

है। यह अन्धेरे हो रहा है और कह रहे हैं कि आपने कानून बना दिया सब कुछ हो गया।

**SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA** He has given the details. I will look into the matter and then

**SHRI ARJUN ARORA** 'Then' means when? The assurance should be definite.

Will he come back and lay a statement on the Table of the House during the current year?

**SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA** I will look into the matter, go into the details and collect information. We will place it on the Table of the House. We will try to do that.

**Mr CHAIRMAN** Next question

**UNUTILIZED INSTALLED CAPACITY OF  
DUGDA, PATHERDIH AND OTHER  
WASHERIES**

\*411 **DR Z A AHMAD**  
**SHRI KALYAN ROY** †

Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री** be pleased to state

whether it is a fact that installed capacities of Dugda, Patherdi and other Washeries of the Hindustan Steel Limited, are largely remaining unutilised and if so the reasons therefor and to what extent their capacities have been utilised in 1969-1970 and 1971?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)** A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT**

The following table indicates the percentage utilisation of the capacities in terms of raw coal input in respect of five Washeries under Hindustan Steel

Limited for the years 1969-1970 and 1971 (January to April/May, 1971)

Washeries	Percentage capacity utilisation		
	1969	1970 (Jan to May)	1971
Dudgah-I	51.7	38.1	40.4
Dudgah-II	57.5	58.4	47.2
Bhojudih	81.5	71.0	71.8
Patherdi	64.4	59.5	52.7
Durgapur	66.9	50.5	27.0*

\*On capital repairs during February and March (upto 23-3-71). The information relates to the period January to April, 71.

Washeries are the service units of the Steel Industry and production from Washeries is normally expected to match the demand of washed coal of the steel plants. Production at the Washeries is therefore, affected as a result of shortfalls in iron and steel production. Other reasons for under-utilisation of capacity include short supply of wagons for the movement of washed coal, inadequate availability of raw coal of proper quality, difficulties in transport of middlings, labour unrest (at the Durgapur Washery) etc.

**SHRI KALYAN ROY** Sir, whatever was being utilized in 1969-70 is not being utilized now and the average production today is less than 50 per cent in each of the washery plants. Now, certain reasons have been given by the hon. Minister like short supply of wagons for which the Railway Ministry should be put in the dock.

I would like to ask this new socialist Minister

**AN HON. MEMBER** Ex-Socialist Minister. . .

**SHRI KALYAN ROY** . . . or ex-Socialist Minister. Does he know the reasons regarding the corruption that is going on in the matter of purchase of coal for the washeries from the private sector in coal mines?

And most of the officers are in the payment of or are being paid by the mine-owners so that they can cheat the

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.

State sector by selling inferior type of coal at fabulous prices and thus making a lot of profit, because the coal-miners in the private sector are supplying 90% of the coal to the Central washeries. This is number one. And number two; not only that; they supply cheap grade coal and that also they do not supply in the proper weight; there is short weight. In other words, if they are asked to supply 10,000 tonnes of coal, they will give only 5,000 tonnes. And that short weight is not being properly checked. Once we pointed it out in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Is he aware of the fact that the Raniganj Coal Association supplied less than what it was ordered to supply; actually the quantity supplied was less than what it should be. Yet they got a higher amount by corrupting the officers. Is he aware of this fact?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is No. two: is he not aware.... number three or four. If you take five minutes to put your questions....

SHRI KALYAN ROY : No, Sir. I am a very disciplined Member and I would not take much time. Is he also aware that there is an absolute lack in the proper maintenance of the washeries and that Dugdah (II) washery, which was installed in collaboration with America, had been found to be totally defective and it was shut down for some time because the installation was defective? What is he going to do about the defects in the electric installations and other things, which led to accidents, so that whatever faults are there can be rectified.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : I find it a little difficult to follow all the questions and may I request the hon. Member through you, Sir, if it is possible for the hon. Member, to specify what particular questions he wants me to answer? He has covered a large area by a number of questions, and to the best of my ability I will answer them. First of all, so

far the general allegations of corruption are concerned, if the hon. Member will give me any details, I will certainly have them investigated, and because that has not been mentioned in the question here, I am not in a position to answer a general allegation of this character. Very frankly I am not aware that there has been such widespread corruption that the officers are selling coal to private parties; I am not aware of it. If the hon. Member will give me details, I will certainly immediately have them investigated and put before the House whatever are the facts about it.

Secondly, so far as the question of lack of proper maintenance is concerned, so far as I am aware, this is not one of the reasons for the comparatively low utilisation of capacity but I would like to mention to the hon. Member and to the House that a committee headed by the Chief Technical Adviser to the Department of Mines, Mr. Chari, is at present engaged in identifying the deficiencies in the washeries. We expect its report very soon, possibly within three or four months, may be by the end of the year. We hope that the Committee will be able to give us all the details so far as the weaknesses in their functioning are concerned. Finally, so far as the capacity is concerned, ordinarily a washery is expected to function to about 80 per cent or so. The washeries have been provided all the coal that is necessary for Hindustan Steel by and large. We know there are the deficiencies and that is why this Committee is going into it.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : What about the defects in the Dugdah (II) washery for which it was shut down, the defects in the electric installation in that washery for which it was shut down?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : I am sorry I am not aware of it. If you give me notice, I will go into the details and give you a reply. Do you wish to see me outside? I will tell you.

SHRI D. THENGARI : By this time has the Government fixed the responsibility for the errors of commission and omission in the setting up of

the plants in these two washeries that stopped working for a number of weeks and, secondly, whether there is any scheme for collaboration or proper coordination between the coal industry and the washeries and Hindustan Steel? Is there a proper coordinating machinery?

**SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM :** I do not think that there is any necessity for greater coordination between Hindustan Steel and its own washeries on the one hand, and also the other coalmines from which it is taking the coal. I think that this is not one of the reasons which is responsible for whatever is defective here in the present situation. So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I expect that this Committee will be able to give us all the material on the basis of which we can take further action.

**SHRI N SRI RAMA REDDY :** Sir, from the Statement laid on the Table of the House I find there are certain contradictions. In the year 1969 the capacity of Dugdah (I) was 51 per cent whereas in the year 1971 it has fallen to 40 per cent. Similarly, in every case, whether it is Dugdah II or Pathardih or Bhojudih or Durgapur, in every one of these washeries the utilisation has fallen down. I would like to know what exactly were the reasons. With the increased production of steel, was it not possible to make use of their production to a greater extent? If that was so, what are the various reasons that have contributed to this state of affairs?

**SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM :** So far as the Dugdah washery is concerned, the main reasons are shortfall in the supply of wagons for the movement of washed coal and the DVC belt conveyors for transporting middlings because some of the coal from these washeries goes to the Damodar Valley Corporation, from the washeries to the Chandrapura thermal power station. So far as the Bhojudih colliery is concerned, —comparatively, of course, it is doing considerably better— it is mainly due to short supply of wagons for the movement of washed coal. So far as Pathardih washery is

concerned, it is due to short supply of wagons for taking washed coal and middlings and inadequate availability of raw coal of the proper quality suitable for the washery. In Durgapur, as has been mentioned by one of the Members earlier, it is partly due to maintenance problems which are being investigated now and partly due to difficulties in the area of labour.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :** Is any serious attempt being made to improve the situation?

**SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM :** I can say that we are making every effort to see that the situation is improved but one cannot give time limits and guarantee; one judge only on the basis of performance.

#### OVERHAULING OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD.

412 **SHRI N. G. GORAY** will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to overhaul completely the Hindustan Steel Limited set up,

(b) whether Government propose to set up a committee of experts including foreigners for the purpose; and

(c) whether Government have completely abandoned the proposal to disassociate all previous Chairmen of HSI with the said committee?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**SHRI N. G. GORAY :** Sir, I have asked this question because, as the Minister himself will agree, all of us have been feeling worried about Hindustan Steel. Sir, if you look at the speech of the Finance Minister you will see that he has mentioned this industry as one of the keys to our future growth and in this House and elsewhere very often it has been pointed out that so far as production of steel is concerned, we