during the period of construction, we allow the birth-right of the labourers to go on strike. (*Interruption*) Let me not be disturbed. I have got my own views. You agree to the construction of a new India and at the same time, you allow them to go on strike. On the one side, there is construction and on the other, there is destruction. Of course, it is the birth-right of every labour union; they have got the right to do it because the belly is the main consideration and they should also be fed well. So, they have got every right to do it. I do not object to that. But when you are constructing, you want to destroy. Both these things cannot go together. You should not try to destroy when we are constructing. Let us construct fully and then you can start demolishing. But when we are constructing, at the same time you cannot start demolishing. These two cannot go together. That is my point. Many of the labour leaders may get angry with me. The suggestion I am giving is not against them. I am only telling them: You just allow it to be constructed first; then you can live in it and start demolishing it because you want to alter its structure. But do not do it simultaneously. The labour problem is one of the main problems even in Durgapur and that is why we are incurring loss.

In the Neyveli Lignite Project also we are incurring heavy losses. From 1958-59, we have been incurring loss. And the reason is, they have got plenty of things to do which they could not do. There is a huge backlog in the removal of the overburden which is standing in the way of progress. They are not able to reach the target of 6 million tonnes of lignite. Why? Because the rain has caused a lot of difficulties for them. They must have additional machinery, plant and equipment with a view to seeing that this overburden is removed. This Lignite Project was started with the hope that it would become something like a New Castle in India, for supplying coal. We have got "Teco" which is the trade name for carbonised briquettes. It is being used for fuel purposes and so far as South India is concerned, it is in great demand. And if they are not able to supply it, it will jeopardise other activities. I only say that this Neyveli Lignite project has to be looked into with a different eye and I hope the present Minister will certainly go into it and see that the present loss is made good in the future.

Sir, am I going beyond my time?

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): There is one more speaker from your party.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Therefore, I should not speak?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (A. D. MANI): No, no. If you would like to continue for another five minutes, I have no objection.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: All right, thank you. So, as far as the Neyveli Lignite Corporation is concerned, I have pointed out that it is also running in loss and I have given my suggestions for improving the position. Of course, it is hoped that it would improve. We all know that hope is eternal in everybody's breast. So, the Department can say, "We hope to get profit hereafter." This hope is there not in this Report only. This hope is there ever since the inception, ever since it came into existence. The hope has been perennial and it will be perennial. Unless we go to the root of the problem as why we are incurring losses, we cannot succeed. So far as the labour problem is concerned, I have already dealt with it. Recently the wage board recommended several increments for the workers and that has been done. Over and above that, the department itself offered further schemes for improving the position of every worker. In spite of that, they want to get more funds.

They can get funds of course. Let them earn and take away the funds. But nowadays the whole trouble is they want wages without work. That is the criterion nowadays. If they really want wages, they should work. If they have enough funds, they can certainly sit at home and earn money. (*Interruptions by Shri Kalyan Roy*). You have enough time to rebut me. You can do so when your chance comes. Please do not interrupt me.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Mr. Kalvan Roy, is not yielding.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Sir, this is my right and I am not going to yield to him. He is at liberty to say whatever he likes when his chance comes. I am not questioning him.

Sir, so far as the administrative aspect is concerned, we have to see whether it is properly administered. So far as administration is concerned, the people there are very much afraid, they are afraid of their own lives, they are afraid of their movement, they are not moving out because of the way the workers behave. The people who have to control the workers are not able to do their jobs because they are afraid of their lives, they are afraid of their own existence. So you have to look into this aspect also. Sir, I do not wish to say anything more on this.

[Shri N. R. Muniswamy]

The amount which you invested in the First Five Year Plan was about Rs. 1 crore and it has now gone up to Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores, and it is going to become Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 3,000 crores. But the actual realisation is much less. Therefore, I wish that this entire thing should be looked into afresh so that these things are rectified.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Now Mr. Arjun Arora. Mr. Arora, I would suggest you may take fifteen minutes because there are twelve speakers and I want to accommodate all of them

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): You may accommodate all of them and I will accommodate you.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL (West Bengal): Commodious accommodation.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir this is a very important discussion that we are having on steel. During this session one may say, steel and Coca cola have dominated the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): One is liquid. . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Yes, one is liquid and the other is made from liquid. We can today discuss the whole picture of steel. The first thing that strikes one today is the man made scarcity of steel in the country. The scarcity of this vital commodity, vital for industries, vital for housing, vital for all spheres of economic activity, is man-made because right from the day the steel control was abolished, the Government has lost the grip over the situation. The result is that when in 1969 all of a sudden the Government became conscious of the acute scarcity of steel, it had not machinery to meet the blackmarketeers, and blackmarketing is so rampant today that structurals, for example, are selling in the market at Rs. 4,500 per ton whereas the official rate is Rs. 1,000 per ton.

Though there is an Iron and Steel Controller, though there is a Joint Plant Committee and though there are Directors of Industries expected to exercise some control, it appears that no control is effective against the black-marketeers. And the strange thing is that Hindustan Steel makes losses while those who are favoured and given a wagon or two of steel, particularly structurals, by the Hindustan Steel are becoming richer and richer. If there is no control, why does not the public sector itself sell structurals, for example, at Rs. 4,000 per tonne? Why does it sell it at Rs. 1,000 per tonne to people who are traders, who are called stockists or dealers and by various names, and allow them to make Rs. 3,000 per tonne?

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY (Tamil Nadu): You want government to indulge in black marketing?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: This won't be black-marketing.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY: Then you and I are not socialists.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I am a socialist. He is not. That is well known. He is an opportunist

It will not be black-marketing because if Hindustan Steel sells the commodity at higher prices, the money will go into the books and if Hindustan Steel makes profit, public sector will gain and the profits will be subject to income tax also. It is not black-marketing at all. Why should the distribution arrangements be so disappointing such? I can give many other examples. But structurals are the best example from my point of view. My submission is this: Why do the Hindustan Steel and the Steel manufacturers in the country have to sell steel at certain official rate and after that the receiver of the wagons is free to sell them at whatever rate he likes and use the steel in whatever manner he likes? This is what is happening. We do not want it. I want that the steel control should be rigorous. Steel control should be such that the small-scale industries of Shri. Kulkarni are not starved steel when black-marketeers are thriving. Secondly, the actual users are not getting steel. The control should be such that they are not deprived of the much-needed steel.

We have scarcity of steel in the country and last year Rs. 100 crores worth of steel was sanctioned to be imported. We are also exporting some steel and among the steels that we are exporting are certain things which are uneconomic to export. When there is scarcity of steel in the country and when we are importing steel in the country we should export only those products which have a big labour content. But we are exporting bolts and nuts which are mainly steel without much labour content and, therefore, the exports are uneconomic. I suggest that such exports must be stopped.

I am sorry that there was delay in the completion of Bokaro Steel Plant. The initial delay occurred because we were duped by President Kennedy.

And, Sir, he took 18 months to consider the proposal and then created a situation in which Shri Jawaharlal Nehru himself withdrew the request to avoid embarrassment to President Kennedy. Well, 18 months were lost. After the death of Shri Nehru, for about four years, somehow this country was led to believe that we do not need more steel. This was a very wrong thing and Sir, I want the Minister to investigate, to go into the files—they are with him and not with me—if he has the time, if he has the energy and if he has the interest of the country at heart—I suppose he has—and he should go into that problem and see that at least those people who led the

country to the conclusion, after the death of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, that we needed no more steel plants, should be punished or at least kept away from the Ministry of Steel or any other economic Ministry and they may be sent as Sub-Divisional Magistrates to some backward districts.

Sir, for four years we neglected steel and though we expected the Soviet offer regarding Bokaro, the deliberate policy of the Government, the deliberate policy of the Ministry of Steel, was to go slowly as far as Bokaro was concerned and only last year or the year before last, when scarcity could no more be concealed, work on Bokaro was speeded up.

Then, Sir, the Hindustan Steel's Management is not one of which anybody may be proud. It continues to lose from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 50 crores every year. When they export, they lose; when there is scarcity in the country, they lose; and if the present Management, its structure—I am not concerned with individuals—of its Management continues, the Hindustan Steel will lose even if there is scarcity in the country. The Minister who is a dynamic person, must overhaul the Management of the Hindustan Steel and make profitability and productivity the tests of good management, and not good manners, not good education not good company.

Sir, the roof collapse at Rourkela is a very serious development. Somebody told me the other day that while the Minister spent about eight hours travelling to Rourkela and back to New Delhi, he spent less than three hours at the plant. I hope it is not correct. But that is what is being widely circulated in the corridors of Delhi. If that is so, it is disappointing because the loss is at least about Rs. 100 crores, apart from the loss in production.

AN HON. MEMBER: Rs. 100 crores?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: When I say there is a loss of about Rs. 100 crores, I mean that the rehabilitation of the plant will cost Rs. 100 crores and it will take from nine months to one year and during that period the loss of production will be there. It is very difficult to estimate the loss in production at Rourkela because the percentage of production there has always been varying.

Sir, the Minister has been quick to appoint the Iuthra Committee to inquire into the Rourkela collapse. I want him to be able to give an assurance to the House that whosoever is found guilty will be punished. Generally what happens is that people commit wrongs in public sector, commit bunglings, do dishonest work and then they retire and we are told that now that so and so has retired, though he has been found bungling, mis-

managing, etc., nothing can be done against him. That is not a correct approach, and I hope the Government will give it up.

Apart from inefficient management, Hindustan Steel suffers from bad industrial relations. Sir, the Minister was once upon a time a trade union leader in Tamil Nadu, and I hope he remembers some of his experiences of those days. He should evolve a method of workers' participation. A mere appointment of one workers' director, generally imported from some other centre, is not workers' participation in management. The participation should be at every stage. There should be committees, joint committees, of the management and the workers in every shop, in every department, at every level at the plants. The targets of production should be fixed in consultation with the workers and they should be made to feel involved in the work of the plants. Unless that is done, industrial relations will never be satisfactory.

Sir, one of the mistakes that the Ministry of Steel committed last year was permitting mini steel plants in the private sector. I do not know whether mini-steel plants are needed in the country, whether the production of mini-steel plants will make any vital difference to the availability of steel in the country. A little improvement in the productivity of the three plants of HSL and a little effort to complete Bokaro a little earlier than scheduled, will make a world of difference. And as compared to that, mini-steel plants will make little or no contribution to the availability of steel in the country. Even if they are useful, even if the Government wants to set up some sort of steel plants—may be mini-steel plants—in every State, that should have gone to the State Governments as has been the case in one or two instances. They should never have been given to the private sector as has been done.

Sir, all the mini steel plants contemplated by Governments and by others have not been licensed so far. Only five or six licences have been given. If these licences can be withdrawn, they must be withdrawn and given to one hundred per cent State-owned undertakings. If the Government's commitment is such and if the Government has committed itself too much with the private sector, at least for the future the policy should be not to give any licences for mini-steel plants or any steel plants to the private sector.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Please conclude.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: To conclude, Sir, I must emphasize the need to increase production which can be done not by setting up mini steel plants consuming electricity which is needed elsewhere by our agriculturists and by small-scale industries. That is not the way to increase production.

[Shri Arjun Arora]

The way to increase production is to make the three plants of the Hindustan Steel really productive. Then the measures of economy in the use of steel must be investigated and enforced. Only yesterday I read in one of the newspapers that if twisted bars are used in place of straight bars, there will be 30 per cent. economy in steel required for building purposes. If the Government cannot compel the private house builders to use twisted bars, it is only proper that a rule be laid down that in all Government constructions only twisted bars will be used. Finally, Sir, there must be greater, more efficient and more consumer-oriented control of distribution of steel which is available.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, before I make any comments on the working of the Ministry of Steel, I would like to say something about the targets that we must set before us, the aims and objects that the country must have in respect of the production of steel. Sir, it is well known that immediately after the last war, Japan was completely destroyed, all its production facilities were maimed, so much so that the production by Japan in 1946 was not more than half a million tonnes whereas we even in 1946 had a capacity of million tonnes of steel. But during the period between 1946 and today—1971—Japan has made a tremendous progress by expanding its capacity of 100 million tonnes whereas we are still in the region of 6 or 7 million tonnes a year.

Why I am mentioning these figures is that we were taught at school that there are three M's in any enterprise: men, machinery and materials. But there is a fourth M involved in the success of any enterprise and that is the M of management. It seems to be completely missing so far as public sector concerns are concerned. Without proper management even the production capacity that we have built up at a great cost to the nation, not only in Indian currency but also foreign exchange, is not giving us any commensurate benefit in terms of production. The public sector steel plants are working hardly at 50 or 55 per cent of capacity whereas it has been demonstrated not only by steel plants all over the world but even the steel plants in our own country that 85 to 90 per cent. capacity achievement is not something to be wondered at. It is a routine thing. It is a normal thing. Another thing that I want to mention is that if the pace of development of the steel industry continues to be what it has been during the last 10 or 15 years, then we could never hope to become a really developed nation to compare with the developed nations of the world. Sir, Japan with a population of 11 crores can produce 100 million tonnes of steel even though it does not have any iron ore, even though it does not have any coking and coal and iron is supplied by

us at subsidised cost to Japan to enable them to manufacture steel and export it to all the countries of the world including our country also. We are in the same position as we were in early 1930s in respect of cotton when we used to say that we are being treated unfairly as a part of the British Empire.

We had to export cotton and import finished goods namely, textiles from Britain. The same thing is being repeated in the case of steel. By exporting iron ore I do not know whether it is a national gain or loss. We are exporting iron to Japan at not more than the labour cost that we incur; we are getting nothing for the natural resources that Mother Earth has endowed on us. Only the bare transport cost and labour cost are recovered by the export of iron ore to Japan. By the export of ore, we will get Rs. 200 per tonne in terms of iron. If the same thing is converted into steel and exported to the world market in the form of basic steel, we can get Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 per tonne. If the steel is converted into manufactured goods, it can get us a revenue of Rs. 25,000 per tonne in the case of ordinary manufactures and in the case of sophisticated items like ball-bearings or highly developed items, they can be sold at 1,50,000 per tonne. This is what we have to do in this country. We cannot go on exporting the basic raw material and be happy with it but we have to have production capacity in the country to convert the basic raw material with the aid of labour, technology and enterprise into something more sophisticated which will get our country a much bigger revenue and that is the only way of development, I venture to say. In this context I venture to suggest that for the year 2000 the target before us should be 750 million tonnes of steel a year compared to not even 7½ million tonnes to-day. That is the leeway that has to be made up and it will not be made up by slow progress as the Steel Ministry has been achieving over the years. We have to take very great strides to achieve anything like 750 million tonnes of steel by the year 2000 and even then what we shall achieve would be the present days standard of Japan. Nothing more than that. The Japanese present day production of steel per capita only would be achieved if we get 750 million tonnes of steel by 2000. If that is to be achieved, imaginative and pushing steps will have to be taken because this is a task which is quite Herculean in nature and cannot be achieved by the kind of organisation that the Ministry has at its command.

I would say a word about the cost steel produced by the public sector plants here. We have been told again and again that there are two basic reasons why the cost of production in the public sector plants is high. One is the plant and machinery being new, the depreciation charges and the interest charges on the huge cost of equipment is so high that the total cost of production of steel is higher than that of the old plants. The second reason is that so much money is spent on wel-

fare schemes of workers and employees that it pushes up the cost. I have a lurking fear in my mind that this is such a blanket excuse that it can cover a multitude of sins. It really more money is spent on welfare schemes, why is it that that amount is not shown separately in the accounts of the HSL so that the Members and the public can know the exact amount spent on welfare schemes and that can be taken out of the account of cost of production, and taken as social services and we may be able to know whether, deleting that amount the cost is reasonable or not, whether it is competitive with the world market or not, whether it is competitive with other producers of steel in the country or not? The second argument given is equally funny because actually in the world of trade and industry the opposite argument holds good. If any plant is new, even though it is expensive it is bound to be so efficient that the cost of production of that plant would be lower than the old plant and that is exactly the reason why new producers in West Germany or Japan are today able to flood the world market with cheaper steel whereas those industries in America which have not been able to modernise or Britain which has not been able to modernise, are not able to compete with the new plants in Germany or Japan.

One particular element that pushes up the cost of production in the public sector plants is the indiscipline in labour. The classical excuse given by labour for all their activities was that there was a kind of class war, and the labour was being exploited by the richer classes. I do not understand who is exploiting today. Is the public sector the exploiter of labour that the labour must wage a war against the public sector also? After all the public sector today is owned by the nation as a whole and I do not understand why the Government should not take effective steps to stop labour from holding the nation to ransom. Why is it that they should not insist on efficiency and discipline? I do not mind more wages, more amenities, being given to labour. Let more wages be given, let more amenities be given but let there be more production also. How is it that we cannot achieve more than 50 or 55 per cent of the rated capacity? It is mainly because of the antics of organised labour in Hindustan Steel. Sir, we are going to spend a very huge amount of money on the construction of the Bokaro steel plant. I think the nation is entitled to know as to what exactly would be the cost of production of that plant because it has been given out by private estimates that the cost of production of steel in Bokaro would come to something like a thousand rupees per tonne at the ingo stage. If that is so I do not understand how the poor taxpayer can go on subsidising the inefficiency of the public sector plants in this manner.

Sir, there has been a persistent demand on the part of the State of Orissa for the location of a steel plant in Orissa. I do not know

why; whether due to any political reason or any other reason a steel plant has not been sanctioned for the State of Orissa even though technological, economical and all kinds of factors are in favour of the establishment of a steel plant there.

My friend, Mr. Krishan Kant, touched upon the question of giving licence to mini steel plants which again is a misnomer. It is a wrong nomenclature for the kind of plants that have been sanctioned. I think, as the hon. Minister himself has said, steel regeneration plants would perhaps be a better name for them. I venture to suggest that this was a very correct decision on the part of the Government and I congratulate the Government for trying to achieve greater production in the country of a very scarce commodity by the cheapest method possible. I would go a step further and say that even if it was necessary to import scrap for the production of mild steel or special steel in these electric furnaces it should be done because this is the cheapest method. Scrap would perhaps be available at a price of Rs. 300/- or Rs. 400/- per tonne which could be converted into steel which is worth Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/- or even Rs. 1200/- a tonne and it would be in the interest of the nation as a whole to take this step.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Please conclude soon.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: I will take only a couple of minutes more.

In this context I would like to touch upon the question of the expansion of the large-scale steel plants in the private sector. We have got two steel plants in the private sector, namely, TISCO and IISCO. I do not know whether it is correct even to say that they belong to the private sector. The ownership of the shares of TISCO is so broad based, the structure of ownership is such that it is difficult to say that TISCO is a Tata concern any more than one can say that Air-India is a Tata concern just because Mr. Tata happens to be the Chairman of Air-India. TISCO today is in a position to expand at a much lower cost per unit of added production than any new steel plant that can be put up. It is in the interests of the national economy to make them expand. I do not want the Government to say that they did not come to them for licence and, therefore, they have done nothing about it. The Government should go and tell TISCO that they have got to expand from two million tonnes to four million tonnes. The necessary plans must be drawn up and Government's sanction accorded at the earliest for the expansion of the plant.

As far as the revenues of HSL are concerned, I would like to make a comment on one or two points. First of all, there has been a scandal, a reported scandal about the sale

[Shri M. K. Mohta]
of scrap at Bhilai I think the Government owes it to the nation to bring out the correct facts. In this particular instance it has been reported that a very huge quantity of scrap has been sold from Bhilai at lower than the market rate. How is it that no tenders were called? How is it that a public auction was not held? How is it that a few favourite parties were sold scrap at lower than the market rate? The loss to HSL on that account is estimated to be no less than Rs 20 crores. The second point I would like to mention is the pricing policy regarding billets and ingots on the one side and manufactures like structurals, sheets and plates on the other side. Many experts have felt that the pricing of billets in particular is so faulty that it is being sold at an artificially low rate to the re-rollers which does not give any benefit to HSL, nor does it give any benefit to the economy as a whole. It only means that blackmarketing is resorted to because it is being sold at an artificially low rate and also because there is an artificial control. In some cases there is statutory control and in some other cases there is a gentleman's agreement regarding the sale price of steel which results in quite a lot of black money being generated. I would think that the selling of steel at a higher rate is a much lesser evil because at least the money would not go into the coffers of the public sector or perhaps even into the coffers of the private manufactures which will be subject to tax. The remaining money would be accounted money which would be used again for the development of the economy. It would not become black money and become an anti social force which the controls are forcing them to be.

SHRI KALYAN ROY. Mr Vice Chairman, Sir, it is good that steel and coal have been put together. These are the strategic heights and these form the hard core. Whether you want to advance in the capitalist direction or whether you want to develop a socialist economy you have to base it on coal and steel and communication. You should have integrated planning. You have got a certain quantity of minerals. You have to conserve and develop them scientifically. If we produce more, it is wasted. If we produce less and in an unscientific manner it is also wasted and production comes to a halt. If you cannot despatch what you produce, whether it is iron ore, dolomite or coal, then you find artificial shortage, scarcity and corruption everywhere. So, the country can not afford to go wrong, Mr Kumaramangalam. The Government cannot afford to go wrong. The working class is trying to see that the Government does not go in a wrong way. We cannot afford it. For the last twenty years I have been associated with mines and I must say that unfortunately everything has gone wrong. I do not blame any particular individual, but unfortunately the whole approach lacks perspective and direction. Even in the Fourth Five Year

Plan you planned for 110 million tonnes of coal.

It was 85 million tonnes of non coking coal and 25 millions of coking coal, and it was found that you cannot have it. So you reduced it. The next target is 93 million tonnes—68 million tonnes of non coking coal and 25 million tonnes of coking coal. And then you found that you cannot even produce that much and consume it and you have cut it to 85 million tonnes. What is the result? What is happening? The NCDC has developed mines from which there is no production. The idle capacity remains there. When you plan you plan that more mining institute should be set up in Jharia, Dhanbad, Asansol and Singuram and more people should be trained as out as mining engineers and overmen. And now you have ten thousand mine managers and technicians, best technicians and best engineers unemployed. And what have you done? Now, you have now decided to reduce the number of people who will be admitted into the mining institutes. And there is a tremendous surplus everywhere. And your strategy is not to provide employment to those who have already passed and to reduce the quantum of students to reduce the number of students who will be admitted into the mining institutes. That is creating a tremendous tension in the entire mining area. And what is happening today? It is for the first time since independence that coal production has gone down. For the first time from 1946 to 1971 in the history of the country the coal production has gone down. We were producing 75.70 million tonnes in 1969-70. Now we produce 70.80 million in 1970-71. You forgot the 85 million tonnes of your target. And personally the whole economy of the eastern part of India, Bihar and Bengal which depends on coal production is facing stagnation problem because it is here that the cut has come. In West Bengal we produced in 1969-70 80 million. In 1970-71, you forgot the 85. 1970-71 50.41 million tonnes. The cut came in the Bengal Bihar area. This is the first thing. Then in 1969-70 we despatched 46 million tonnes of coal and in 1970-71 we were able to despatch only 40 million tonnes. And today for the first time in the history of India, out of 70 million tonnes which have been produced, ten million tonnes of coal are lying on the surface, at the pit heads. It is impossible to go from one mine to another because of accumulation of stock, coal stock. Is there no planning or coordination with the Railway Ministry? What is happening? Mr Kumaramangalam should try to understand, at least I hope he will put whatever dynamism left in him into this unfortunate aspect of this national industry. The whole production is being dominated by the private sector. They control over 80 per cent of coking coal and over 70 per cent of non coking coal. Out of 17 millions of coking coal over 14 million

tonnes came from the private sector and here you have been appeasing the private sector since the beginning. They wanted a World Bank loan. You gave them 17 million dollars of World Bank loan. Has the machinery been bought? Not at all. On 24 occasions the coal price was increased, 24 times. Cooking coal went up in price, during the last eight years, by 77 per cent, the non-coking coal price by 60 per cent. You have given whatever subsidy they wanted. It would be interesting to know that the development rebate that they got was raised for the coal industry from 20 to 35 per cent and the profit has never been so good. According to the latest Reserve Bank team which studied 20 coal mines of various cross-sectioning, it was found that pre-tax profit of coal-mining corporations rose by 31.4 per cent. And it was another study team which criticised that the coal industry in the private sector is following traditional dividend distribution policy, dividends as percentages of profits have been higher and no earnest effort has been made to depend on the internal sources of coal industry. Now, you have given whatever they wanted. But what is the performance? You will be surprised to know that our rate of extraction of coal is the lowest in the world. Whereas the other countries extract about 60 per cent of coal, we extract only 40 per cent. But according to Dr. Lahiri, Director of the Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, our rate of extraction is even less than 30 per cent. And unfortunately, what is happening?

You have tried to amalgamate the top mines for the last ten years. Malaviya came and went. Then a Committee was set up. Then entered Dr. Triguna Sen, gave beautiful lectures and told us about the coming Bill. Then he also went away. Now comes Mr. Kumaramangalam. But amalgamation has not taken place. Amalgamation is no solution. I will come to the solution. They failed to amalgamate. That is a hard fact. It is giving good profit. They have been refusing to amalgamate. Production is not developing scientifically. There is no conservation. And yet who is buying the coal? Mr. Kumaramangalam would like to know that 32 per cent. of the total production is bought by the Railways, 22 per cent is bought by the Hindustan Steel, ISCO and TISCO. Electricity is buying 17 per cent. In other words, of what is produced nearly 65—70 per cent. is bought by the public sector. And this public sector, unfortunately, Sir, which is being criticised by Mr. Krishan Kant, is subsidising the private sector, because, Sir, whoever buys coal is to pay a cess. Thus 60 per cent. of the total purchase is made by the private sector. They are paying a cess of Rs. 10—12 crores per year to this private sector. And who is getting it?

Sir, according to the reply given by the Minister to my question he said that in

1968-69, Rs. 5 crores was paid for stowing. In 1969-70 Rs. 5.29 crores was paid. In 1970-71 Rs. 5.13 crores were paid to the private sector for stowing, and out of that, do you know how much these 14 industrial houses got? They got, according to the Steel Minister, over 30 per cent. And how much did the govt. pay towards adverse factor? They paid Rs. 2 crores in 1969, nearly 1.89 crores in 1970 and over Rs. 1.65 crores till today in 1971. And how much did these 14 industrial houses get? According to the Minister's reply on 4-6-71 they got over 51 per cent. And who are these 14 industrial houses? I will give the names. They are:

1. Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co.
2. Messrs. Bird & Co.
3. Messrs. Western Bengal Coalfields Ltd. (Birlas).
4. Messrs. K. Goenka.
5. Messrs. Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (Jaipuria group).
6. Messrs. Jardine Henderson & Co.
7. Messrs. Tata Iron & Steel Co.
8. Messrs. Oriental Coal Co. (K.C. Thapar).
9. Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co.
10. Messrs. Macheill & Barry Co. (Equitable Coal Co.).
11. Messrs. Agarwalla Ram Kumar.
12. Messrs. Killick.
13. Messrs. Sahu Jain.
14. Messrs. Shaw Wallace.

And these are the people who appropriate over 50 per cent. of the total assistance. And what do we say?

That day, Sir, you were here when I said that fires were raging in mines after mines in Asansol and Dhanbad. So many times Mr. Jagannath Rao and Dr. Triguna Sen visited the area. The whole of the territory is being encircled by mine fire and Mr. Jagannath Rao said in Dhanbad in 1970-71 that "Reorganisation of Jharia coal-belt is overdue". Have you been able to reorganise the Jharia coal-belt? The Minister pointed out that is mainly because of the illegal type of extraction of underground coal. This is done by those very people to whom you are paying Rs. 10 crores per year. Where is development and where is conservation? I am ashamed to say that most of the mines are without engineers. I put a specific question to Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan the other day when we were discussing mine fire in Asansol. In reply to my question whether the mines had engineers, the Minister said that he did not know. The Director of Safety and Mines recently issued a circular saying that most of the mines were without engineers and managers. You

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

are helping those people, Mr. Kumaramangalam, who are diverting whatever assistance you are giving them for mines towards either their tyre factory in Madhya Pradesh or their textile factories in Bombay. Therefore, you have to be rather serious because Mr. Chandy said the other day that if our rate of production of steel improves we must import coking coal.

This is the condition. Only a small amount of coking coal is left in the country. Their ruthless slaughter mining is going on. What answer have you got? These are the mine owners about whom we have discussed again and again in the Neyveli meeting of the Consultative Committee on Steel and Mines and in the Udaipur meeting of the Consultative Committee. In West Bengal alone, Mr. Kumaramangalam, Rs. 10 crores of royalty has not been paid by these companies which are getting assistance from the Government, from the Railways, from the Coal Board. These are the companies which have misappropriated the provident fund collections of the workers up to Rs. 8 crores. The Governments of Bengal and Bihar together are entitled to day to get Rs. 100 crores as royalty. By not taking over the coal mines, are you not sabotaging the development of Bengal and Bihar? The Hindustan Steel mines and the NMDC mines are paying royalty. It is the private sector which is not paying royalty. Not only that, Mr. Kumaramangalam, you are aware that according to your own statement here and the statement of the previous Mines Minister, in the last two years 24 to 30 mines were closed down from Madhya Pradesh to West Bengal. The maximum number of mines which closed down was in West Bengal and Dr. Chakravarti, Chief Mining Advisor, West Bengal Govt. who attended the Coal Advisory Council meeting last year said that the position was becoming alarming and he suggested to the Government to take over some of the mines. In these mines which have been closed down, there are nearly 200 million tonnes of coking and non-coking coal. What action have you taken? Only the other day you passed the Mines Conservation and Safety Bill. There is a stipulation there that 90 days' notice should be given when a mine closes down. But none of these mines which have been closed down, I can say on the basis of your reply to me in this House that not a single mine owner whether it is Surajmal Nagarmal or the Bird and Company has given you notice. What have you done? Why have you not prosecuted them? If you have prosecuted them what is the result? The punishment in the law is 3 months' imprisonment. What did they do? They closed down they did not pay the royalty, they did not pay the wages. They pocketed your subsidy and have closed down. And you did not do anything. And how can you do anything? Your Coal Board is reeking with corruption. Such

a fantastic amount of money is being distributed to the unscrupulous mine owners. Sir, I shall be brief. You know I am a most disciplined Member in the House. So, they are closing down the mines and selling all the equipment and machinery. And after a few days, they again reopen the mines and come to you for assistance. What is your Mines Department doing? What is your Coal Board doing? They cannot do anything, because they have no perspective. They are in the pay of the mine owners. Unless you make the Coal Board democratic, unless you take people from the trade unions and from Members of Parliament, the Coal Board will be a willing victim of the mine owners. And is there any co-ordination? What about a national fuel policy? Dr. Jiguna Sen said in the Consultative Committee on Steel and Mines, 'I am very unhappy about the dieselisation of the rail ways.' And what is the effect of dieselisation? Within a few years, you will have to spend Rs. 200 crores in foreign exchange. And what is the report of the National Fuel Committee? The consumption of coal is declining every day, affecting employment, affecting future programmes. Yet, you have no fuel policy. You have been pressurised by the American lobby which started with Mr. S. K. Patil for import of American Oil. Even the consumers association and Mr. Chandy both last year advocated nationalisation. He said there is no solution for the mining industry unless it is nationalised because 70 per cent of the coal is bought by the public sector. The NCDC is in a sorry state of affairs. A very big amount of money of the NCDC goes to the contractors. The entire Hindustan Steel, the NCDC and the NMDC are plagued with contractors. Why is there labour trouble in the mines and steel plants? Why was there a strike in Rajhara?

Why was there a strike in Bailadilla? Why was there a strike in Danimalai and other mines? You are paying nearly Rs. 10 to 15 crores to the contractors. This is the exploitation. Then you see the iron ore mines in Rajhara. You will be ashamed to know more production is coming from the contractors and in the mechanical section which is under your department the production is going down. You, Mr. Kumaramangalam, assured the trade union leaders that you are going to do something about the plague of contractors in the Hindustan Steel Plant. But you have done nothing. I regret it. There is no reason why the Rourkela roof collapsed. Money was paid to the contractors to clear the iron ore which was accumulating on the top. Every month they are giving a report saying 'Yes iron ore particles are being cleared.' But it was not cleared and the roof collapsed. You have not collapsed the roof collapsed the economy collapsed. What has happened to your Hindustan Zinc? Out of 24 hours for

10 hours it does not work because of perpetual failure of power. It has been pointed out again and again. Have you done anything to it? What about the copper project? Rs. 95 crores are going down the drain, and not one ounce of copper has come. All the best copper bauxite deposits have been taken over by the Birlas in collusion with some of the big bosses of your department. Can you deny it? Not only in copper. What is your whole perspective and direction to find out what is wrong with non-ferrous metal? I was surprised. I was ashamed, to read a statement by the Union Minister of Steel and Mines regarding operation hard rock. In this House this particular operation hard rock has been criticised by Members of all political parties. It was an American imposition in order to survey the interior of this country. In the other House also this matter was raised again, and again this was raised in the Lok Sabha in the Rajya Sabha in the Consultative Committee. Dr. Priguna Sen admitted that something is wrong. Out of all the billions of rupees that you have spent not one ounce of ore has been found out. And in spite of the criticism you have entered into an agreement with the French now. Will you please be honest? At least be honest. If you fail, you should confess it. If there is something wrong previously, you should admit it. You should not own up all the bunglings, all the corruption, all the inefficiency which is unfortunately there. It is not your creation but it is there. What about the mini-steel plant? Why could you not stop it? Even Mr. Bhupesh Gupta raised it the other day. You are issuing licences to it. So that is wrong in the operation hard rock. How have you been blackmailed by certain people? This is an international affair.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI) You should please conclude now.

SHRI KALYAN ROY the French jumping in the Americans always being there, some people getting fat jobs as directors while ore remains where it is. Instead of depending on the Indian geologists who are doing a magnificent job you are lured by the temptations from abroad. What is happening to washeries? You admitted that day that only 49 per cent production is going on there. Your ropeway is vital to serve the mines. You have spent Rs. 3 crores and the ropeway is functioning not even 40 per cent. The mineowners are sabotaging it in collusion with your Coal Board. Unless you make a drastic reconstruction of the Board, unless you democratise the Hindustan Steel Plant, unless you go into the root of the problem of corruption, unless you make a correct assessment of the accumulations of coal at the pitheads, unless you integrate the whole national economy steel coal communication, this country cannot take any leap. If you want to develop socialistic economy—forget it, you cannot even develop

capitalist economy—here is a great chance, Mr. Kumaramangalam, and the working class is prepared to cooperate with you, but will you do it? Your bureaucracy is the greatest hindrance. Corruption is the greatest hindrance. The anti-democratic attitude of the officers is the greatest hindrance.

Not only the Hindustan Steel union is shouting, the NMDC Karamchari Union is shouting, the Miners union is shouting—the INTUC, the AIUC and the HMS have all been shouting that these should be immediately nationalised. What prevents you from doing it? You are producers and you are buyers. And underground minerals—whether coal or iron ore—are allowed to be slaughtered with the result that there is a problem for Hindustan Steel. This is the problem everywhere. You have a problem in coal, you have a problem in steel and whatever plants you may manufacture cannot progress at all. Rather, the whole thing is in a mess. I might warn Shri Kumaramangalam that the position may worsen. If it becomes worse, then do not blame labour. I think Shri Kumaramangalam will agree with me when I say that if anywhere in India the productivity has gone up by 100 per cent, that is in the coal mines. It was only 0.39 in 1961. Today it is 0.70—almost a hundred per cent rise. If mines have been closed, it is not because of them. It is because of the owners who have thrown their workers in the streets after closing the mines. It is these mine barons who have been working the mines in an unscientific manner which led to this closure.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY Mr. Vice Chairman, I share the anxiety and the concern of the hon. Members in finding a solution as to how best the Steel Ministry could be made to work and the public sector organisations could be made to yield better results. Sir, at the same time, I would like to offer my respectful congratulations to the Prime Minister of India for having entrusted the Steel Ministry—the most difficult of all the Ministries—to one of the most hard working and dynamic among our Ministers, Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam. I am saying this not because he and I come from the same place. I am confident that this dynamism will result in a dynamic approach to the Steel Ministry and I think we will be able to turn the corner in a very short time.

Today the accepted policy of the Government seems to be that the entire steel production units, if not now at least in the near future, should be State controlled and State owned. It appears to be the aim. If that be so, today what are we doing and where are we in that context? That is the question which I ask of myself.

The nation is facing a near steel famine. While I am prepared to pay my compliments to the officers of the Steel Ministry, I want to say that the Steel Ministry's performance leaves very much to be desired. When we are facing a near steel famine, we should

[Shri R. T. Parthasarathy]

realise what is our national target today and what is the shortage that is existing in the country? It is 9 million tonnes whereas we are producing only a little more than 4 million tonnes. And that seems to be the entire trouble with the whole nation. In a comparative style, I would like to invite your attention and the attention of the hon. Members of the House to the position in the United States of America which has exceeded 120 million tonnes per year, to the position in the United Kingdom which has exceeded 80 million tonnes per year and lastly to the position in Japan which has reached the target of 100 million tonnes and we all know that the world's largest unit is Nippon.

The growth rate of a nation generally depends on the growth of steel in that country. The growth rate of Japan is 16 per cent from 1964 to 1970 and Japan is expected to reach the output of 225 million tonnes by the year 1980. What an astounding figure it is. It shows how much that nation, by its hard work, has progressed. They treat their labour well and the labour in turn gives their best to the nation. My humble suggestion is that India should emulate Japan and its achievement.

Today, Sir, if our growth rate should be expanded, should be augmented then we must think of the entire economy of the nation. It is only steel that can be considered as the vital artery that supplies blood to the entire national economy. It is steel alone that can contribute to the augmentation of the growth rate in this country. Sir, our defence, our industrialisation, our agriculture, all these depend very much on our steel industry. Sir, I am not critical of this. But I would like the hon. Minister to make an assessment in broad outlines as to what exactly is causing a deficit in the steel production. In my humble view, Sir, it is four fold and I would also like to state that the capital investment in India in the case of steel plants is unreasonably high. I said it is four fold. Firstly, it is with reference to buying of equipment under loans, secondly, payment of non-competitive prices, thirdly, high customs duties, freight and transport and fourthly, the foreign consultancy that involves a very high cost. Now, Sir, what is it that the Government proposes to do to reduce the expenditure in capital investment? And, Sir, unless and until we do that, I am afraid, our cost of producing steel will be either the same or even more and the Government must try their best to see as to how best they could bring down the cost, bring down the capital investment, with reference to these four points that I have raised.

Also, Sir, I would like to say that some of the steel plants, if not all, are built near the green sites. That is the trouble with our country. Physically they have chosen the green sites with the result that the township should be developed, the clubs should be

developed, and the swimming pools should be developed and they think of all these things unlike in England or in the Soviet Union where they think of the factory, the producing centre, first and here they think of all the amenities as the first thing. May I invite your attention to one thing, Sir? In one of the factories in England, in Central England, the officers have got to travel 28 miles to reach their factory and all the workers will have to travel only two miles to reach the factory. That is the thing on which they emphasise in England on the development of township or housing and the other amenities. It is the production centre that we should think of. But in the public sector undertakings in this country we have all other things and the machinery to be employed and the production centre came as the last thing. That is the trouble with our public sector undertakings. I do hope, Sir, that the hon. Minister will see that whenever there is a steel plant in the public sector to be started, it is as near as possible to the existing centre of the township or city or whatever it is.

Sir, one other point which I would like to emphasise today is that our country is mainly suited for medium and small-scale steel plants, steel plants that will produce quick results in quick time, to cope with our national economy. But, as I have said, Sir, rightly or wrongly, a decision had been taken in 1964 by the Government of India to have the Bokaro steel plant which I would call the 'White Steel Elephant'. Sir, today the cost of Bokaro steel plant is Rs. 900 crores and I would not be surprised if it would touch Rs. 1,000 crores by the time it is completed. Can we afford this? I will welcome if the Bokaro steel plant could come up as early as possible and it would be capable of producing 4 million tonnes of steel which may meet our requirements. But, at what cost and at what space of time? That is the essential thing that has to be looked into.

Sir, I would also like to ask why there should be this inordinate delay in the commissioning of this Bokaro Steel plant. Sir, I would like to invite your kind attention to only one or two statistics, without wasting the time of the House, which I would like to mention. Sir, the Indian supplies of equipment are awfully lagging behind with reference to Bokaro steel plant. It suffers from shortage of equipment not only from abroad but also from the indigenous sources. Only when the public sector undertakings work more efficiently and supply quickly to Bokaro and the other units, our steel plants will be able to produce quick results. For example, one of the main suppliers to the Bokaro plant is the Heavy Engineering Corporation.

I would like to give the statistics, Sir. Bokaro expansion is 2.5 million tonnes and this has to be completed in a space of three years. The first stage is now undertaken. The requirement of steel is 275,605 tonnes, and

what is received is 140,829 tonnes of equipment. Even for the first stage there is so much of gap. 80,000 tonnes have been supplied by the Soviet Union and 120,000 tonnes have yet to be supplied by the Soviet Union. The Indian supplier, the Heavy Engineering Corporation, has supplied 22,931 tonnes and they have not so far supplied 72,234 tonnes. The Heavy Engineering Corporation are woefully lagging behind. That seems, according to me, to be one of the main snags in our steel plants like Bokaro not nearing completion so that they can present themselves to our whole nation as an economically viable unit.

Sir, the planning for equipment, according to me, should be designed and worked with a purpose. The Heavy Engineering units should be linked to the steel production performance. I would very much like the hon. Minister to note this. The much needed coordination in production schedules and the equipments units of the steel plants themselves should be achieved uniformly and as early as possible.

Sir, I would like to add a word about the Salem steel plant. I am grateful to the Prime Minister and to the Government of India for having given the green signal to the commissioning of the Salem steel plant, for which she herself laid the corner-stone. But I am sorry that the capacity of the Salem steel plant has been reduced from 5 lakh tonnes to 2½ lakh tonnes per year. In 1965-66 when the Government of India sought the Japanese collaboration to commission the steel plant, the decision taken by the Government was that an investment of about Rs. 90 crores of rupees would be needed and it was about to be started when certain things happened and it was not touched for a period of three or four years. I would certainly welcome the commissioning of steel plants at Vizag or Goa or any other centre. But why should these things be linked to the Salem steel plants, I am unable to understand. The Salem steel plant to manufacture special steel will be able to do its job within the amount allotted to it and it will become economically viable and feasible technically only if it is to the tune of five lakhs tonnes per year. I would appeal to the Minister to reconsider the entire thing and see that this Salem steel plant will be to the tune of 5 lakhs tonnes per year.

Sir, there is one other aspect which I would like to touch upon on this question. There is a general apathy among the public and among the Government servants. I am sorry to say so, with reference to any industrial unit working in public sector. I said 'apathy' very adversely because, we feel, it is not our property. I would like to know in what shape or form this Government would not only educate the public but also educate its officers and the labourers as well, that this is a national property

that they are handling and they are handling that property for the benefit of the whole nation. That educative value, that understanding, that national perspective should be inspired in every citizen of this country. What has the Government done in this respect for the last 15 or 20 years? I would like the Minister to answer this. And I would also like that he should do something to successfully work out this particular suggestion of mine so that every one will realise that it is his property and ultimately to the benefit of the entire nation.

Lastly, I would demand of the hon. Minister that in general there should be a re-assessment of the working of the entire public sector and also a re-orientation of the steel policy in general so that our steel units will be made to work for the national advantage. Thank you.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON (Kerala). Sir, hearing the debate on the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals, I am reminded of the famous dictum of Lenin that in a capitalist society, the so-called State sector is meant to subserve capital interests and that it is a handmaid of capitalism. How true it is today has been proved by many of the speakers.

In this country, when the engineering industry has been crying for steel, our steel plants with a capacity of eight million tonnes have been able to produce less than 50 per cent of their capacity. The Heavy Engineering Corporation scheduled to produce 15.8 thousand tonnes of structurals is producing only 3.5 thousand tonnes of structurals. A number of other instances are there, how these steel plants in our country are working—and they are working badly. The fact is that they show enormous losses to the country. They show low production—capacities are not utilised—and they also result in huge waste of national resources.

What are the reasons for this state of affairs? I will, at the moment, only confine myself to the problem of steel. As you know, in 1956 when the second Five Year Plan was being launched, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari the then Minister of Commerce and Industry, had proclaimed that India was on the threshold of building up one steel plant every year for the next twenty years so as to reach a target of 20 million tonnes of steel production during the period between 1956 and 1976. Now, only five years are left to reach that target and we are producing about 4.5 million tonnes of steel. Then, why is it that we have lagged behind? One thing is, no sooner had Mr. Krishnamachari declared this objective of the Government than Mr. Tata and other monopolists began to clamour that this country will be flooded with steel and, therefore, we should

[Shri K. P. Subramania Menon]

not go in for this sort of production of steel. They clamoured that if all the plants of the Government were to take off, we would have so much of steel that we would not be able to know what to do with it, and, therefore, the bureaucrats and the Government toned down their targets too. But the fact is that even whatever capacity we have been able to build, we are unable to utilise it. What are the reasons for this sort of thing? First of all, as you know, the steel industry requires a number of raw materials like coal, dolomite, limestone, magnesite ore, iron ore, etc., and these are supplied by the private owners of these industries, and this is one of the main reasons for the failure of the steel industry today.

What are the facts? Let us take the question of coal. How the Government Steel Factories are being looted by the private collieries is shown recently in one of the surveys. The 'Economic Times' of February 3, 1971 reports:

"At the end of the Second World War, accumulated heaps of black stones, ashes, etc. almost by the side of every colliery, presented a sight of black hills and mountains. But within a decade of Independence, these hills and mountains vanished as if by magic. The colliery owners took full advantage of rampant corruption in the Railways."

I may add, the Steel Ministry also—

"and they were successful in selling everything black coming out of the collieries as high grade coal, mostly to the Railways, steel mills, thermal power stations and other public sector or semi-public sector undertakings. While because of the low grade coal blast furnaces and coke ovens of several steel mills and thermal stations were badly damaged, causing losses of crores of rupees to the nation, the colliery owners and Railway officials fattened. Weigh-bridges installed by the Railways have become instruments of corruption. Representatives of collieries having clandestine arrangements with officials easily get their wagons, less in weight, passed as those indicated in the respective receipts. Upgrading of low coal, overweighting at the Railway weigh-bridges and rampant corruption in the purchase of coal, have become the order of the day."

This is the fact about coal. This low grade coal is supplied to the steel mills as high-grade coal and the Coal Board certifies. How do they do it? The PAC once reported that when asked about the coal supplies to the steel mills, the Coal Board said: 'Yes, such and such colliery can produce good coal' but they did not say that the coal supplied to the steel

mill was good coal but they said that they could have produced. This is the sort of officials who control the Ministry. They had issued a certificate saying: 'Such and such colliery can produce good coal'. So they issued a certificate. This is what is happening.

Then, Sir, we know all about the refractories supplied by the private sector, because of bad refractories, sub-standard refractories, supplied by the private sector our coke ovens or blast furnaces—I do not know where they are used, in coke ovens or blast furnaces—have been spoilt and they had to undergo long repairs. Another thing is iron ore. As you know, when the Bhilai steel plant was set up it was said that the iron ore will be supplied by the Bhawani Mines, 50 per cent of which is owned by the Government of India and the other 50 per cent by the foreign monopoly, Bird & Co. Though the Government of India owns 50 per cent, the control of the iron ore mines is in the hands of Bird & Co. and they had been supplying low grade iron ore to this plant as a result of which today Bhilai has been advised to look for supplies of iron ore from the Orissa and Bihar mines. Similar is the case with Rourkela also. Again when the Bhilai plant was set up it was said that Korba collieries would be able to supply very good metallurgical coal to the Bhilai plant but today that is not the case and the Korba collieries are not in a position to supply good quality metallurgical coal to Bhilai plant. Because of supplies of low-grade iron ore and poor quality coal Bhilai is suffering. It has been pointed out very often in this House that all the troubles in the steel mills are due to strikes by the working class and all that. What is the position? We have the instance of Durgapur where it is true a number of strikes have taken place. But what are the facts? Is Durgapur suffering because of the strikes or because of mismanagement? We have been responsible for the strikes? Is it not because of the provocative attitude adopted by the Management that the workers were forced to resort to strikes? Is not the corruption and repression on the part of the Management responsible for all these things?

Now, the Durgapur Officers' Association in a memorandum to the Government—and I would like to know from Government what action Government has taken on this memorandum—has charged some of the top officials of the Durgapur plant with gross negligence holding them responsible for the serious imbalance in production particularly in the steel melting shop and blast furnaces and also for concealing the position from the Government by placing the blame on the labour. This is not a

labour union that has pointed this out but this is the Officers' Association. The Management has also concealed from the Government the sharply decreasing availability of locomotives and other production equipment as compared with 1968. The Association has further charged the Management with having no definite or rational plan for procurement and quality control of raw materials although the costs the plant no fewer than Rs. 22 crores a year. How far the Management is responsible for mismanaging the affairs of the plant can be seen from the fact that they have allowed two private suppliers of raw materials to avail themselves of bonus payment for WG grade iron ore and lime stone supplies to the tune of Rs. 1.5 lakhs a month for the last ten years making a clean gift of Rs. 18 million for the suppliers. Repeatedly remedial measures have been ignored and now the contractors are likely to be recommended for a further long period. In addition to all this the Management freely buys non-scheduled supplies of raw materials on abnormally high prices despite the extremely poor quality of such supplies, all in the name of coping with frequent crises even when the production of the plant has so far remained much below on million tonnes. These are some of the facts about Durgapur, these are the reasons why it is not working properly, why it is failing to deliver the goods but all the fault is put on the workers. And in order to cover up all these facts, cover up corruption and other criminal activities the Management has been going on with terribly violent repression of the workers. The Police roam about the workers' lanes, beat up the workers, beat up their families, molest their women and they do not allow them to go and take their rations from the ration shops. 25,000 CRP men are roaming about in the precincts of the Durgapur steel plant in order to terrorise the workers. The President of the HSL Workers' Association, Comrade Dilip Mazumdar has been put in prison on charges of murder. Similarly another important leader of the Union, Mr. Jivan Roy, has been recently arrested. All the top office bearers of the Union have been arrested and all the workers are being terrorised in order to cover up the misdeeds of the Management and this Government in collusion with the corrupt elements in the Management and the corrupt supplies of coal and iron ore have been resorting to this sort of thing in order to cover up its failure, in order to cover up its collusion with the corruptest elements in society.

And these are the people who are going to increase production, who are going to attain better standards. Then, Sir, the Durgapur union has been pointing out all

these facts, but unfortunately the Government has not acted. (*Time bell*). Since you have already rung the bell, I do not want to prolong it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANI MENON: The point is that today the public sector steel industry has come to this pass because of corruption, mismanagement, incompetence and the control exercised by the private sector over its operations. Today it serves the interests of the corrupt coal mines owners, corrupt iron ore suppliers, corrupt limestone suppliers and corrupt firebrick suppliers. It is not meant to serve the interests of the nation. It is not meant to serve the interests of the growing engineering industry. It is meant to serve only a narrow coterie of corrupt officials in the Ministry and some politicians in the country. Until this situation changes, there is no hope for the steel industry in the public sector and it will languish and it will go down more and more into the mire.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : उप-सभापति जी, वैसे तो लोहे और इस्पात की अपने देश में जो कमी हुई है, वह सारे देश का प्रश्न है और किसी एक प्रान्त का नहीं है, तब भी मध्य-प्रदेश में इसकी जो दुर्गति हुई है सम्भवतः हमारे मंत्रालय का इस ओर पूरी तरह से ध्यान नहीं गया है। आज देश में लोहा और इस्पात की जो कमी है, उस कमी के कारण जहाँ पर राष्ट्रीय आय में करे डों रूप्यों का नुकसान हो रहा है। वहाँ कुछ लोग आज सरकारी व्यय से और सरकार के ऊपर होने वाली जितनी इस वक्त बदनामी है उस बदनामी के कारण बिचौलिये लोग अनाप-गनाप बहुत लाभ उठा रहे हैं।

श्रीमन्, ऐसा कहा जाता है कि अपने देश में सम्भवतः 75 लाख टन प्रति वर्ष स्टील की आवश्यकता पड़ती है, मगर मेरा ख्याल है कि यह जो आंकड़े दिये गये हैं बहुत कम हैं। देश में प्राइवेट सेक्टर में और सिविल जनता में निरन्तर जो मकान और कारखाने लगाये जा रहे हैं उनके कारण आज गांव गांव में स्टील की निरन्तर आवश्यकता बढ़ती चली जा रही है। हमारा सचिवालय और जो इस वर्ष कार्य के लिए

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

मंत्रालय नियुक्त है, बार बार इस सदन में और लोक सभा में स्टील मंत्रालय की सुस्ती के ऊपर ध्यान आकर्षित कराता रहा है, लेकिन इन दोनों मंत्रालयों ने इस ओर विशेष किसी प्रकार का ध्यान नहीं दिया।

हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में इसके दो कारखाने हैं एक कारखाना तो बना हुआ है और एक कारखाना बनने की व्यवस्था में है। जो भिलाई का कारखाना है उसकी हालत इतनी गिरी हुई है कि जिसके विषय में सम्भवतः दिल्ली के समाचारपत्रों ने अधिक प्रकाश नहीं डाला है। जहाँ तक मध्य प्रदेश के समाचार पत्रों का सम्बन्ध है इस चीज की ओर विशेष रूप से ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। श्रीमान्, वहाँ पर अधिकारियों की दो पार्टियाँ हैं और वे दोनों ही पार्टियाँ आपस में लड़ती ही रहती हैं और इसके कारण वहाँ पर जो उत्पादन करने वाली भट्टियाँ हैं उ। भट्टियों में काम रुका हुआ पड़ा है और जानबूझ कर उनमें से एक भट्टी को तोड़ दिया है जिसके कारण वहाँ पर मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं। इस चीज की वजह से केवल राष्ट्रीय आय को ही नुकसान नहीं पहुँच रहा है बल्कि बहुत से मजदूरों को बेकार होना पड़ गया है और उस नुकसान की पूर्ति तक नहीं हो सकी है।

इसी तरह से दुर्गापुर के कारखाने में पिछले दो वर्षों से जो तमाशा चल रहा है वह पूरे भारतवर्ष को अच्छी तरह से मालूम है। वहाँ पर स्ट्राइक होती है और उस स्ट्राइक को दबाने के लिए, बचाने के लिये केन्द्रीय पुलिस भेजी जाती है और केन्द्रीय पुलिस और वहाँ की प्रान्तीय पुलिस में आपस में लड़ाई होती है और केन्द्रीय पुलिस के अधिकारियों को गिरफ्तार किया जाता है और पिटाई की जाती है तथा जो जो कुछ भी नजारे वहाँ पर देखने को मिले वे कम नहीं हैं। उसका कारण यह है कि दुर्गापुर के स्टील कारखाने में जितना माल तैयार होना था उसकी अपेक्षा माल बहुत कम तैयार हो पा रहा है और उसके कारण देश में इस उद्योग की बराबर

गिरावट की क्षमता चली आ रही है। उसी के कारण 1970 में उसमें 49 प्रतिशत जितनी उसकी औद्योगिक क्षमता थी उसकी अपेक्षा गिरावट आई और उस गिरावट के कारण देश में बुरी तरह से लोहे के दामों में तेज़ी आ गई और लोहे की उपलब्धि में बहुत कमी आ गई।

इसी प्रकार से श्रीमान्, इस समय दोनों क्षेत्रों के बारे में थोड़ी से तुलना करने में सदन का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि सरकारी क्षेत्र में जो कारखाने हैं उन कारखानों में आपस में प्रतिद्वंद्विता, आपस में लड़ाई चलती रहती है ऐसे स्थानों पर ये कारखाने हैं जिन को पूर्वांचल कहा जा सकता है। उन स्थानों में एक तो हडताल कराने वालों में नक्सलवादियों का हाथ होता है और कभी कभी दूसरे प्रकार के व्यक्तियों का भी हाथ होता है जिसके कारण उन कारखानों में हडतालें होती रहती हैं हडतालें होने के कारण उन कारखानों की क्षमता का पूरी तरह से विकास नहीं हो पाता है दूसरी तरफ़ अगर हमारा मंत्रालय ध्यान दे तो कुछ कारखाने ऐसे हैं जो प्राइवेट सेक्टर में चल रहे हैं उनका माल भी अच्छा आता है और कारखाने में उत्पादन भी ज्यादा होता है। तो सरकार को इस तरफ़ ध्यान देना चाहिये कि हमारे जितने भी सरकारी प्रतिष्ठान हैं उनके उत्पादन में कमी के कारण जितने निजी उद्योग हैं वे ज्यादा सफल चलते हैं और लोगों के मन में यह भावना उत्पन्न हो गई है कि निजी कारखाने ज्यादा सफल हुआ करते हैं।

सरकारी क्षेत्र में अप्रैल से लेकर सितम्बर, 1970 तक अगर उसकी एक वर्ष पहले की तुलना में हानि देखी जाय तो कोक में 54 लाख और लोहा इस्पात में 360 लाख रुपये की हानि हुई। यह दुर्गापुर की हालत है। इसी तरह से भिलाई के कारखाने में पिछले समय में जो स्क्रैप बचा हुआ था उसको लेकर मध्य प्रदेश के समाचार पत्रों में बहुत सी कहानियाँ निकलीं। हमें पता नहीं कि इस मंत्रालय में काम करने वाले अधिकारीगण और मन्त्रियों को वहाँ की यह हालत

मालूम है या नहीं कि वहां पर सरकार को नुकसान पहुंचा कर बीच में मुनाफाखोर लोगों ने करोड़ों रुपये का फायदा उठाया जिसके कारण राष्ट्रीय उत्पादन का अंश बहुत अधिक नीचे गिरा और सरकार को भी बहुत सी हानि का मकाबिला करना पड़ा ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :
वर्मा जी, इसका अंग्रेजी में प्रकाशन हुआ या
हिन्दी में !

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : यह बात सही है कि यदि अंग्रेजी में उसका प्रकाशन होता तो संभवतः मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी और मंत्रीगण बहुत अच्छी तरह से उसे समझ लेते और वे उसके लिये कुछ करते । लेकिन जितने समाचार-पत्र वहां से निकलते हैं वे हिन्दी में हैं और हम समझते हैं कि उसका अनुवाद मंत्रालय के पास आ गया होगा और संभवतः वहां पर जो जो घटनाएं और जो जो बातें लोगों के सामने आ रही हैं उनका निराकरण अब तक किया गया होगा ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : यहां सेक्रेटारियेट में हिन्दी जानने वाले नहीं के बराबर है ।

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री शाहनवाज खां) : सब पहुंच चुका है।

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : हिन्दुस्तान स्टील कारखाने की झांकी यह है कि वहां पर 1969-70 में जितनी सरकारी कारखाने में हानि हो सकती थी उतनी हानि हुई है । वहां पर 1090 लाख रुपये की हानि एक वर्ष में हुई । अब इतनी हानि जब एक कारखाने को हो जाय तो इससे उसकी क्षमता पर प्रकाश पड़ता है, उसको संभालने वाले व्यक्तियों की औद्योगिक क्षमता पर प्रकाश पड़ता है और देश की हालत जो उससे होगी वह तो होने वाली ही है और यहां तक हालत गिर गई है कि 1970 में पूरी होने वाली छमाही में वहां पर 876 लाख रुपये का नुकसान और टोटा आंका गया था ।

इस तरह से हम समझते हैं कि जब इस प्रकार निरंतर कारखानों में हानि होती चली जा रही है तो इन कारखानों के कारण देश के उद्योगों को जो सफलता मिलनी चाहिए थी और लेंहे का स्टैंडर्ड ऊंचा होना चाहिये था वहां नहीं हो पा रहा है। और लोहा तो श्रीमन् आजके युग में संसार में इतनी आवश्यक वस्तु है कि अगर लोहे का उत्पादन रुक जाय तो उससे देश की प्रगतिशीलता पर उस की वजह भारी प्रभाव पड़ता है। उदाहरण के लिए लोहे का उत्पादन न हो तो रेल में भी कमी आ सकती है, बैगन्स के बनने में भी कमी आ सकती है और बैगन्स के बनने में कमी आने के कारण हमारे देश में माल लाने, ले जाने की जो संभावनायें हैं वह पूरी नहीं हो सकती और इस के कारण देश की प्रगति में बड़ी भारी गिरावट आ सकती है। इसी प्रकार हैवी मशीन इंडस्ट्री, रांची में जो डिजाइन का कारखाना है आप देखेंगे कि उस का काम क्या है। जब कोई बड़े-बड़े डिजाइन्स का सवाल आता है तो उस के लिए डिजाइन बाहर में बन कर आ जाते हैं और अब उनका काम केवल वही है कि वहां बड़े-बड़े अधिकारी मौज करते हैं और मौज करने के साथ जो डिजाइन वह देते हैं उनके अनुसार न तो आकार में परिवर्तन हो पाता है और न उनके अनुसार कोई काम ही हो पाता है। हमारे मंत्रालय का ध्यान इस ओर जाना चाहिए, और यह आवश्यक है कि रांची में जब श्री पन्त इसके इंचार्ज थे, तो वहां एक सम्मेलन हुआ था और उसमें बहुत से सदस्यों को बुलाया गया और पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर भी वहां पर पहुंचे। आदरणीय मंत्री जी भी वहां पर जाकर विराजे, लेकिन अभी हमारे मित्र चन्द्रशेखर जी ने चंडी महाराज, जो उन के जनरल मैनेजर हैं, उन के बारे में कहा था और उनकी ओर सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित किया था, वह चंडी महाराज वहां गये ही नहीं, और हवाई जहाज में बैठ कर कहीं और चले गये।

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी (महाराष्ट्र) :
चंडी महाराज कोई साधु हैं क्या ?

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : अब मैं क्या कहूँ कुल-कर्णी महाराज अगर आप की समझ में चंडी महाराज नहीं आते तो । लेकिन दुखः यह है कि वह स्त्रीलिंग में नहीं है, पुलिंग में है, इसलिए महाराज है, महारानी नहीं । श्रीमन्, हमारे यहां पर इस मंत्रालय के अधीन जितने काम चल रहे हैं उनमें जो हम को हानि उठानी पड़ रही है उसको भी थोड़ा सा देख लेना और उस पर दृष्टिपात करना हमारे लिए आवश्यक होगा । अगस्त से लेकर दिसम्बर, 1970 तक माइनिंग एलाइड में 310 लाख रुपये का हमारे यहां नुकसान हुआ । राष्ट्रीय कोल निगम में इसी अवधि में 29 लाख रुपए का नुकसान हुआ । इसी प्रकार नेवेली निग्नाइट में 514 लाख रुपये का नुकसान हुआ और राष्ट्रीय खनिज में 862 लाख रुपये की हानि हुई, हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड में 34 लाख रुपये की हानि और खनिज धातु में 55 लाख रुपये की हानि हुई और माइनिंग और एलाइड मशीनरी में 6 करोड़ 40 लाख 20 हजार की हानि इसी अवधि में हम को उठानी पड़ी । मंत्रालय का यह हाल है । हमारी समझ में नहीं आता कि मंत्रालय इन हानियों की पूर्ति करने के लिए कौन सा कदम उठा रहा है । इस समय लोहे की कमी इस कदर हो रही है श्रीमन्, कि लोहे के जो बार्स हैं आज से दस महीने पहले उन का भाव 80, 85 रुपये क्विंटल था, आज बाजार में वह पौने दो सौ रुपये क्विंटल बिक रहे हैं, और वह भी नहीं मिल रहे हैं । उसमें भी ब्लैक मार्केटिंग चलती है और उसमें अफ़्टाचार चल रहा है । बड़ी मुश्किल से इन वस्तुओं को प्राप्त किया जा सकता है । कोल में हमारे मंत्रालय की हालत यह है कि 1950-51 में हम बाहर देशों को 3 करोड़ 60 लाख रुपये का कोल देते थे वहां 1968-69 में हमारा आउट पुट गिर कर केवल 70 लाख का ही रह गया । अब इस के लिए उपाय क्या है उस की ओर मंत्रालय ने ध्यान नहीं दिया । जापान को हमारे मध्य प्रदेश के बैलेडिला से कोयला देने के लिये कुछ शर्तें तय हुई हैं ।

श्री शाहनवाज खां : बैलेडिला में कोयला नहीं होता ।

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : आई एम सारी । लोहा, आयरन और । अब वहां से आयरन और देने के लिये उन शर्तों को बढ़ा कर के बहुत दिनों के लिये एक समझौता हो गया है । हमारा निवेदन है कि जब हमारे देश में लोहे की कमी है तो दूसरे देशों को कच्चा लोहा भेजने के बजाय यह क्यों नहीं किया जाता कि उसके आसपास बहुत से कारखाने लगा दिये जाय और श्रीमान्, देश की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए वह किया जाय हम इस मत के हैं कि यह कोई विशेष प्रान्त का प्रश्न नहीं है, कारखाना बांटने की जो प्रथा अब चल गई है यह प्रथा भी बहुत बुरी है, देखना यह चाहिये कि किस कारखाने को चलाने के लिये कच्चा माल किस जगह ज्यादा मिलता है और कच्चे माल के अतिरिक्त लोहा बनाने के लिये और जिन चीजों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है वह कहाँ कहाँ पर ज्यादा मिलता है । इसी प्रकार एक्सपोर्ट ग्वालिअर के आस-पास, ग्वालिअर और शिवपुरी और बुन्देलखंड के इलाके में आज से एक हजार वर्ष पूर्व और मुगलों के समय में और उसके बाद अंग्रेजों के समय तक लोहे के कारखानों को लगाने की वहीं पर सोचते थे । आज भी वहां पर सैकड़ों मीलों तक लोहे की इतनी मात्रा उपलब्ध है और शिवपुरी जिले से लेकर के टीकमगढ़ तक का लोहा सर्वश्रेष्ठ माना जाता है और छोटे छोटे कारखाने वाले लोहे को निकालकर के इस्पात भी बना कर वहां बेचते हैं, किन्तु सरकार का न तो उधर ध्यान गया और न उस तरफ कोई ध्यान दे कर के उन लोगों के लिये कोई प्लान किया कि वहां के लोग किस प्रकार से कार्य कर रहे हैं और क्या सम्भवतः सस्ते रूप में वहां लोहे को प्राप्त कर सकते हैं ।

(Time bell rings)

श्रीमन्, मैं जल्दी समाप्त करता हूँ । तो हम चाहते हैं कि जहां पर कच्चा लोहा मिले, जहां पर कोयला अधिक हो वहां पर सरकार को अधिक से अधिक कारखाना लगाना चाहिये ।

इसी प्रकार जापान के साथ मे जो आयरन-ओर के लिये समझौता हुआ है उस समझौते को खत्म करना चाहिये और अपने देश मे ही लोहे की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति करने के लिये उसे कच्चे माल का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिये ।

तीसरी बात यह है कि लोहे का डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन करने के लिये जो एक बोर्ड बना है और जो कि कलकत्ते मे बैठ कर के सारे देश की चीजों को देखता है वह ठीक नहीं है । हमारे मध्य-प्रदेश की हालत यह है, कुछ दिन पहले हमने माननीय मंत्री श्री मोहन कुमार मगलम जी से भी निवेदन किया था कि आज हमारे यहां के इजीनियरी कारखानों और यहां तक कि पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० का सारा का सारा काम रुका पड़ा है । वहां पर कुछ भी नहीं मिलता है । बोर्ड अपनी बैठक करता नहीं है और बोर्ड के द्वारा ही लोहा मिल सकता है चाहे वह सिविलियस के लिये हो और चाहे सरकार के लिये हो, तो दोनों के काम हमारे यहां रुके पड़े हैं । तो मेरा निवेदन है कि जो बोर्ड है उसको समाप्त किया जाय और मंत्रालय इस काम को स्वयं देखे और दिल्ली मे बैठ कर के वह काम करे तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा ।

इसी तरह हमारा एक और सुझाव है । चूंकि लोहे के मामले मे गलतफहमी फैली हुई है इसलिये हमारा अनुरोध है कि इसके लिए पार्लियामेंट की तरफ से एक कमेटी बैठा कर जांच करे, जो जो कारखाने इस प्रकार के हो कि उनमे लाभ नहीं होता हो उन कारखानों को बन्द करे और जहां से देश की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति होती हो और जिससे जनता को लाभ मिलता हो और अधिक मात्रा मे लोहा भी मिल सकता हो उनके बारे मे वह सजेशन दे और मंत्रालय उस कमेटी के सजेशन को मान कर उसके अनुसार काम करे, यह हमारी प्रार्थना है ।

SHRI A G KULKARNI Sir, I was expecting that the Report of the Steel Ministry will say something about the sickness of the entire steel complex and will explain how the policy of the new

Minister will try to improve the working of the Steel Ministry and the steel complex. But I am very sorry to see that very little has been said about this matter. Sir, the sickness in the steel complex or the huge losses incurred by Hindustan Steel and other allied concerns is a history which has to go into, but since so many of my colleagues have commented on that, I shall not cover the same ground.

What I say is it is due to lack of perspective planning after the recession period wherein the *status quo* was maintained for steel. It was thought at that time—I do not know at what level and I do not want to blame anybody—that the *status quo* should be maintained. Because of that the country lost a very important economic avenue in the production of steel. It was continued even though at that time there was no demand for the products produced by the steel industry. If you make an objective examination of the entire working of the steel complex, it will show that while creating capacity for products, the domestic demand was not scrupulously studied or it might have been overlooked to suit the needs of the donor countries which have given us the technology or the technical knowhow. So it is the avoidance of taking into consideration the domestic needs and installation of production capacity in different sectors that has landed us in the present scarcity in some sections. Here I may particularly mention the Bhilai plant. Here the heavy structurals have no immediate outlet in the domestic market. It was apt in that context that ultimately we were obliged to have an agreement with the USSR for export of structurals. In this connection loss to the extent of 20 per cent of the price is being incurred by the HSL in these exports. Similarly you see the Roukela plant. There are operational defects in it like defects in the establishment of the electrical sheet mill, etc. Similar is the case with other units. Why I am highlighting all this is this. You see today's *Economic Times* on the front page, they have highlighted all these things which makes a very sorry reading. There it was pointed out how ultimately we have entered into an agreement for export of steel. It is not of our own making but because we were making certain products which we could not consume domestically at that time. That is why an agreement was entered into. Even that agreement I would not mind if it had been a temporary one. We entered into a long term agreement. The concerned officers of the Ministry at the time had to consider the growth in the Indian economy. But this was not taken into consideration. That is why we are experiencing acute scarcity of these materials.

Now I am going to another aspect, the distribution policy, where I deal with these

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matters The Minister himself accepted—I read a fresh statement of his somewhere—and he was also critical of the lack of maintenance projects I think very recently, a day or two ago, he has opened some furnace at Bhilai. There the Minister himself mentioned and so there is no use harping on the same matter again and again The Minister himself is quite alive to the problem. Here it is seen that in an ordinary matter like re-lining of oven-batteries bottlenecks have been created in the production My colleague, Mr. Krishan Kant, has already drawn attention to the perspective planning not only in capacity, but also perspective planning of all the other ancillary items connected with steel components.

First production of ancillary machinery, production of railway line, then distribution line, etc. All these should have been considered in a perspective manner and there seems to be a lack of these ideas when the steel complex was undertaken.

Another aspect is that in all these three or four units set up by the government, detailed projects reports were prepared But nowhere have they been adhered to scrupulously and everywhere extra expenditure has been incurred. This again shows lack of perspective in the planning period.

There is another aspect for my friends in the labour movement. In this country we have a huge number of persons employed in the steel units I was reading some article written by Shri Poonacha He was Steel Minister for some time. I am not going to marshal all his arguments What struck me most was when he said that there are about 23,000 persons per unit in the steel industry at present. I can give statistics.

AN HON. MEMBER: That cannot be.

SHRI A G KULKARNI. The Detailed Project Report said 4,000 are required for one million tonnes. Then it was revised to 7,000 and then it was again revised to 9,000, says that a class of helpers was created. It is for Shri Kumaramangalam to refute it A class of helpers was created, just like politicians like you and I are mobilised . .

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right

SHRI A G KULKARNI And Atulya Dada of West Bengal

Shri Poonacha has said that this class of helpers was created and the total is 23,000 It is for Shri Kumaramangalam to deny it What I want to say is that we have got our own domestic problems Have some limit. Somebody said that the productivity is more in India I do not know. Low productivity may be for certain reasons. What I want to submit to the Government and particularly

the Steel Minister is that in the field of labour relations or industrial relations, there must be positive participation of labour in the management of public sector undertakings.

AN HON. MEMBER. As Directors.

SHRI A G KULKARNI. Not professional leaders of labour It is the workers themselves that will be associated so that it is a purposeful participation (*Interruptions*). I have great hopes in the capacity of Shri Kumaramangalam. I am not his critic. There may be some lapses here and there that may be the legacy. I am not going to refer to them. I have great hopes in Shri Kumaramangalam and there I am one with Shri Parthasarathy I think he can do so many things. Because of his upbringing in politics, he can do many things, therefore, I would request him to see that this purposeful participation of labour in the management is achieved within a foreseeable future, say within a year or so. You must have an agreement with them to the effect that there will be no strike in any steel complex for the coming 5 to 10 years There should be certain machinery so that if any dispute arises it can go to that machinery which will take a decision within the minimum time prescribed under the law or under the Act

This is one of the 'musts', Sir, and I will request my colleagues and particularly the young dynamo, Mr. Kalyan Roy, who comes from that area, this thing. Please see that we are interested in the steel project. You are interested in your unions and the labour's participation in the management. But we shall have an agreement that no strike at any cost will take place, because we shall see that steel is produced round the clock and for 365 days in the year and that should be our policy Here, Sir, particularly another aspect is the lack of management. It is lack of management or mismanagement of the entire project. Here also, Sir, so many of my colleagues have hinted about the defects These I do not want to repeat. But, in this respect, I want to say only one thing For the past two years, the Ministry of Finance and others studied the working of the public sector units and the ARC reports are also there But, Sir, nobody has put in any effort, any sincere effort, to improve the working of the units, particularly of the steel projects, because they are the king pin of the economy in this country and this country, Sir, is going to face in the coming five years a crisis in the economy, not only because of Bangla Desh, but also because of our development problems. They are dependent, Mr. Kumaramangalam, on your capacity to deliver the goods and you are to rise to the occasion, because people like me have got faith great faith, that you will do the job.

SHRI A. G. GUJIKARNI: The last point I was making out is about the billets affair. Sir, there is a great scandal in billets in this country about which I do not know how much my friend knows. There might be up to a hundred people, organized into a super sector, and they are recognized as billet suppliers under the DGTD. They are dictating terms to the small scale industries in the mofussil areas in the country. Mr. Bhagat who inaugurated the Billet Recyclers suppliers' organization, promised that some new policy will come in. He said that scrap will be

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given and so on. But nothing has been given. And actually the billet re-rollers in the mofussil areas and backward areas are languishing at the feet of the organised hundred people, who are the super exploiters in this country in the matter of billets. I would urge upon the Minister to recognise these four hundred or five hundred re-rollers who have established at a great cost in various co-operative industries in the mofussil areas. They must be given this material.

श्री जी० बरबोरा (आसाम) : उपसभापति महोदय, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि यह हमारा देश कुछ शब्दों के माया जाल में दिन-प्र-दिन ज्यादा से ज्यादा फसता जा रहा है और वह शब्द है नेशनलाइजेशन, प्रोडक्शन, पब्लिक सेक्टर और प्राइवेट सेक्टर। लेकिन सही बात कही जाय तो हिन्दुस्तान में जो प्राइवेट कैपिटलिस्ट हैं उनको जितना ज्यादा मार्जिन मिलता है मुनाफे का, उतना दुनिया में किसी कैपिटलिस्ट को नहीं मिलता किसी कैपिटलिस्टिक कट्टी में भी, न उतना ब्रिटेन में मिलता है, न फ्रांस में मिलता है और न वेस्ट जर्मनी में ही मिलता है। वहाँ अगर् प्राइवेट कैपिटलिस्टों को 6 परसेंट मिल जाय तो वह खुश है, हमारे यहाँ 20, 25, 50 और सो परसेंट की भी कोई सीमा नहीं। दूसरी ओर देखिए कि जो हमारी अपनी सरकार है और जो अपने को समाजवादी कहती है, लेकिन इस सरकार के काम का जो स्टैंडर्ड है उसके बारे में तो कुछ कहा ही नहीं जा सकता। वेस्ट जर्मनी और जापान में सरकार चलाने वाली जो पार्टी है वह हिन्दुस्तान में कांग्रेस पार्टी से ज्यादा दक्षियानूसी है लेकिन वहाँ का काम काज यहाँ से ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से चल रहा है। आज दुनिया में किसी भी देश को आगे बढ़ने के लिये उसको स्टील की जरूरत है, कोयले की जरूरत है, उसको तेल की जरूरत है और उसको आनाज की जरूरत है। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में हम देखते हैं कि सभी चीजों की पैदाइश के लिये और साथ-साथ उनके बटवारे के लिये कोई एक सगति नहीं है, काम्प्रेहिसव व्यवस्था नहीं है। स्टील की जो रिक्वायरमेंट है उसको आप लोगो ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताया है और यह रिपोर्ट भी क्या है। यह रिपोर्ट जगलरी

आफ वर्ड्स, जगलरी आफ स्टैटिस्टिक्स है। इस रिपोर्ट में एक जगह कहा गया है कि 1973-74 के लिये जो टार्गेट है और उसके बाद 1978-79 का जो होगा उसमें अभी जो प्रोडक्शन का घाटा है और जो रिक्वायरमेंट का अपना टार्गेट है उसमें 2 मिलियन टन का है और बाद में जाकर वह 6 मिलियन टन होगा। लेकिन साथ ही साथ इसमें और भी बताया गया है कि प्रोपोज्ड एक्सपेंशन कर रखा है। भिलाई में आपका प्रोपोज्ड एक्सपेंशन का प्रोपोजल है 2.5 मिलियन टन से 4 मिलियन टन का, बोकारो में 1.7 मिलियन टन से 4 मिलियन टन, रूरकेला में 1 मिलियन टन से 1.8 टन, दुर्गापुर में 1 मिलियन टन से 1.6 मिलियन टन। लेकिन साथ ही साथ आप देखिये कि अभी जो आपकी कैपेसिटी है उसमें आथडिल कैपेसिटी भी दिन-ब-दिन बढ़ती जा रही है। भिलाई में 69-70 में प्रोडक्शन रहा 75 परसेंट और 70-71 में 77 परसेंट प्राविजनली कहा गया है और रूरकेला में 61 परसेंट से घट कर 55 परसेंट में आया है, दुर्गापुर में 51 परसेंट से घट कर 43 परसेंट में आया है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आप तो सारा बता रहे हैं।

श्री जी० बरबोरा : एक ही साल का पूछ लीजिए कि क्या उत्पादन है। तो जो आप टार्गेट रखिये लेकिन प्रोडक्शन कैपेसिटी तो बढ़ाइये, जो इस्टैबलिशमेंट आज आपका है उसकी प्रोडक्शन कैपेसिटी दिन-ब-दिन घटती जा रही है। तो इस काट्रैडिक्शन को आप रोकिये। इस काट्रैडिक्शन को इस प्रकार को जल्दी से जल्दी रोकना है। सिर्फ सोशलिज्म की बात करते हैं, नेशनलाइजेशन की बात करते हैं, प्राइवेट सेक्टर और पब्लिक सेक्टर की बहस है। इस बहस को इस देश में कुछ दिनों के लिये बन्द कर के आज देश में कारोबार जो चोपट हो रहा है इसको रोकना चाहिये। हमें यह देखना है कि हम कैसे आगे बढ़ें, कैसे देश का प्रोडक्शन बढ़े, कैसे यहाँ के मजदूर भी खुश हो कर प्रोडक्शन में हिस्सा लें। तो इस सभी का एक काम्प्रेहिसव प्रावलम हमको अपने सामने रखना चाहिये

अभी-अभी कल्याण राय जी बता रहे थे कि कोयले का और देशों में जहाँ 70 से 72 फीसदी प्रोडक्शन है तो हमारे यहाँ 30 फीसदी हो रहा है। मालिक लोग कोयले को पैदा नहीं कर रहे हैं, मालिक लोग बदमाश हैं। मालिक बदमाश हैं चाहे वह जैरी हैडरसन हो, चाहे सूरजमल नागरमल कम्पनी हो, चाहे बर्ड एंड कम्पनी हो उनको फासी पर लटकाइये, उनकी कम्पनी को सरकार अपने हाथ में ले ले लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह भी देखिये कि जो 30 परसेंट प्रोडक्शन होता है—जैसा कि कल्याण राय खुद बोले हैं—इस 30 परसेंट कोयले को भेजने के लिये, बाहर भेजने के लिये, इन लोगों को वैगस नहीं मिल रहे हैं तो फिर उनको चाहे जैरी हैडरसन हो, चाहे सूरजमल नागरमल कम्पनी हो चाहे कोई हो, कैसे फासी पर लटकाये जब कि जो कम प्रोडक्शन हमारे यहाँ कोयले का होता है उस कम प्रोडक्शन को भी बाहर भेजने के लिये उनको वैगस सप्लाई नहीं कर पाते हैं। तो उनको कोई ऐसा मौका न दीजिए कि वह अपनी खामियों को छिपा सकें। सरकार को ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये कि फौरन उनको वैगस मिल जायें और उसके बाद अगर वह ठीक काम नहीं करते हैं, वह पैसे का गलत इस्तेमाल करने हैं तो उनको फासी पर लटकाइये और उनकी कम्पनी को सीज कीजिये।

इसके बाद नये प्लाटों के बारे में भी, प्रोपोज्ड प्लाट्स के बारे में भी मुझे कुछ बोलना है। नये प्लाट्स का प्रोपोजल है—सेलम, तामिलनाडु में, हासपेट, मैसूर में, विशाखापटनम्, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में। ठीक है मिलना चाहिये। देखिये यह है

Decision announcement by the Prime Minister in Lok Sabha, 7th April, 1970

उसके बाद आपकी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि Site tentatively demarcated, work of soil survey, soil investigation, testing of raw materials initiated रा। मैटीरियल्स की टैस्टिंग आप अभी तक इनिशिएट ही कर रहे हैं, साइल सरवे हुआ नहीं है। तो आप ये नए स्टील प्लाट सालेम में कैसे लगायेंगे विशाखापटनम् में कैसे लगायेंगे? इसके बारे में आपने कैसे ऐलान कर दिया? क्या इसके पीछे राजनैतिक स्वार्थ था? क्या देश के किसी पार्ट की

जनता को लालच देने की बात रही? और यह सच करने में रा। मैटीरियल की पोजिशन क्या थी? रा। मैटीरियल की पोजिशन जहाँ तक हम देखते आए हैं, आपके गोवा में, आपके मारमागोवा पोर्ट से 11 मिलियन टन आइरन और आप जापान भेजते हैं। बेल्लेडिला है मध्य प्रदेश में, और उडीसा है, जहाँ पर कि रा। मैटीरियल है लेकिन मशीनरी वहाँ नहीं लगा कर किन्हीं राजनैतिक उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिये आप दूसरी जगह लगाएंगे। आइल के बारे में हमने देखा है, कूड प्रोड्यूस करता है असम और उसकी रिफाइनरी लगती है कहीं और, और आइरन होता है उडीसा में, बेल्लेडिला में, गोवा में, लेकिन वहाँ आपका स्टील प्लाट लगता नहीं है इसी तरह से देश को कारखानों की अवस्था सुधारने के लिये आपने राजनैतिक सैंटिस्फेक्शन देने का जो तरीका अतिथार किया है उसको बदलना पड़ेगा। आज देश में गलत ढंग से कारखाने लगाने की वजह से ट्रान्शिपमेंट, ट्रान्सपोर्टेशन कास्ट में देश का करोड़ों रुपया बर्बाद होता है। गोरखपुर के चीनी मिल की चीनी गोरखपुर के बाजार में पहले नहीं मिलती है, जौनपुर की चीनी कहीं दूसरी जगह मिलती है। यह एक जगह का प्रोडक्ट दूसरी जगह और दूसरी जगह का प्रोडक्ट तीसरी जगह जो होता है, इस तरह भेजने में बीच में जो ट्रेन से लाखों करोड़ों रुपया बर्बाद होता है, उसको पहले रोकने की कोशिश करे। इससे भी जो बर्बादी देश की हम कर रहे हैं उसको रोकने में काफी सफलता मिलेगी।

आज देश भर में लोगों को कहीं एक आध टन स्टील की जरूरत हो तो छोटे-मोटे कारखाने के लिये, मकान बनाने के लिये स्टील रौड्स की जरूरत हो, तो वे कहा जायेंगे? आपकी कमेटीज तो बहुत सारी हैं, बोर्ड भी हैं लेकिन आम लोग परेशान हैं क्योंकि उनको कुछ मालूम नहीं है कहा क्या है—कहीं कोई प्राइवेट कम्पनी है, कोई जे०पी०सी०क०-मेटी है, कोई आइरन एंड स्टील कन्ट्रोलर है, कोई आइरन और के० बड़े रीजनल कन्ट्रोलर हैं। उसके बाद हर एक स्टेट में स्टेट्स का इन्डस्ट्रीज डायरेक्ट

(श्री जी० बरबोरा)

है। तो इन सब के दरवाजे खटखटाने कैसे कोई एक आदमी जाएगा जिसको बीस, पच्चीस हजार जुटा कर एक छोटा सा मकान बनाना है, उसमें पांच सात सौ रुपये का लोहा खरीदने की वह कोशिश करे तो वह इतने बड़े-बड़े आफिसरों के यहां कहां-कहां दरवाजे खटखटायेंगे? इसी लिये लोगों में अंतोष को रोकने के लिये, आपकी जो कुछ भी पैदाइश इस देश में हो उसका ठीक से बंटवारा करने के लिए जो हर एक कमेटी को ऊपर से नीचे लगा कर रखते हैं इस तरीके को सिम्पलीफाइ करने की कोशिश सरकार को जल्द से जल्द करनी चाहिये।

स्टील मिलेट्स के बारे में अभी-अभी कुलकर्णी जी ने बताया और मैं आसाम से आता हूँ जो कि बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ प्रांत है। तो स्टील के बिलेट्स के जो आंकड़े आपने अपनी रिपोर्ट में दिए हैं उसके मुताबिक आज देश में री-रॉलिंग मिल्स की कैपेसिटी 1 लाख 25 हजार टन है जिसमें आप दे पाते हैं मन्थली एररेज 45,000 टन-एक-तिहाई के करीब। तो इतने मिल खोलने की इजाजत लोगों को कैसे मिल जाती है जब राँ मैटीरियल की इतनी कमी है, आप दे नहीं पाते हैं और जो कुछ भी देते हैं उसको देने में भी बराबरी नहीं है।

क्योंकि 45 हजार टन आप एररेज देते हैं और हमारे आसाम में जो री-रॉलिंग मिल्स हैं उनको सिर्फ 150 टन ही मिलता है। यह 45 हजार टन आप सारे हिन्दुस्तान के स्माल इन्डस्ट्रीज मिल्स को देते हैं और हमारे यहां जो चार, पांच री-रॉलिंग मिल्स हैं उनको बहुत ही कम मिलता है। आप 45 हजार टन जो देते हैं सारे हिन्दुस्तान को, अगर आप टोटल इन्कम और पापुलेशन का भी हिसाब लगायें तो उस हिसाब से भी आसाम को तीन, चार परसेंट मिलना चाहिये, लेकिन आप 45 हजार टन में से केवल 150 टन देते हैं। इस तरह से आप प्रान्तों का खयाल नहीं करते हैं और आज जिस तरह से प्रान्तों में नक्सलवादी और शिवसेना वालों के आन्दोलन चलते हैं, उसके लिये आप को देश में राष्ट्रीय विचार बढ़ाने के लिये, देश को मजबूत करने के लिए, जो कुछ भी आपके पास साधन हैं

उसका ठीक तरह से बंटवारा करें। आज आपकी जो व्यवस्था है उसको सुधारें और हर प्रान्त में जो छोटा मोटा व्यवसाय है उसके लिये नागरिकों को समान सुविधा दी जानी चाहिये और उसके लिए एक मशीनरी बनाई जानी चाहिये। इसके साथ ही साथ आपको यह भी देखना होगा कि जो पिछड़े इलाके हैं, जो ज्यादा पिछड़े प्रान्त हैं, उनको सब प्रान्तों के समान लाने के लिये आपको विशेष सुविधा देनी होगी।

SHRI CHHITA BASU (West Bengal): Sir, it is admitted on all hands that steel occupies a very vital position in the industrialisation of our country. It not only occupies a very vital position in the industrialisation of our country but if you will permit me to say, in its advancement lies the key to the speedy advancement of the national economy as a whole. Having regard to this basic concept the Government of India very rightly decided that steel should be in the public sector and there should be a number of public sector steel industries growing in our country in order to accelerate the pace of industrial development of the country. Sir, I do not like to dilate much on the importance of steel in our industrialisation but I want to emphasize certain basic and immediate problems facing our country vis-a-vis steel industry of our country. My friend, Mr. Mohita, was correct when he said that the Government should have a perspective in connection with the production of steel. He proposed correctly that we would be requiring at least 750 million tonnes by the year 2000. Whether we will be able to reach that target or not, I do not know but what I want to emphasize here is that the capacity which we have been able to build up in our public sector has not been properly utilised, or rather to speak in real terms, it is very much underutilised. I want to know from the Minister what steps he really proposes to take for making the optimum use of the installed capacity in our steel industry. I am not saying this from a sense of pessimism: I feel, I very strongly feel, that the public sector steel industry, although there are many things to be said in criticism of it, will not fail us in times of crisis. I have certain figures with me which would suggest that we can really improve the utilisation of the installed capacity in the steel industry. In 1969-70 the utilisation figure in respect of Bhilai was 76 per cent of the installed capacity, Durgapur 40 per cent, Rourkela 65 per cent. This is not the only figure. For example, the average in Durgapur steel plant was 35 per cent in February 1971 but Durgapur's best performance was 50 per cent in October 1970.

[THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A D MANI)
in the Chair]

In the case of Bhilai, its best performance is 90 per cent in August, 1970, compared with its average of only 77 per cent. Rourkela's best performance has been 74 per cent against its average of 55 per cent. Therefore, at this stage or that, some of the steel plants had reached production up to 90 per cent. Therefore, if you take into account the best performance and the average performance you will find that there is a wide gap to be filled in. Having regard to this gap between the average performance and the best performance, we can really bring about a satisfactory change in the production level. So far as my calculation goes, even a little bit of improvement by ten per cent can wipe out the import of steel which we import every year. My straight question to the hon. Minister is this: Is it not possible for us to improve production by ten per cent? If a ten per cent improvement is registered we can save a lot of money by way of foreign exchange. Now, that being the crucial question, I want to know what specific steps the Ministry propose to take in order to make optimum use of the installed capacity. If we can make use of the installed capacity, much of the criticism against the public sector steel plants will vanish. The public sector can then establish its claim and claim further advancement in the economic development of our country.

In this connection, my friend, Mr. Mohta, was very strong in expressing his opinion that many of the difficulties are due to the bad industrial relations in the steel plants. Particularly he was saying that there should be an announcement or the Government should come down with a heavy hand on the workers. According to him the non-utilisation of the capacity is primarily due to industrial relations for which the workers are primarily held responsible. It is not so. Even if I refer to the much maligned Durgapur steel plant, the position is this: I say much maligned because I agree that there have been a large number of stoppages, strikes, man-days lost and the industrial relations there are not at all satisfactory. Even in the case of the much maligned Durgapur steel plant I find that the management is much more responsible for the fall in production than the workers themselves. I do not like to impose my opinion on this matter. I would only draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Report of the Pande Committee. The Pande Committee itself was pleased to mention thus —

"Durgapur management seems to have neglected many essential responsibilities which are incumbent for good perform-

ance. Mention should be made of the neglect of proper maintenance, lack of rigid control on the quality of products."

Paras 3 and 12 of the Report are relevant. I do not like to quote much, but in another place the Pande Committee says —

"In all 27 equipments or attachments were out of commission or lying idle in March 1967 in the plant. It is not possible to get an idea of the cost of equipment lying idle since figures were not available for all the idle equipments."

And so on and so forth, it goes. Therefore, even a perusal, a cursory perusal, of the Report of the Pande Committee could, I think, convince the hon. Minister that all is not wrong with the workers, much lies on the management itself. And I squarely say, in the matter of the trouble at Durgapur, the management of the Durgapur Steel Plant is responsible to a very large extent. Now my question is: Will the hon. Minister assure the House that he would take sufficient effective steps to overhaul not only the management of Durgapur Steel Plant but other steel plants also? In this connection I would also mention some policies with regard to the HEC.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A D MANI): There is one more speaker. Please try to finish. You have got three minutes more. You have already taken seven minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: In the case of HFC a lot of instances of corruption, mismanagement and all these things are here. But I do not like to quote all of them.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A D MANI): Not necessary.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: But in the interests of the nation as a whole, the Minister should know some and therefore I will quote a few points only. First of all, the construction of Bokaro depends upon the supply from HFC. About HEC it is said here in Parliament or in public platforms or in the press that the supply from there is not satisfactory. My figures show this. Some inflated figures were given by HEC authorities where it has been found that they could supply only 2200 tonnes a month. Out of that, 50 per cent was manufactured or fabricated elsewhere by outside private companies or ancillary firms. But HFC inflated their figures so as to prove that their performance was not as bad as we mean to say. Then, the HEC had a new steel structural shop, known as SS Shop, to manufacture 25000 tonnes of structural items annually. Due to mismanagement it could not reach a figure of more than 300 tonnes.

[Shri Chitta Basu]

Then there is the question of the much-talked about mini-steel plants and here I find that in the year 1969 a proposal to instal a Continuous Casting Plant in HEC was mooted. The Ministry be set with the chronic shortage of billets in the country suggested to HEC for the setting up of this plant. The three electric furnaces having a capacity of 10-ton, 20-ton and 40 ton could have been profitably utilised for the purpose. But because of pressure mounted by the private sector, the Minister had to yield or to give in and give licences to the five mini-steel plants. It might have been avoided had this proposal been accepted. (*Time bell rings*). Only two points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): You have already taken 15 minutes. There is one more speaker. Please conclude.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: In a similar fashion, the management failed to take up the assignment of the second Howrah Bridge. They have got a capacity of 25000 tonnes annually.

Therefore, all these things go to prove that the H.E.C. management is not taking advantage of the installed capacity and is running at a loss. (*Time bell rings*.) I conclude. If we really want to tell the people that the public sector industry has really played the role assigned to them, it is the imperative necessity of the Government, particularly of the Steel Ministry that the management of public sector industries is further improved and improved to an extent where we can tell the people that it has been able to do the assigned job.

So far as labour-management relation is concerned, taking some of the representatives of the workers in the management or Board of Directors is not going to solve the problem. (*Time bell rings*). You are not giving me time. I should like to know what steps he proposes to take to ensure effective and meaningful participation of the workers at all levels so that the workers may feel involved in the management and maintenance of the public sector industries.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Chaudhary Mohammad. Ten minutes. We want to conclude the debate by six. Now the Minister wants to reply and he would take some time.

چودھری آر۔ محمد (بہار) : وائس

چیرمین صاحب - انہی منسٹری آف اسٹیل اینڈ مائنز کے اور بجٹ جل رہی ہے۔ اس سلسلہ میں بہت سی باتیں مدن کے سامنے آئی ہیں کہ اسٹیل کے کارخانے اس طرح جل رہے ہیں اور کس طرح سے ہمیں کہاں گھانا ہو رہا ہے اور کہاں پر بلائیں بیٹھ جانے ہیں۔ اس طرح کی بہت سی چیزیں ہمارے سامنے آئی ہیں۔ لیکن ہم دیکھتے ہیں کہ اسٹیل کی جنینی اسپورٹس ہمارے سامنے ہے اس اسٹیل کو چھوڑ کر کے کانوں کا بھی سب سے بڑا پہلو ہے لیکن ابھی تک ہمارے سامنے کسی سدسیہ نے مائنز کی حالت کے بارے میں بنانے کی کوئی بہت، کوشش نہیں کی خاص کر کلیان رائے جی نے کہا ہے کہ کول مائنز کی حالت کما ہے۔ میں پرائیویٹ سیکٹر اور پبلک سیکٹر کو برابر نہیں سمجھتا۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ پبلک سیکٹر کے اندر جو خامیاں ہوتی ہیں انہیں ہم مدن کے سامنے لا کر کے ان پر ہم بحث کریں ہیں۔ لیکن میں جانتا ہوں کہ جتنی پرائیویٹ میکینٹریس ہیں ان پرائیویٹ میکینٹریس میں کما ہو رہا ہے۔ میں اس کے لئے اس منسٹری کو بھی ذمہ دار ٹھہرانا چاہتا ہوں۔ ہماری یہاں کوہر مائنز ہے۔ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی بھی کوہر مائنز ہے۔ میں آج سے نہیں

بلکہ بہت پہلے کہتا آ رہا ہوں کہ
لوہے کی جتنی قیمت ہے لوہے کی جتنی
اسپورٹس ہے آج کوہر کی اس سے
زیادہ اسپورٹس ہے لیکن آج کوہر مائنز
کو کس طرح نگلے گا کیا جا رہا ہے۔
ہماری سامنے یہ ایک سوال جو کہ
میں نے اس منسٹری سے کیا تھا۔ وہ
یہ ہے.....

مجھے افسوس معلوم ہوا ہے کہ
ایک طرف سرکار یہ کہتی ہے کہ ہم
سوسائٹی قائم کرنا چاہتے
ہیں اور دوسری طرف ہم دیکھتے ہیں
کہ ہمارے یہاں کوہر کی بہت بڑی
کمی ہے اس کے اوپر کوئی خیال نہیں
کیا جاتا۔ ہندوستان میں آب کی ایک
مائن ہے کھسری کی مائن ہے۔ وہ
ایک سو بنا کر کے رکھی گئی ہے۔
وہ پولیٹیکل اسٹیل کی مائن ہے۔
لیکن اگر مائن ہے تو ایک گھاٹ سلا
اور ایک کوئٹھو کی مائن ہے۔ گورنمنٹ
آف انڈیا کی ہندوستان کوہر مائنز ہے
لیکن گورنمنٹ وہاں سے کوہر
نکال بھی لے تو وہاں سے آئی۔
سی۔ سی۔ کو دے گی۔ اور آئی۔
سی۔ سی۔ اس کوہر کو ری فائڈ کر کے
اس کا نانبا بنانے کی کوشش کرے
گی۔

میں سرکار سے کہنا چاہتا ہوں آپ
راکھا میں کروڑوں روپیہ خرچ کر رہے
ہیں زیادہ سے زیادہ آپ کو کام کرنا
پڑے گا۔ اس سے اچھا ہے کہ انڈین
کوہر کارپوریشن کو آپ نیشنلائز
کےجئے۔ اگر سح مج آپ چاہتے ہیں
اس دیس کا پروڈکشن بڑھے کیوں کہ
کوہر ہمارے دیس کی نیشنل ویلتھ ہے،
دولت ہے اور اس دولت کو ہمیں
بڑھانا چاہئے۔ میں نے پہلے بھی کہا
نہا ۱۹۶۴ میں جب انگریزوں کے ہاتھ

دوسرے راکھا کو حلالے کے بارے میں آج بے کوئی انسٹو نہیں لیا۔ آج امچور میں کیا کر رہے ہیں۔ ایک سنتری سے کہتے ہیں امچور سے مال رکوانا چاہئے۔ جب مال ڈسپچ ہونے لگا ہے نو سسری سے کہتے ہیں روکو روکو۔ ان سب چیزوں کو دیکھ کر آج صبح طور پر فدم اٹھائیں۔ ایک سوال پیدا ہوا ہے کہس کوئی بنائے ہیں مردوروں کی غلطی ہے۔ میں آج سے کہا چاہا ہوں آج کے آفسس کی غلطی زیادہ ہوئی ہے۔ آج کے کورڈیل ریلسس کو ہونے چاہئیں وہ نہیں ہونے۔ جب آج پارٹر کی طرح مردوروں کی نہیں سمجھیں گے تو کیا آج سمجھیں گے انڈسٹریل بیس رہے گی۔ کہی نہیں رہ سکتی۔ اس لئے آج اسی طرح کی کورڈیل ریلسس پیدا کرنے کی کونسل کیجئے۔ آج مردوروں کو اس کارخانہ کا نارٹر بنائے کی کونسل کیجئے بھی آج صبح طریقہ سے انڈسٹری کو حلانگے۔ نو میں آج سے یہ چاہا ہوں کہ انڈین کوبر کارپورس کے بارے میں آپ کا کیا طریقہ ہے۔ راکھا کو حلالے کے لئے آج کا کیا ری ایکشن ہے اس کے بارے میں آج کو صاف صاف کہا ہوگا۔ کوبر کی بھی اس دیس کو ضرور ہے اور اگر آج بے اس کو سگلاکٹ کرنے کی کونسل کی

میں مائنز تھے کہ کس طرح سے وہاں سے اچھے اچھے مال کا نکال دیا جاتا ہے۔ اس پر ایک کمیٹی سی بھی اور اس نے انکوائری کی۔ ہم نے جو کچھ کہا تھا وہ صحیح نکلا۔ کلار میں آپ نے کیا کیا۔ نیشنلائز کیا۔ کب نیشنلائز کیا۔ کلار کا جب حاتمہ ہوئے لگا تھا تب کیا۔ میں چاہتا تھا کہ آج انڈین کوبر کارپورس کو نیشنلائز کریں گے لیکن کب کریں گے جب وہ ختم ہو جائے گی۔ جب دیس کی دولت بناد ہو جائے گی تب نیشنلائز کریں گے۔ میں آج سے صاف صاف چاہتا ہوں۔ آج انڈین کوبر کارپورس کے بارے میں کیا کرنا چاہئے ہیں۔ جو راکھا میں کوبر کا ڈپوٹ ہے جس میں کروڑوں روپہ خرچ کرنا پڑے گا۔ آج کو لوگوں کو ٹرنڈ کرنا پڑا ہے۔ باہرے کا کر آج آفسس کو فارن کسٹمر میں بھیجئے ہیں۔ آج کوبر کارپورس کو نیشنلائز کریں گے تو آج کو ٹرنڈ ورکس ملتے ہیں۔ ٹرنڈ سروائرس ملتے ہیں۔ ٹرنڈ کول مائنرس اور انڈر گراؤنڈ فورمیں ملتے ہیں۔ آج ٹرنڈ بوسٹ بھی رہے ہیں۔ نو میں آج سے یہ چاہتا ہوں کہ انڈین کوبر کارپورس کے بارے میں آج کیا کرنا چاہئے ہیں۔ دوسرے راکھا کو حلالے کے بارے میں آج کیا کرنا چاہئے ہیں۔

تو اس دیش کے ساتھ بہت بڑا گناہ
 کرینگے۔ نو آپ دیس کی ویلے کو،
 دولت کو انگریز کرنے کی کوشش
 کریں۔ اتنا کہنے کے بعد میں آپ کا
 شکریہ ادا کرنا ہوں۔

†[चौधरी ए० मोहम्मद (बिहार) : वाइस
 चेयरमेन साहब, अभी मिनिस्ट्री आफ स्टील एण्ड
 माइन्स के ऊपर बहस चल रही है इस सिलमिले
 में बहुत सी बातें सदन के सामने आई हैं कि स्टील
 के कारखाने इस तरह चल रहे हैं और किस तरह
 से हमें कहा घाटा हो रहा है और कहां पर प्लांट्स
 बैठ जाते हैं। इस तरह की बहुत सी चीजें हमारे
 सामने आई हैं। लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि स्टील की
 जितनी इम्पोर्टेंस हमारे सामने है इस स्टील को
 छोड़ कर के खानों का भी सबसे बड़ा पहलू है
 लेकिन अभी तक हमारे सामने किसी सदस्य ने
 माइन्स की हालत के बारे में बताने की कोई बहुत
 कोशिश नहीं की खास कर कल्याण राय जी ने कहा
 है कि फिल माइन्स की हालत क्या है? मैं प्राइवेट
 सेक्टर और पब्लिक सेक्टर को बराबर नहीं
 समझता। मैं समझता हूँ कि पब्लिक सेक्टर के
 अन्दर जो खामिया होती हैं उन्हें हम सदन के
 सामने ला कर के उन पर हम बहस करते हैं।
 लेकिन मैं जानता हूँ कि जितनी प्राइवेट
 सेक्टर्स हैं उन प्राइवेट सेक्टर्स में क्या हो रहा
 है। मैं इसके लिये इस मिनिस्ट्री को भी जिम्मे-
 दार ठहराना चाहता हूँ। हमारे यहाँ कौपर माइन्स
 है, गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया को भी कौपर माइन्स
 है। मैं आज से नहीं बल्कि बहुत पहले से कहता
 आ रहा हूँ कि लोहे की जितनी कीमत है लोहे की

जितनी इम्पोर्टेंस है आज कौपर की उससे ज्यादा
 इम्पोर्टेंस है। लेकिन आज कौपर माइन्स को किस
 तरह नेगलेक्ट किया जा रहा है। हमारे सामने
 यह एक सवाल जो कि मैंने इस मिनिस्ट्री से किया
 था वह यह है . . .

"Will the Minister of Petroleum and
 Chemicals and Mines and Metals be
 pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of
 the fact that M/s. Birla Industries have
 taken over the management of Copper
 mines of the Indian Copper Corporation
 Ltd., Ghatsila and also the properties of
 S. Lal and Co. (P) Ltd., Barbil Distt.,
 Keonjhar, Orissa; and

(b) if so, when and the reaction of
 Government in this regard?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: (a) and
 (b) The information is being collected
 and will be laid on the Table of the
 House."

मुझे अफसोस मालूम होता है कि एक तरफ
 सरकार यह कहती है कि हम सोशलिस्टिक सोसाइटी
 कायम करना चाहते हैं और दूसरी तरफ हम देखते
 हैं कि हमारे यहाँ कौपर की बहुत बड़ी कमी है, उसके
 ऊपर कोई ख्याल नहीं किया जाता। हिन्दुस्तान
 में आपकी एक माइन है, खेत्री की माइन है। वह
 एक शो बना कर के रखी गयी है। वह पोलिटिकल
 इस्टेट की माइन है। लेकिन अगर माइन है तो
 एक घाटशिला और एक विवजू की माइन है।
 गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया की हिन्दुस्तान कौपर
 माइन्स है। लेकिन गवर्नमेंट वहाँसे कौपर
 निकाल भी ले तो वहाँ से आई० सी० सी० को
 देगी और आई० सी० सी० डम कौपर को रि-
 फाईंड करके इस का ताम्बा बनाने की कोशिश
 करेगी।

any of us can be proud. We are in difficulties and unfortunately, particularly due to the collapse of a portion of the roof of the steel melting shop in the Rourkela Steel Plant, we will continue to be in difficulties for some time. And when one appreciates the important position the steel industry occupies in the economy of the country, it is undoubtedly a serious position which nobody can underestimate. Mr Krishan Kant who opened the discussion as well as a number of other speakers commented on the fact that for quite some substantial period, many of the public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Steel and Mines have been undergoing losses and quite substantial losses at that. That also we cannot deny. Now there is no point in trying to hide weaknesses and defects in the public sector undertakings under my charge and I do not want to try and do so. What I would like hon. Members to appreciate is that it is because we do understand the weaknesses and what may be called the lack of achievement of these public sector undertakings and in particular of the Hindustan Steel, which as my friend, Mr Krishan Kant, emphasised is the premier public sector undertaking in our country, that it prompts us also to tell the House that we hope and we are working to see that the situation will definitely improve.

In 1970-71 the target we had put before ourselves of saleable steel was of 4,429,000 tons. Out of that only 2,646,000 tons was achieved. As the honourable Member, Shri Chitta Basu, pointed out, the capacity in the public sector is certainly not being properly utilised. In Bhilai we have come to achieve 79 per cent. But in Durgapur it is far lower, just below 40 per cent, and in Rourkela also not much better than that, 56 per cent. As he commented, quite rightly, if we were able to make full use of our capacity, then there is no doubt that much of the difficulties that we are facing in relation to steel production would be solved. Next year we were aiming to make a decisive change. We hope that we will be able to increase at Bhilai from 79 per cent to at least 90 per cent or a little more and we hope also to make a decisive improvement in Rourkela and some steps forward in Durgapur. But unfortunately as a result of the collapse of a part of the roof in the steel melting shop in Rourkela we are going to face very, very, great difficulties so far as this year is concerned. There is going to be much greater shortage of steel than even in 1970-71. We are moving very fast to try to improve the position in Rourkela. The committee that has been set up to inquire and investigate the causes for the disaster has also been charged with making recommendations to bring the plant back into

full operation as quickly as possible. I know honourable Members will appreciate the fact that the accident took place on the night of 11th/12th July and the committee itself was set up on the 19th—the decision to set up the committee was taken on the 19th—and on the 20th itself one member of the committee and the secretary of the committee were down in Rourkela examining the position, and on the 23rd, and 27th the full committee met in Rourkela and has already submitted an interim report to me with its immediate recommendations as to what should be done to bring Rourkela back into operation—or rather part of it is already in operation—to bring it wholly back into operation as swiftly as possible. I would like to tell the House what steps we have taken in this regard because, I think this is perhaps the most important problem facing the Ministry today. Instructions have been given to give up top priority to the supply of steel. Instructions have been issued to the Iron and Steel Controller on the 13th July and officers of the CEDB, leading designers of the CEDB, were down in Rourkela within two days of the collapse accident taking place, and were already at work preparing designs. Negotiations for putting up the roof again were undertaken by the Hindustan Steel, immediately after the accident with Jessops. They have been appointed the prime contractor. They have started the work and they are already going ahead with it even before an actual contract has been signed because we did not want to waste any time. The movement of steel has been given the highest priority and a separate officer of the Iron and Steel Controller has been earmarked to coordinate all the work relating to procurement and movement of steel required to get Rourkela back into full production as early as possible. I do not think there will be any delay whatsoever in this regard and I think also that at the latest by the middle of December now we should be able to have full production in Rourkela. Even now we are making every effort to speed it up and help shorten the time. Immediate steps have been taken to put back the open hearth furnaces into operation as that part of the roof over the open hearth furnaces has not been damaged. One open hearth furnace was commissioned on the 17th July, and now three are functioning, and the fourth one which is under rebuilding that is, under repair, is expected to go into operation from the 6th August, 1971.

All the open hearth furnaces will be working by the end of August. One of them has to be rebuilt again as soon as the third one comes into operation. One perhaps will be brought into operation

[Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam]

early in September this year. These are our targets and the maximum that we can do is being done.

I would like to assure hon. Member Shri Arjun Arora—who mentioned to me or asked me particularly that I should give an assurance—that anybody who is found guilty of having been in any way responsible for this very serious damage and loss caused to the Rourkela steel plant will be punished. I can assure him that the government and the country is not going to spare anybody, however highly placed he may be, if it is found that he is in any way responsible for any negligence which led to this collapse of the roof.

An inquiry committee has been set up. It is a technical inquiry committee consisting of members who are competent to give technical findings. They have been asked to report whether any person or authority was responsible for the accident or for conditions leading to it and if so to what extent. Based on the findings in that report, we shall certainly take action against any persons if they are found guilty.

This is so far as production this year is concerned. I have devoted such a long time to Rourkela because that is our main problem. But that does not mean that we are not paying any attention to both Bhilai and Durgapur. So far as Bhilai is concerned, I think we have got over the difficulties that we faced in the coke-oven plant towards the latter part of May. Steps are being taken and have been taken and are being continued to see to it that this does not hold up further improvement in Bhilai and we expect that we shall be able to go near our target in the course of this year.

I think I should say something about the question of the weaknesses that we have been facing over these years. We do understand that the most important weakness has been in the sphere of maintenance and there can be no denial that is the most important area where we have not done everything that we should—to put it very mildly. It is a managerial weakness. It is a weakness on the part of management. There can be no denying that. It is in all the three plants. We are concentrating more on being able to build up effective teams and systems of maintenance both preventive maintenance and what may be called fire-fighting maintenance. If anything happens or if any collapse takes place or disruption takes place in the actual process of making steel, squads of workers and engineers who

are able to attend to them will go immediately and attend to them. One of the principal reasons why the performance of Bhilai steel plant has been better than both Rourkela and Durgapur is because of the fact that far greater attention has been paid to build up a system of maintenance which will continuously see to it that there is no stoppage of production in any way whatsoever. This has been the basic weakness in the other two plants and we are trying to make it up as fast as we can. It is also going to be our effort to use the most modern methods and technologies as soon as we can. Anybody connected with the steel industry or anybody who has been brought into connection with the steel industry like myself will know that steel technology is advancing by leaps and strides. We are giving all the emphasis we can to increase productivity and decrease the cost of production in the steel plants. Oxygen-lancing in open hearth furnaces at Bhilai is being augmented. Facilities are being provided and we hope to finish it soon. Even in Durgapur we are intending to introduce this. We also want to increase the sinter burden on the blast furnaces in Bhilai and for this purpose an additional sintering plant has also been established and a second sintering plant has recently been sanctioned. We expect to be able to take steps to increase the blast temperature, to improve humidity control and to give higher top pressure and give full injections in the blast furnace to the extent possible.

These are all modern technological improvements and though these will require certain modification of equipment, we will be able, I think, to introduce these from stage to stage as we take on the blast furnaces for capital repairs. Even now, when I was in Bhilai a couple of days ago, I saw the blast furnace which has been dismantled in order to effect capital repairs. They are effecting capital repairs and we hope also to introduce all these modern technological improvements.

It is not easy and it is no use making big promises that this can be done or that can be done. All that I want to convey to the House is that we are trying to improve things and let us see, at the end of six months or at the end of the year, whether any improvement has actually been achieved.

We know also, so far as the question of electric furnaces is concerned, that we should increase the size of such furnaces from the ordinary 10-ton furnaces which we have got in these electric furnaces-cum-continuous casting plants, the so-called mini-steel plants and we do want to increase the size of these electric furnaces

substantially, not in the so-called mini-steel plants, but in the country, in the steel industry and we do want also to increase the production of sponge iron and pre-reduced pellets.

If we are able to really advance in this area—that is what we are examining in depth at the moment—then there may be another area, for example, a supplementary stream of steel production which will be established which will help us push up our steel production much faster than what we have been doing in the last three or four years.

Sir, during the course of the discussion, a number of hon. Members have criticised, to use the words of my hon. friend, Shri Arjun Arora, the structure of management. I am not exactly clear about what he meant or what some other hon. Members meant. But I can assure the hon. Members that we are trying to devote far greater attention to, what I would call, the improvement of the managerial standards than what has been done in the past. After all, if you spend over a thousand crores on equipment, townships and all these things, on what may be called the material side of the steel plants, we should also spend much more than what we have done on, what may be called, the human side of the steel plants, that is to say, on developing competent managerial personnel, who will really be able to head the steel plants and carry through the enormous tasks that face us in the area and it is in this connection also that I want to say a word or two about industrial relations.

I recognise—and I do not think that there can be any denial of the fact—that it is the management's responsibility to see that industrial relations are good. I have never stated—and I would like to correct any impression that the hon. Members might have had—that the defects in the steel plants are due to, what might be called in a compendious manner, "labour trouble". That is not in principle the most important reason at all and one of the most important tasks facing the management and the Government in the coming period is the improvement of industrial relations. In trying to effect such an improvement, I am afraid, I am not in agreement with my friend, Shri Moha, when he said that we must come down with a heavy hand on the workers. There is no question of coming down with a heavy hand on anybody. There is, however, the question of being able to rally the workers, to motivate them, to bring them into the entire process of production, to make them feel part of the institution itself, and that is the task to which the management and the Government are more

and more addressing themselves. The transformation of the Joint Wage Negotiating Committee into the Joint Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry is one of the steps, I think, an important step in that direction. But, more than that even is doing what, I think, my friend, Shri Arjun Arora emphasised and also, I think, some others like Shri Kulkarni. So many people have spoken and I have mixed them up. It is the question of involving the workers at every level, that is to say, by setting up joint committees at every level of representatives of workers in the management who are able to participate actually in the business of developing and improving production. I personally also say quite frankly: Do not think that the mere inclusion of the representatives of the workers in the boards of management is, as it were, the final solution. I myself do not think that it is, in fact, a very important decision. But let me be quite frank about it before the House. Because the representatives of the trade unions were pressing us here and because I think that it is a positive step, it is that the Government agreed. But by itself it is not going to solve anything. On the contrary, it will merely mean the representatives of the workers at the highest level participating in decisions which does not mean anything from the point of view of day-to-day production.

From the point of view of solution of day to day problems, difficulties and even spots of conflict, unless we are able to involve the workers more and more at every level, right from the shop floor to the top of the steel plant itself, in the actual process of production I do not think we can solve this very difficult question of industrial relations. But in saying this I must also mention that I should really refer to the contribution made by my friend, Mr. Subramania Menon. It is not enough to go on repeating the adjective "corruption" and adding any number of nouns after that. That does not solve the problem, because that is the simplest way of disposing of all problems. 'Everybody is corrupt; so nothing can be solved'—this, I think, is no solution of the problem. I think we have to recognize that if for political reasons the workers are asked to strike in steel plants, it is not a question of industrial relations at all. It is a question of trying to use political pressure by striking at an area which is peculiarly vulnerable to strikes. It has nothing to do very often with what is happening inside the steel plants. This was going on in Durgapur off and on for the last two years that has done the most enormous harm both to the equipment and production in Durgapur. I think it would not be unfair to say that the

[Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam]
management, whether it is in Durgapur or whether it is Bhilai or whether it is in Rourkela is, by and large, the same management. But how is it that we have 79 per cent production in Bhilai, 56 per cent in Rourkela and then we go down to below 40 per cent in Durgapur? There must be some special reasons for this downward trend in Durgapur. And the special reason for this, I think, is the reluctance of the leaders of the trade unions in Durgapur, and particularly of the recognized unions—I would like to say that quite frankly—to face up to the fact that politics should not be dragged into the shop floor and should not be used to disrupt production. At the same time, I would like to conclude this part of my contribution in this House today by stating that we are at the moment in the process of having a dialogue with the unions, whatever may be their political complexion, in order to be able to find any meeting ground so as to be able to reduce conflict to the minimum. I myself am going to participate in some of these discussions, particularly in regard to problems that we have been having with Officers' Association in Durgapur, from whose memorandum quotations were read out in this House. I am going to meet their representatives in the very near future. So I am sure the House will appreciate that we are taking as many initiatives as we can in order to improve the position, so far as industrial relations are concerned.

Then, let me refer to one or two points of importance—I think raised by Shri Arjun Arora—regarding the use of deformed bars for house construction and general structures. Production of deformed bars, considering their potential for saving steel, is being increased progressively. It has increased from about 5,000 tonnes in 1967-68 to over 100,000 tonnes in 1970-71. Additional facilities for high speed bar twisting are being set up at Bhilai and Durgapur. TISCO, IISCO and some others in the private sector are also increasing production of deformed bars. Total production this year is expected to be over 150,000 tonnes and during the next year over 200,000 tonnes.

And if we can speed up still further the development of the production of deformed steel or torsteel, then certainly we shall do it.

Then, let me deal with a point raised by Shri Krishan Kant, that is, the question of import of refractories. He is not entirely correct in saying that Tatas do not import any refractories at all. In 1970-71, Tatas imported nearly Rs. 50 lakhs worth of refractories; possibly they would have to import similar quantities in the coming years also in spite of the fact that they have got their own refractories plant at Belpahar. All imports of refractories are actually decided in consultation with the D.G.T.D. and the

Indian Refractories Manufacturers Association also comes into the picture there. So far as the imports of Hindustan Steel are concerned, the Government is satisfied that the indigenous manufacturers have not been able to supply all the refractories that we need or supply them in time, and that is why we are still importing quite a large number of refractories. Now, if we do not have enough refractories it affects the steel plants at the most vital area, namely, both in the blast furnaces and the coke ovens. It is impossible to carry on unless we have got first class refractories, and the demand, even today, is far higher than the actual production. So, what we are doing now is apart from having taken a decision—which hon. Members are aware of—of setting up a refractories plant in the public sector with an installed capacity of 100,000 tonnes, we have also appointed a technical committee to make a quantitative assessment of all these requirements of the steel industry for the next 15 years, to assess the existing installed capacity and to work out suitable steps for raising production right up to the rated capacity and to examine all other aspects of production of refractories so that we could really do something useful and rely on our own production capacity for the future.

Then, I think it was Mr. Krishan Kant again who also raised the question of spares, that whereas Tatas import only Rs. 1 crore, Hindustan Steel is importing Rs. 10 crores. The figures are these: Tatas imported spares to the extent of Rs. 1.58 crores in 1969-70; for 1970-71 it will be in the region of Rs. 2.50 crores; for 1971-72 also it should be about the same. Now, Hindustan Steel's figures are: Rs. 7 crores in 1969-70; Rs. 8.5 crores in 1970-71; and probably about Rs. 8.5 crores, also in 1971-72. If we compare the production in Tatas, rather the installed capacity in Tatas and the installed capacity in the public sector steel plants, I do not think it is a very unjust comparison but, at the same time, I would like to say that we are not entirely satisfied,—I think I will cut out "entirely"—we are not satisfied with the position as it stands in relation to manufacturing our own spares and, what my friend, Shri Krishan Kant said—I think the point he was trying to make, and it is a correct point—was that we should pay much more attention to the manufacture of our own spares in our own plants. We are aware of that and I can assure him that—I am not just saying something for the sake of saying it—we are trying to do our best in that direction.

Then, may I mention a word now about the new steel plants that are coming up? We are going ahead with all our plans. The location of the steel plants has been decided so far as Vizag, Hospet and Salem are concerned. In Salem we expect to go into production earlier, and I may mention to my friend, Mr. Panthasarathy who raised this

point that while we have fixed the present production capacity as 250 000 tonnes I think it would be fair to say that in the not too distant future as new technology gets fully established and demands increase, the Salem plant would have to be substantially expanded. In fact, we have kept some additional space which will enable us to go ahead with this expansion.

Now, the next thing that I would like to take up is the question of Bokaro. Honourable Members have, I think, with justice, made remarks about the delay in Bokaro coming to operation and I think it is worth while for me to cover that ground again.

It is I put it mildly a fairly well trodden ground. What I would like to point out is in Bokaro we are making a qualitative change from the position as it stood in relation to the steel plants that we have built earlier. The indigenous contribution to the construction of Bokaro is somewhere in the region of 65 per cent, that is to say, out of the total equipment for the first stage of Bokaro of 275 000 tonnes somewhere in the region of 65 per cent is going to be produced in our own country and out of a total of 4,07,000 tonnes required for the 4 million tonnes stage, nearly 65 per cent will be erected in the first stage itself. This is something of which we can well be proud but while we take some pride in that, we also have to admit that the target that we put before ourselves for achieving the construction of Bokaro within particular periods of time, that is to say, the first blast furnace by December 1971, the 17 million stage by somewhere in March 1973 and so on, we are lagging substantially behind in the supply from the HEC to Bokaro. We expect that we will be able to complete those supplies but possibly, there may be a delay of 6 to 12 months for certain complex items and on crucial or critical items, we have had to decide to make imports from the Soviet Union but we are taking some very definite and clearcut steps to make a qualitative change in the working of the HEC. We have taken some steps towards management reorganisation, towards far closer planning of production, particularly progress planning in the HEC because the HEC is a Corporation where almost every single item which we seek to manufacture is different from another item. You may have 2 or 3 blast furnaces or something like that but it is not like producing tens or thousands of pens or buckets where you just put something in the beginning and it comes out the same later, or even in our steel plants where you start with the coke over and you end with the rolling mills, but here every single item is different and they go in a different order also from machine to machine. So unless you have proper progress planning and control you will find a large amount of capacity of the HEC remaining unutilised and therefore we have one of the most depressing areas in

the whole engineering industry in our country, of the HEC having to admit to a utilisation of capacity of somewhere in the region of 23 to 25 per cent. This cannot be allowed to go on and it is our determination, the Government is determined to see that this situation changes and that is why we have conducted an important reorganisation of the management recently and we are keeping a very very close monthly high level review of production and of problems and giving every help so that we can see to it that the reorganised management is able to achieve something very soon, very soon means, let us say, within a year or two because results are not shown within a day or two. I think I see signs of improvement in the HEC and the pessimism that I would have had perhaps 2 months ago is considerably less to day.

Let me mention also, after dealing with the HEC, the position so far as the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation is concerned, another very sick unit. There are quite a large number of sick units under the Ministry of Steel and Mines.

SHRI A G KULKARNI A hospital ward

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMANGA I AM I hope the doctor will be able to do something. So far as this Corporation is concerned there again we have had certain reorganisation of the management and we are taking certain steps to see to it that modern methods of progress control are—again there is the same problem because you have different items—introduced so that we make a rapid improvement there.

6 P M

Now that is so far as production is concerned. Let me now deal for a few minutes with the question of distribution. Before I go on generally to the question of distribution I would just like to assure my friend Mr Kulkarni, that this complaint of the Bombay Corporation has been brought to my notice three days ago if I am not inaccurate or perhaps four days ago but I have immediately moved in the matter to investigate the truth of it and I can assure him that if anybody is responsible for what has happened he will not be allowed to get away scot free. Action is being taken to find out the truth or otherwise in the matter.

SHRI A G KULKARNI The same is the case with everybody who receives the material.

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMANGA I AM But he would also appreciate that 90 per cent of the allocations made from steel production go directly from the steel plants to the person concerned, to the allottee. Out of 100 tonnes of steel produced in our country 90 tonnes go straight to the allottee, that is to say, according to the allotment decided by the Joint Plant Committee.

[Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam] and the Steel Priority Committee. I am not now on the point whether the allotment made is good or bad but 90 per cent of the production does go straight to the allottee. Both the Joint Plant Committee and the Steel Priority Committee are high-level Committees and I think by and large regarding the actual allotments made by the Joint Plant Committee and the Steel Priority Committee. I am not getting many complaints. But I do not say therefore there is no corruption. I do not say therefore that everything is beautiful in the garden of steel distribution. Naturally when there is scarcity there is bound to be misuse, corruption and so many things of which we cannot be proud in any way, and we are trying continuously to see whether we cannot reduce the area of corruption and improve the machinery of distribution but ultimately I do not think I will be. . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: But Mr. Kumaramangalam, what . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): You need not call him by name; you can say hon. Minister. And you address the Chair.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, the point that I was making was this. I am not disputing the point that in the steel distribution system it is the actual user who gets 90 per cent of the production. I am not disputing that at all.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It is not actual users, it is fictitious users.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): We do not want an argument; we do not want a discussion. Let him continue.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: When he is on the point I am putting the question. I am making out the point that even after the allotment is rightfully decided on the basis of priorities it is the prerogative of the last clerk to deliver the goods in the wagon and there the corruption starts and from there it goes right up to the head man in the industry.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me tell my hon. friend quite frankly that we have not been receiving complaints in relation to that area, that is to say, after the allotment has been made the allottee is not able to get the goods allotted to him.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: In time.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: In time or not in time. If the hon. Member can help me in identifying the persons I will be grateful.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: No, no, I have burnt my fingers so many times.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me finish, I know that. Even

if it is a justifiable grievance if you tell the Government of your grievance the only result is that whatever you were getting you won't get.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): The Minister also must address the Chair.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I am trying to address the Chair. But when from behind there is machine gunning and I get a fusillade I want to save myself.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Chair is not that much attractive; that is the difficulty.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: That is unparliamentary.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I quite understand the difficulty but there is really no solution ultimately to this problem except increasing production. I would like the Co-operation of all hon. Members to help me to see that we are able to reduce these malpractices in distribution but beyond that I think it is difficult for me to say more.

Before I deal with my friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy's points and I must deal with them because he was the only one who was concerned very much with the other limb of my Ministry of which I am in charge, namely, the mines. . .

. I must deal with two questions that have been raised by my friend, Mr. Krishan Kant. One is the agreement signed by the Central Engineering and Design Bureau with, on the one hand, the TIAJ-PROMEXPORT, the Soviet organisation, and, on the other hand, with the United Engineering and Foundry Corporation. I would like to make it clear right at the outset that both these agreements arose out of discussions that were going on in the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Industrial Development and in the Government as a whole from as far back as 1965. In 1965 the Chairman of the Heavy Engineering Corporation at that time, the Managing Director of the Bokaro Steel Plant and the Chief Engineer, CEDB, were set up as a Committee by the then Ministry of Steel to go into the question of finding out the gaps in our design organisation in the country. Can it be that there is a gap and if there is a gap what should we do for the future? I do not know. . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Mr. Kalyan Roy's points also may be answered.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: If the House will permit me, I would like to deal with them.

SHRI A G KULKARNI It is a very important point which is engaging the attention of the country

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMANGA LAM I am sure Mr Kulkarni does not think that I am trying to avoid the point If you will give me another half an hour I shall continue.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A D MANI) Yes, you may continue.

It was in 1965 that this matter first came up for discussion The problem really was at what stage are we lacking in what may be called the design organisation and what is the gap that has to be filled Now, by and large, if one looks at the whole question of design work in our country or in any country one can divide it broadly into five areas The first is the techno economic survey and the feasibility report which would broadly show what is the position in regard to the product that we are trying to manufacture in relation to raw materials, in relation to whatever resources we have, the demand in the country, etc Then, we come next to the actual drafting of the project report, the DPR, which deals with the general design of the plant covering all aspects of the layout, the process, the size of each constituent of the complex, nature of equipment required in each complex and the performance expected of them and of common services From that we go to project engineering within the scope of the DPR, preparation of detailed plan and design of each individual complex conforming to the specifications in the DPR, for instance, coke ovens, blast furnaces, rolling mills and so on Then, we come to the fourth stage, the detailed engineering design for each of the above equipments with mechanical and electrical equipment and instrumentation according to the parameters that have been laid down in the engineering project itself Finally, we come to shop drawings Now, the view that was taken as far back as 1965 was that though we were quite capable of indigenously meeting the demands of the first, second and, to a large extent, the fifth stage, that is to say the techno economic survey, the DPR and to a large extent the shop drawings, we were lacking so far as stages 3 and 4 were concerned i.e. project engineering within the scope of the DPR and the detailed engineering design for every one of those equipments It was in relation to these that ultimately on the 17th May 1966 the then Secretary, Iron and Steel Department, the Secretary of the Industries Department under which was the Heavy Engineering Corporation, together with Hindustan Steel, Bokaro and the Heavy Engineering Corporation, decided that was exactly in what may be called parts 3 and 4 I have referred to earlier—there was a gap and we

should go ahead and see what was the collaboration that was available to fill this gap. Then, on 10th December, 1966 the Indo-Soviet agreement on technical and economic co operation was signed and in that there was a specific item that was signed by Mr. Sachin Chaudhury, the then Finance Minister, under which both parties agreed to the setting up of a design institute for the metallurgical industry in India

So, the story goes on stage by stage. I do not want to go into all the stages But I can assure hon Members that right from June, 1966, 1967 and 1968 these matters were being discussed both inside the Government here in India and also with the Soviet Union I think it was in 1968 beginning—if I am not wrong—that the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union visited our country, the head of the Soviet Design Organisation also came here, and matters reached quite far towards an understanding by that time A protocol was signed on the 6th March, 1968 by which it was agreed that the CEDB should be strengthened in the area, that is to say, steel designing, and the organisation, the Design Institute to be set up in our country should be based on this CEDB I am mentioning all these things because it was only in June, 1968 that Mr Chandy became Chairman of HSL and the main work in relation to the character of the agreement that was to be signed had already been processed and gone through prior to the appointment of Mr Chandy as chairman I do not say this to absolve him of all responsibilities for the agreement Every body is responsible in the sense that I myself will become responsible because after becoming Minister of Steel I take over the agreement, unless I say it is a bad agreement But certainly it would not be fair to give anybody the impression that it was Mr Chandy who was the father and mother of this agreement from A to Z On the contrary, the broad contours of this agreement had already been settled before Mr Chandy became the chairman of HSL In September 1968 the draft contract was sent by the Soviet Union for discussion here and ultimately after discussing here I think—if I am not wrong—in November 1969 the delegation headed by Mr Chandy including a Joint Secretary from the Ministry, Mr Sabanavigam and the Vice Chairman as he was then of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Mr Jagota and also the Chief Engineer of the Central Engineering and Design Bureau all visited the Soviet Union and signed an agreement on the 27th November 1969 which agreement was subject to clearance by the Government here They returned with this provisional agreement if I may call it so to India at that time Now the most important change that was made even before the agreement was finally approved of by the Government in May 1970 was that the draft agreement of November, 1969 provided for the establish

[Vice Chairman (Shri A. D. Mani)]

ment of a Central Designing Institute where as the final agreement provided for the Central Engineering and Design Bureau being the organisation to which all this help was to be given by the Soviet Union. It would not be fair to the delegation that went to the Soviet Union not to mention that even at the time when they were discussing in Moscow they pressed that the Central Engineering and Design Bureau should be accepted as the organisation with which the collaboration should be entered into. But the Soviet party seems to have emphasised and relied upon the original protocol signed by Mr. Sachin Chaudhury in December, 1966 which mentioned a Central Design Institute. And this point was only settled after the delegation came back, further discussions took place and then the Soviet Union agreed to the Central Engineering and Design Bureau being ultimately the organisation, along which line the entire agreement should be made. Therefore the original expression used in the agreement was "The supplier that is the Soviet Union's (TIAJ PROMEXPORT) shall render the customer (the customer at that time was Hindustan Steel Limited) technical assistance in organising a Design Institute for designing iron and steel enterprises". That was the original. It was changed after discussion to "The supplier shall render the customer technical assistance in developing the customer's Central Engineering and Design Bureau, hereinafter called the CEDB." That was really the basic change that was made.

Then Mr. Krishan Kant raised criticism of paragraph 2 of the Agreement which says:

"The tasks of the CEDB shall comprise the following:

Preparation of proposals for long term plans of the ferrous industry development. . ."

I am not sure whether he exactly appreciated the import of this paragraph because the paragraph does not say that the Soviet Design Organisation is going to give us help in this whole area. It is outlining here the tasks of the CEDB which reads as follows:

"The tasks of the CEDB shall comprise the following:

Preparation of proposals for long term plans of the ferrous industry development including technical and economic groundings. . ."

It is really a definition of the task of the CEDB. Then, if we take paragraph 3 of the Articles it starts in this way and it is the article which really covers the duty of the supplier. It says:

"The Supplier", namely the Tiaj promexport, "The Supplier shall prepare and hand over to the Customer within 12 (twelve) months from the signing date of

the present Contract the guiding materials and norms for technological designing of the main metallurgical processes (Coke-oven and By-Product and Sintering plants, Blast Furnace and Steel Making Shops, Rolling Mills, etc.) as per Appendix No 3".

And so it goes on. My understanding is that the Tiajpromexport will not prepare all the future projections for our steel industry and so and so forth, that the Tiajpromexport are to give the drawing which are mentioned in paragraph 3.

Whereas paragraph 2 essentially covers ..

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: My question is whether we require all this. Have we not got all the talent or expertise.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Mr. Krishan Kant raised a question of self respect. You may briefly answer that. And please do not forget the point about coal which Mr. Kalyan Roy raised.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I hope you are allergic to my points.

(Interruption by Shri Kalyan Roy)

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Kalyan Roy, let me assure you, through the Chair that if you are prepared to stay here for a long time I am prepared to cover all the points, very important points that you raised. Being able to cover all of them, it would not be fair for me to leave them vague.

So far as the other point raised by Mr. Krishan Kant is concerned, I do not think that there is any question of our lacking in self respect when we entered into this agreement. Going through all the records starting from 1965, after the agreement was signed almost five years ago every authority in Government at every level, has exercised his mind on this question—how big was the gap, how can the gap be filled—and it was after the exercise of mind by all these authorities that ultimately this agreement was signed. Therefore, it is an agreement which I think was brought into being by everybody concerned. It was not as though it was the work of any individual person. And about the good and bad in the agreement so far as I am concerned I think it is good. The good or the bad in the agreement is the responsibility of all.

(Interruption by Shri Krishan Kant): Let me come to that. Why are you so impatient? Did I interrupt you when you were talking? I did not. So let me have my chance also. Why is it that you are always in such a hurry? Sir, so far as that part of the agreement is concerned, I think it would be good and honourable Members would pardon me if I take a little time in dealing with them.

Sir, it was an agreement by which the Soviet Union Design Organisation, the Tiajpromexport was to help our design organisation, the Central Engineering Design Bureau. Soviet specialists were to come to India and the Indian Engineers were to go to the Soviet Union to be trained. Naturally, when it was the question of the Soviet specialists coming to India, we were to pay to the Soviet specialists. They were demanded certain conditions so far as life in India is concerned. I think it is not surprising that they should demand certain conditions, especially those who come from other countries, similar conditions, if not for better conditions than are given to foreign specialists. By and large, the Soviet specialists, having seen the way in which they live, I can say it is much more simple than specialists who come from other parts of the world.

But then why is it that the Soviet specialists who come here are given better conditions under this agreement than those given to our specialists or engineers who go to the Soviet Union? It is for the reason that we are paying for both. It is not that the Soviets pay for our specialists when they go there. We pay for them also because we are the persons who are buying something, as it were, from the Soviet Union. Whether we consider it right or wrong is a different matter. We are not on that point now. We are now on the point whether in the case of our experts who go to the Soviet Union, we should insist that they must also be provided with all comforts, frigidaires and so on and so forth. If we had insisted, perhaps the Soviets would have given them, but they would have asked us to pay correspondingly because we are sending our specialists there not in order to help the Soviet Union. If we were sending our specialists to help the Soviet Union to set up a Soviet Design Organisation then we could demand certain the same conditions that the Soviet specialists get here. But when we are sending our engineers to learn there, to get trained there and we have to pay for them, then naturally we agree to certain living conditions which we think are reasonable for the Indian engineers when they go there. Only last month, I personally met our engineers who are living in the Soviet Union and I can assure hon. Members that they did not make any complaint about the living conditions which they are having there. It is true that there were living two to a room and there was some difficulty for some time, for some time, they were even three to a room. But as a result of discussions, they have been able to live quite decently. But ultimately, let us understand, this is really not a question of reciprocity. It is not a question of the Soviet man being treated better here and the Indian man being treated worse in the Soviet Union.

With all respect to my friend, that would be a distortion of the actual position.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have never said that. I only said money is no consideration and that it is a question of dignity and self-respect. I asked: Why did we agree to it?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: There was no question of our agreeing to anything the Soviet Union demanded. It was a question of what we asked for. We did not want to ask for a lavish flat because we cannot afford it. We are satisfied that our engineers are patriotic enough to be content with the limited accommodation which they are being given in the Soviet Union. They did not insist on greater and more luxurious accommodation. When they do not insist on it, when the Indian Government does not insist on it, I do not see why my good friend should insist on it.

(Interruption)

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, he wants to look at the whole thing in terms of rupees, annas and pies.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): You have stated your point of view quite ably when you made your speech. The Minister is now replying. His reply may be good or bad. It is for the House to decide. We cannot go on arguing with the Minister.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा आपने कहा "इट इज फॉर दि हाउस टु डिमाइड" तो हाउस मे वे भी शामिल है।

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. D. MANI): Both the viewpoints have been put forward. It is for you to pass a judgement. But you cannot go on arguing with the Minister on the point and ask him to get converted to your point of view.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Every time I express agreement with Mr. Krishan Kant, he keeps quiet. Every time I express disagreement with him, he interrupts me. Why this partiality?

Now, so far as the United Engineering contract is concerned...

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about the Bhilai agreement regarding accommodation, etc.?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me look up the Bhilai agreement and answer it inside or outside the House as you wish.

Now so far as the question of United Engineering agreement is concerned, that is specifically in the field of rolling mills. They are supposed to be the leading experts in the construction of rolling mills in the world. The main criticism that has been made would appear to be (1) we have not

[Shri S Mohan Kumaramangalam] manufactured any rolling mills since. It is true that—one would have to say quite frankly—we expected to be able to go over into the question of construction of, manufacture of, rolling mills earlier. We are only doing so now. That I think would be a correct statement of the position. Secondly, that it should really have been signed with the Heavy Engineering Corporation. Whether it should have been signed with the Heavy Engineering Corporation or not, I think it is a matter which one need not debate longer because I can assure honourable Members that the authorities of the Heavy Engineering Corporation themselves were entirely in agreement with the position that the agreement should be signed with the CE&DB and it was on that basis that it was put through. I think I have spent enough time on that.

May I now come to my friend, Mr Kalyan Roy, who must be waiting with some impatience? First of all, I would recognise that we have not taken all the steps which we should have been able to do in relation to the proper conservation and utilisation of our coal resources particularly cooking coal. Mr Kalyan Roy knows far more about coal industries than I do. But I think I am entitled to agree with him on something sometimes, and the most important thing which is common in what he was saying and what I myself feel is that adequate steps to what may be called put an end to slaughter mining have not been taken by us over all these years. And as a result much of the richer seams of coal have been ruthlessly exploited by private capital leaving more difficult seams to be exploited later, a sort of money making as quickly as possible. I may assure him that so far as Jharia coal fields are concerned, we are going into the matter very, very, carefully and as quickly as possible. As I gave the assurance even earlier we do want to take definite decisions which I think will satisfy even him that guarantees are being created which will make it possible for us to take the maximum out of the coal wealth of our country which today is not going on, I fully concede. Now, he asked also about subsidy for stowing, how much is going into the hands of big industry, fourteen industrial houses getting 30 per cent, and so on. I appreciate what he was saying and I think reorganisation of the coal industry is the only answer to this in the last analysis. We are looking into it and we hope we will be able to find a solution and report it before the House meets next in the manner which will satisfy the House.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What about wagon shortage?

SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: As far as wagon shortage is concerned for the last three months, that is to say

May, June, July, we have been passing through—he knows as well as I do—a very, very, difficult period. We have been urging upon the Railways somewhere in the region of 5,600 wagons though we will need something like 6,500 in the Bengal Bihar area. Owing to various difficulties they have not been able to come up to that position. They went down at the beginning of July to somewhere around 5,100 or 5,150, to a very serious situation. From about the 10th or 11th July they begin to pick up again, and they did cross the 5,500 or 5,600 mark. Even during the last three days actually, if you exclude Sundays, we have held very serious discussions about that and we expect it to pick up during the course of the next fortnight or so. I can assure the honourable Member, though I can appreciate also his scepticism because he has had the assurance several times that we are trying to do our best in the matter and we hope that in the immediate period, in a month or two, we shall be able to achieve a decisive improvement in shifting coal from the coal pit heads. We know that the amount of coal that has got accumulated now at the pit heads is somewhere between 8 and 9 million tons while normally between 4 and 4½ million tons should be there. And we are doing it as quickly as possible to lessen it in the coming three or four months.

So far as the question of copper is concerned, copper is improving now. I think we are over the hump and we should be able to keep to the targets which we put before ourselves. He was very harsh in his criticism about operation hard rock. I find now on going through the papers that we have been able to get some benefit out of that operation whatever may have been its other weaknesses.

We have discovered as a result of the work done through the Operation Hardrock, copper, nickel, cobalt, zinc and lead in a number of different areas like Rajasthan, Bihar and even in Andhra Pradesh though one is not definite yet about the exact quantum. We will have to carry out further geological on the spot investigation in order to be able to decide exactly whether they are exploitable commercially and from the point of view of the country.

SHRI SUBRAMANIA MENON's complaint of coal not being linked to quality is not correct. As a result of Chari committee which considered this matter, no coal now comes to the steel plant unless its quality is determined and it is paid for according to a particular quality. There may always be certain defects in the working of the system. But there is a system existing and by and large it has worked quite well.

So far as the question of contract labour in the Coal Development Corporation is concerned—I think Shri Kalyan Roy raised

that point—it is mainly in building construction, road making, tunnel driving, and so on. I do not think we are going beyond the findings of the Davey Court of Inquiry and Banerjee Court of Inquiry which specifically laid down areas which could be covered and dealt with by contract labour. If the NCDC is violating the norms laid down and if you bring it to my notice, then I will certainly ask them to see what the position is and let you know.

A point about our national coal policy was raised. I would not say that we have got a national coal policy yet. I think we have merely been proceeding on the basis of putting certain targets for coal production. This is not essentially a national coal policy. Our modified coal target for the Fourth Plan is 93.5 million tonnes. Initially it was much more and then we modified it. What we are really trying to do is to evolve a national fuel policy itself and coal, as you know, is one of the most important fuels. That will be taken care of along with others such as electric power, oil, and so on. What we have done was to set up a committee headed by a Member of the Planning Commission, Prof. Chakravarty, and the committee includes persons well known like Dr. Lahiri on the one hand and Dr. Krishna of the Indian Institute of Petroleum on the other to examine the entire scope of fuel resources of our country, regional pattern of their distribution, the current trends of exploitation and use of fuel and the estimated prospective demand by sectors and regions wanting to use fuels like coal, lignite, petroleum and electric power. On that basis they will come to a decision as to what are the targets we have to put before ourselves in every area and field of fuel available to the country. They will also decide what will be the most economic fuel to be used by different sectors of industry for economic development. I think that would really meet what is in the mind of the hon. Member. It is not a national coal policy as such. But it is a national fuel policy which covers coal as well.

I think, Mr. Vice Chairman, I have covered all the points raised by hon. Members.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI. What about billets? About 100 people are receiving them. Have you got any policy on billets?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA I.A.M. We have got a policy on everything. It may be a wrong policy or right policy. But there is nothing on which we have no policy. So far as billets are...

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Is there any co-ordination between the ruling Party members and the Minister?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI. Ours is a democratic Party. It is not like the Communist Party.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA I.A.M. On the question of billets, I think the position is this:

Now, there is the Technical Assessment Committee set up in July 1966 and that Committee recommended that only those billet re-rollers who fulfil certain minimum requirements in equipment and efficiency should be treated as billet re-rollers and given billets and all other re-rollers should continue to use scrap since the billet rolling capacity was limited, and those whose billet re-rolling capacity has been so recognised have been given billets over a period, that is, persons who are considered efficient billet re-rollers in the view of the Technical Assessment Committee in that area.

Now, what has happened is that the SRMA, the Steel Rolling Mills Association, agreed that all the re-rolling units should be taken as their members and if this goes through, I think much of the problem would be solved. So, Sir, at least as far as this is concerned, I think he is satisfied. We must be thankful in the world for small mercies. Thank you, Sir.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

I. THE PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS) BILL, 1971

II. THE AGRICULTURAL REFINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1971

III. THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY BILL, 1971

SECRETARY. Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:—

(I)

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 1971, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 31st July, 1971."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Agricultural Refinance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1971, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 31st July, 1971."