

Proclamation period. Naturally, even then he had not suggested the dissolution of the House. Even the first time when he made a recommendation for takeover of the administration, he did not recommend a dissolution. He kept the House in suspension because he always wanted to have an opportunity to allow a democratic and popular Government to be formed; to revive the constitutional working of the Government.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Sir, I would crave your indulgence. The Governor had said that it was being continued only for the sake of election to the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Mr. Mishra is a very important political thinker and constitutional pandit. He mentioned the immediate reason, but the basic reason—it is not necessary to mention; it is inherent all the time in the situation. Does he mean to suggest that the Governor had in mind that immediately after the election to the Rajya Sabha the House was to be dissolved? It is not so. You must not take a literal meaning of it. The intention of the Governor has always been to seize the first opportunity to form a Government and revive the democratic functioning of the Government. It goes to the credit of the Governor that even when he had recommended the extension of the Proclamation period on the 14th, when he saw the possibility of forming a stable Government, he seized upon it and went against his own recommendation to make a recommendation to the President to this effect. You must give congratulations to the Governor for his moral courage, for his honourable conduct. *(Interruption.)* The point is whether he made any miscalculations. There also is another drama, in both the States. There is one common drama. In both U.P. and Bihar somebody was wanted as the leader and he was refusing to be the leader. Here is another case. Shri Ramanand Tiwary was first of all appointed leader of the SVD. Somebody was trying to garland him and he was rejecting it. There was Shri Charan Singh, they wanted him to be the leader of the SVD, and he again rejected the offer. It is a story of reluctant bridegrooms in both U.P. and Bihar, I do not think that the Governors have made any mistake about it.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : They have found a good bride in you.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Polyandry is not allowed. Some Member made the suggestion, I do not know who exactly was the person who made the suggestion, but somebody mentioned about some Rs. 50,000. This is something below dignity to make such mention, to make such reference against the Prime Minister. In this matter the Prime Minister's behaviour has been absolutely above board. What we all wanted was that the democratic functioning in the two States should be restored, because I think in all this political game who have suffered most are the people of U.P. and Bihar. Let us forget all these insignificant controversies. Let us try to rise above party loyalties and wish well of the new Governments and wish well of the Governors.

CLARIFICATIONS ON THE STATEMENTS RE THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY H. E. MR. SKACHKOV AND RE THE EXPANSION OF BOKARO STEEL PLANT

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There are certain clarifications . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Those who are interested can ask.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House decided that immediately after this discussion, Members would be allowed to seek clarifications on the statements made and therefore, it is proper that we finish these two subjects on the agenda. I do not think we will take more than five minutes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Five to ten minutes.

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated) : Tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This morning we had agreed that the clarifications will be asked immediately after this.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, it was agreed, and that was why we did not ask clarifications yesterday. It was decided

SHRI OM MEHTA (Jammu and Kashmir) : Chairman gave a ruling on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We decided that the clarifications will be asked and that the hon. Minister will reply. One is regarding the statement made by the Minister of State for Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs about the visit of His Excellency Mr. S. A. Skachkov.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : We should be . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We had decided this morning that immediately after this discussion we will allow Members to ask questions and therefore we should proceed with this business now.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, It is going to be seven now.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : May I know from the hon. Minister whether during the discussions with the Soviet Delegation they had discussed anything about the joint sector with the Soviet Government in India. In the last session I had put a question to the hon. Minister—If he remembers—as to how much the socialist countries have done to really help development of capitalism in India with their agreements and collaboration with the private industry. In the light of that, did they discuss with them about the Soviet participation with the Government of India for the establishment of joint sectors in this country and if so, what is the result of that discussion?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : No such discussion took place, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The statement given here is regarding the discussion between the Government of India and the Soviet Delegation led by Mr. Skachkov. May I know whether the following points were discussed and what was the attitude of the Soviet Delegation? Sir . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No long statement. Only questions now.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I am asking questions. But before asking questions one or two sentences must precede.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Not necessarily.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The point is, the hon. Minister must grasp what I want to know from him, and it is a very important subject. Last time after he had been to Russia and all those countries, the hon. Minister for Industrial Development made a statement here during the last session that the export to third countries of products manufactured out of Soviet-aided industries in this country was decided upon or agreed to or was discussed. Here also the same statement is appearing. I do not want to cast any doubt at all on the Soviet Union. I want to know whether any serious effort will be made by the Soviet Union because we have got a very excess capacity in the Soviet-aided projects like the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi. What are the positive indications of Soviet aid? That is one thing.

Secondly, I want to know whether it was also discussed with the Soviet Delegation, particularly about the drug plant at Rishikesh and what is called the Surgical Plant at Madras. You know that criticism has been levelled about it, about the capacity, about technology, about the high cost of production. I want to know whether you have discussed with your Soviet counterpart about the lacunae in the Plants at Rishikesh and at Madras. In the statement there is no mention about this thing. But these plants were very severely criticised, about the outdated technology given by the Soviet Union, about the very heavy cost incurred by them. What do you say about it. And the third and the last point I wanted to know. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : How many points do you want to make?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : . . . is whether there is any truth about the report in the press regarding the wagon deal that the Soviets have suggested to the Government of India that they are going to send some experts to educate our manufacturers to reduce the cost. We know that we have got a formidable industrial capacity in this country. We do not want Soviet tech-

nology to reduce the cost. The point is, we do not want to budge on the cost factor. What has the hon. Minister to say on the three points mentioned by me ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :

So far as the first point is concerned, the hon. Member may have seen that we have specifically mentioned three or four items which the Soviet Union has undertaken to take from the projects set up with the aid of Soviet Russia.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : About, the Ranhi plant ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :

The HEC? In the same way, we discussed about the possibility of ascertaining the order either from the Soviet Union or from third countries. We discussed about the thermal units of 200 megawatts at Hardwar, about that also the possibility is being examined, whether it is possible to find market for that in that country.

So far as the second question is concerned, I may also point out that since we have taken a decision to increase or expand the Bokaro plant, our plant, the MAMC, will have more work than anticipated earlier. Therefore, the idle capacity to a certain extent will be reduced and for that idle capacity they have suggested certain items which, if manufactured, will be taken by the Soviet authorities.

So far as the third question is concerned, I certainly did not discuss the question regarding the Drug Plant or the Surgical Instruments Plant at Madras. I do not know if it was discussed by the Minister in charge. But I certainly did not discuss and that is why...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Enquire and let us know.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : What was your other question?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Wagon deal.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :

So far as the talks which are attributed to the Soviet authorities are concerned, I can say—he never told me any such thing in the course of his conversation with me.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) :

I would like to know about the MAMC. That is a Soviet-aided plant. But it is remaining idle for the last five to six years with almost no production because the planning was so defective by your wise Government that there was no demand for the products for which it was first designed. But it could be diversified. It is a sophisticated plant which can manufacture many other things. But for six years the plant has been kept idle, and there is a terrible overhead and all that, with no work. May I know whether in this round of talks you have decided on something about it so that the full capacity can be utilised, either about the products for which it was originally planned or about other things?

There are two Soviet-aided big steel plants, the Bhilai and the one coming up now at Bokaro. The maintenance imposts impose a new burden. So may I know whether you have discussed with the Soviet side whether ancillary industries can be built up there by the plant itself to feed all the spare parts, components etc. so that a huge drain would be obviated? Otherwise some plants would be dependent upon the Soviets, some on Germany and some on the British. Now market is being created for the countries which collaborated with us and we are left high and dry where we were. These are the points.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Sir, as far as the M.A.M.C. is concerned...

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Have you gone over to the steel statement?

SHRI K. C. PANT : He is asking about the M.A.M.C. which is under the heavy engineering industry. I think it would be better if I give the reply. So far as the M.A.M.C. is concerned there has been an excess capacity, but one of the main reasons, or the main reason for that has been that the earlier projections of coal demands and the development of the coal industry in the country did not materialise. So new mines did not come up. The machinery was not required to the same extent. The M.A.M.C. was designed specifically for the production of coal-mining machinery. So when the plant projection did not materialise, naturally that affected the

[Shri K. C. Pant]
 capacity or requirement of the M.A.M.C. That was the main reason.

Another reason is the lack of development of skills. It takes a long time to develop skills in these units. Of course, of late, as my hon'ble friend knows, labour trouble is also coming in the way to some extent.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : No, no. Not much. I am not aware.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He does not know that.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Well, if he does not know about it, he is perhaps the only person in the country who does not know it. Apart from this, the point that he has made is correct, namely, that we should try to utilise the capacity fully. The Government took a decision some time ago that whenever a public undertaking of the Government itself places orders for machinery, they would give first preference to the M.A.M.C. If the M.A.M.C. could manufacture that particular product, then the order would be placed on it. If the M.A.M.C. could not, it would be placed on some one else. Just now discussions did take place with the Russian Minister. Whatever can be manufactured and supplied from the M.A.M.C. with its surplus capacity, that would be done.

So far as diversification is concerned, they are now going to supply to Haldia items of bulk handling and loading equipment and they are also trying to secure orders from other ports. As and when a port develops the M.A.M.C. would be supplying to it. They are supplying to the Bokaro Steel Plant. This is the position so far, with the M.A.M.C.

In the H.E.C. itself, as my senior colleague has said, with the new steel programme that we have taken up, surplus capacity has been limited to a large extent. Perhaps there are few pockets. The real problem is to cope with the demands of the Fourth Five Year Plan. So it is no longer a problem of surplus capacity.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : May I know, Sir, if the Soviet delegation went out of its way to offer us

drawings, technical know-how, expertise and experts to train our people for further utilising the idle capacity in the Soviet-aided plants; if so, what were the details thereof?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as this question is concerned, the Soviet authorities are always ready and willing to train our people for the purpose of increasing the productivity in every plant. In fact, according to them, the number of technical persons employed is short and that is why they say that the production has not gone up. Whenever they meet us they have been insisting on the necessity of getting more people trained for which they have also promised facilities in their country, both to train our workers there and also to train them here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Krishan Kant. Only one question on the Bokaro Steel Plant by Mr. Krishan Kant will be enough.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : We also want to ask questions on that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Put a brief question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : While I welcome the move to appoint the Central Engineering and Design Bureau of the Hindustan Steel as the principal Consultants for expansion, may I know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is a fact that this Bureau is going to have some collaboration with the Soviet Union regarding this designing work also? And is it not that through this collaboration they want us to pay for their designing for which our engineers are quite competent? May I know if they had collaboration agreement with the Soviet Union about this thing and what are the details of that agreement? Will they ensure that our scientists and engineers get the full opportunity of working for the expansion of the Bokaro Plant so that we do not have to depend upon the Soviets and pay for what we can ourselves do in India?

SHRI K. C. PANT : The two matters are not directly related. It is a fact that the C.E.D.B., the Central Engineering and

Designs Bureau, have initiated an agreement, with their Russian counterparts for the development of the capacity of the C.E.D.B. to design a steel plant from the green fields right up to the final stages. This agreement is under consideration of the Government because it has to be approved by the Government; it is under our consideration at the moment.

So far as the Bokaro stage 2 agreement goes, now that we have decided to have the C.E.D.B. as the main Consultant, the meaning of this is that for the first time in India we shall be giving the primary consultancy work to an Indian party. So far all the projects have had foreign consultants. This is the first time that an Indian party will be the Consultant.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Have the Soviets agreed to this?

SHRI K. C. PANT : The Soviets have agreed to this. This has been included in the protocol. It has been discussed with them. But, certainly, I think it would be right for the C.E.D.B. to take full advantage of the agreement with the Tiajpromexport in order to build this plant and to take full advantage of the agreement for transfer of know-how.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Not on extra money?

SHRI K. C. PANT : No.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : At the outset I want to ask...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No "at the outset". Only one question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : At the outset I would really like to congratulate the Government of India and the Soviet Union for agreeing to create a consultancy service in this country which can really build new plants. That is the most advantageous position the Government of India and the Soviet Union have agreed to. So this is really congratulating the Government. That is why I said "at the outset".

Also I want to congratulate the Government, particularly Mr. Pant, for really having a perspective for another 15 years because we are too much short of steel nowadays. All this goes to the credit of the Government of India as well as the energetic Minister, Mr. Pant, who has worked out these projections. They have accepted a 4 million ton capacity for the Bokaro Steel Plant at the initial stage for which our congratulations are due to the Government and the Minister.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : What is the question?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The question is this. Now the consultancy is with us. But usually the difficulty was delay in the erection of the plant with the Soviet aid or any aid whatever it is. They did not keep up the time-bound delivery schedules. In the whole statement I have not found out a paragraph regarding penalties because this Bokaro must go on as per the schedule. Sir, you know about the present scarcity of steel in the country. The expertise has been lost. I want to know whether any time-bound delivery programme has been agreed to or discussed. Can the Minister give any indication as regards the time-bound programme of deliveries of the Soviet material to this country?

SHRI K. C. PANT : At this stage we are examining what the H.E.C. can manufacture, and after we have determined what can be manufactured within the country by the H.E.C. and the fabricating units, we will import from the Soviet Union what we cannot manufacture in the country. When we reach that stage we will negotiate with the Soviet Union for the supply of equipment. At that point of time, certainly, my hon'ble friend's suggestion will be kept very much in mind.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 25th February, 1970.