

ing that the matter should be gone into and some norm should be laid down and those who are in charge at the Centre should set an example in this matter rather than themselves circumvent the law and the rules.

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON: The question is regarding carrying voters in vehicles. Now the question put by my friend is regarding carrying leaders in vehicles. I do not think it arises out of this question and if a separate question is put, I shall try to answer it.

INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY

*638. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foundations of the steel mill of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited have been constructed on a soil under which mines were worked earlier; and

(b) if so, whether there is a great danger of the whole structure collapsing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) The Indian Iron and Steel Company have intimated that no Coal working exists under Burnpur Works.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know whether it is a fact that in the area of Kendua Bazar around IISCO the land got subsided and because of that some people died and the same land is projected under IISCO also? May I know whether it is a fact that some mines were worked under that area in Kendua Bazar which is the property of IISCO and what action has been taken about it?

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SHRI K. C. PANT: The question is regarding the steel mill of IISCO. There was no subsidence under the steel mills. Last year there was some subsidence in the area of the Kulti Steel Foundry which does not come under this Ministry. That comes under the Industrial Development Ministry and they have to answer the question in this regard. It happened last year. As far as I know there is no loss of life but I do not have the details regarding the foundry.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know whether the Government without enquiring from IISCO have themselves tried to find out about the land in which IISCO is situated and may I know if it is not a fact that reports have come that the area is defective and there is a danger of the IISCO collapsing?

SHRI K. C. PANT: My friend will appreciate that IISCO would be as concerned as anybody else if the land were likely to collapse under their plant and cause serious damage to their machinery. They have soil experts. We asked them and they said that they do not anticipate an danger, current or potential, to the steel mill due to the subsidence previously near the Steel Foundry at Kulti.

*639. [The questioner (Shri A. C. Gilbert) was absent. For answer, vide col. 5431-32 infra.]

INVESTMENT IN CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

*640. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise break-up of the investments made in the Central industrial projects so far; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove disparity in investment in various states?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH): (a) A statement showing state-wise investment made in central industrial projects during the period 1951-68 is attached. [See Appendix LXVII, Annexure No. 107].

(b) The question of removing regional imbalances has been under the consideration of Government. At the instance of the National Development Council, the Planning Commission has set up two Working Groups: one to recommend criteria for identification of backward areas; and the other to suggest the fiscal and financial incentives that may be given for starting industries in backward areas. These Working Groups have recently submitted their reports and these are expected to be placed before the National Development Council for consideration.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : क्या मंत्री जी यह बतलायेंगे कि यह जो इतनी बड़ी परियोजना है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में 166 करोड़ रु० के प्रोजेक्ट बनाये गये हैं ...

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : 72 करोड़ के ।

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : इसमें दिखाया है 147 करोड़ और 19 करोड़ रु० जो 166 करोड़ रु० हो जाता है ।

तो इन प्रांतों में क्या क्या उन्होंने क्लेम किया है और यह जो रिपोर्ट आपके सामने आई है उसमें उ होने कौन कौन से प्लान में क्या क्या प्रोजेक्ट बिठाने की राय दी दी है ।

श्री कृष्णदेवीन अजी अहमद : यह देखिये कि हर एक स्टेट में क्या क्या खर्चा किया गया है सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से, उसका तो आग की हियाब दे दिया गया है और बहुत सारा खर्चा किया

गया है । इकोनामिक वायबिलिटी क्या है और किस जगह कोई प्रोजेक्ट हो सकता है इसका लिहाज कर के बहुत बड़े बड़े प्रोजेक्ट जो हैं वे वहां बनाये गये हैं और जैसा कि कहा गया है कि प्लानिंग कमिशन ने दो ग्रुप बनाये हैं इसकी जांच करने के लिये कि किस बेसिस के ऊपर किसी एरिया को कहा जाय कि वह बैकवर्ड एरिया है और उसके लिये क्या क्या करना चाहिये । उसकी रिपोर्ट नेशनल डेवलपमेंट कौन्सिल में डिस्कस होगी और उसके बाद सवाल होगा कि कहा रीजल एम्बैलेंसेज दूर करने की जरूरत है और उसका इन्तजाम किया जायगा ।

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: The Statement shows that the total investment in the three Plan periods is Rs. 1883.7 crores. Will the hon. Minister give a break-up of this total investment showing (1) the quantum of investment in non-resource-based industries and (2) the quantum of investment made in projects in regions determined as backward? If the hon. Minister is not in a position to give the figures of the break-up now, he may lay the Statement on the Table of the House later.

SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH: The Statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Statement laid on the Table of the House shows the glaring disparities created by these Central projects set up in this manner all over the country. May I draw the attention of this House to the fact that not a single Rupee has so far been invested in Jammu and Kashmir? May I know, Sir, from the Government, along with other reasons, what are the criteria for these investments, and why not a single Rupee has so far been invested in Jammu and Kashmir? Even in this "Balance investment to be made for completing the project", there also it is "Nil". May I know, Sir, the reason from the hon. Minis-

ter? Does it not reflect that the mind of the Government itself is weak in protecting this territory of ours and that is why no investment is made in Jammu and Kashmir?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, it depends on what are the industries which can be set up in a particular area; the technical aspect, the availability of raw material and also the availability of Infra-structure in a particular State are the criteria on the basis of which an industry has to be set up. Now so far as Kashmir is concerned, there we are thinking of setting up industries in the near future, and we have already taken a decision to set up a watch factory in that area, and I hope the absence of any industry in that area now will be made up by the proposals we have of projects to be taken up in that area in the future.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: May I ask the hon. Minister whether in view of the fact that by its very definition a backward area will have more unemployed than a not so backward area, in view of this fact will the Central Government see to it that more labour-intensive industries are started in the backward areas in future?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, as I have already pointed out, whatever amounts have been invested, they have been indicated here, and one of the basic considerations that has gone into this Statement in respect of the figures mentioned therein is the consideration of availability of raw material, is the availability of infra-structure and the technical feasibility of a particular scheme. Now, in the Fourth Five-Year Plan, from out of the amount available, taking into consideration all these factors, we shall try and see to what extent the regional imbalances can be removed. But it cannot be removed in one day or in the course of one Plan.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: At least a beginning should be made as Mr. Mohan Dharia correctly pointed out; in the case of Jammu and Kashmir you don't even mention any project. He has been mentioning a watch factory again and again but it appears no money has been allocated, and unless money is allocated we have to watch for the watch factory. May I know if in the Fourth Plan Government will make a deliberate attempt to remove the imbalances in States like U.P. and see that Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, which have received very little or practically no allocation of Central investment during the three Plans, will get the major share and the major industries in the Fourth Plan? Will he do something about it?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, so far as the first question is concerned, how can the figures be indicated because here we are giving the figures with regard to the investments made up to the year 1968? So far as future years are concerned, no figures have been given, and therefore we have not indicated the amount of investment which will be made in Jammu and Kashmir. I have said about the coming watch factory; it will cost about five crores of Rupees. Action is being taken and we are very serious to start that factory in Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible.

Now so far as the other question is concerned that I should give an assurance that industries in those other areas will be located, I have already said that it depends on the amount that the Planning Commission and this House give me for the purpose of establishing industries in those areas. Whether that will be just sufficient to undertake the work which remains incomplete there, or whether with that amount some new industries could also be established there, when we have the funds we shall certainly take into consideration whether the regional imbalances can be removed to the extent possible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the Statement is quite revealing.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: We should have a two-hour discussion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, from the Statement, first of all it would appear that out of the total of Rs. 1883.7 crores invested during the three Plans, as much as Rs. 1312 crores—a little more—have been invested in four States—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. That is also due, perhaps in most cases, due to the investment in the steel industry. As against that, we find from the Statement that Andhra, a big State has received a total amount of only Rs. 62.5 crores, that U.P., which has given so many Ministers and Prime Ministers, has got Rs. 72.1 crores, and Assam Rs. 32.8 crores. In the light of these disclosures and revelations may I know, Sir, whether Government is considering a change of policy in the matter of investment of Central funds in Central projects and in the matter of location of industries in the State sector under the Centre clearly with a view to reducing, if not eliminating regional disparities? Does the Government think that when in the three Five-Year Plans the investments have flown into only four States whereas some other States including the big ones like Andhra and U.P. had been neglected—leave alone Assam and others—they are going to overcome, even to limited extent, these disparities that exist, in the Fourth Plan? In the light of that I should like to know whether the Government would consider the advisability of calling a special meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the States and placing before them the problem of investment of Central funds in industrial projects with a view to overcoming or at least reducing the regional disparities in economic development, and the economic imbalances? Sir this is a very serious disclosure disclosed in this statement.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I am glad to see from what the hon. Member has said that he is complaining on behalf of the States which have not received a fair deal in the past. But may I ask him that he please direct this question to Mr. Jyoti Basu and ask him not to press for more funds for West Bengal?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I just mention this further, Sir, that West Bengal is one of the States which have received more than others. Now in considering the allocation the hon. Minister is indulging in provincialism. I am not speaking from West Bengal. I am speaking in the national forum. West Bengal people are in a very bad way in the absence of more financial help forthcoming. But here it is in a different context and I myself found out the fact in this regard in respect of West Bengal and three more States. Although relatively West Bengal has got more than others, the fact remains that you have no policy of helping the economically backward States for industrial development in so far as location of Central projects is concerned. I am speaking in a national forum and I am having a national approach in regard to this matter. I am not now speaking for West Bengal, but I am pleading for the country as a whole. I am speaking for Andhra, I am speaking for Madras and I am speaking for Assam.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: There should be a two-hour debate on this question.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I welcome the suggestion that so far as investment is concerned, it should not be looked at merely from the parochial point of view, but it should be considered from the point of view of the infra-structure, from the point of view of availability of raw materials...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The House should agree to have a brief discussion on this matter. It is a very important matter.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: A two-hour discussion.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This matter has been discussed. It has been asked why all these investments have been made. The hon. Member must realise that if there are heavy investments in three or four States which he has mentioned, it is because of the establishment of steel plants in those States.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know if the hon. Minister is aware that, in the initial stages of economic development of a country, if the basic Industries, which provide the groundwork for future industries, are to be built up, the infra-structure has to be built up? In other countries, in the initial stages, these projects are based only on economic considerations and when you deviate from economic considerations, you really inhibit adequate economic growth. That is the history and experience of Soviet Russia and that is the history and experience of other countries. It is only when they have built up that solid groundwork that they start reducing regional imbalances. Political and other considerations take a back seat. Do Government realise that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly put a question. You cannot go on making a speech.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: This is the question which I am putting. Do they realise that India is not yet out of the initial stages of economic development and in this stage economic considerations should be the main criteria and political considerations should take a back seat.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already pointed out that not only economic, but technical considerations are also taken into account, viz., availability of raw materials, the infra-structure, etc. in a particular State. These are the considerations which should be uppermost in our mind and unless and until that is

done, it will not be possible to develop our country.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI: From the statement it is evident that the Central investment in the Central industrial projects is very much in the case of three or four States, whereas Gujarat has got only 2-1/2 per cent of the Central investment. Of the Rs. 111 crores, which are supposed to be pending investment for completing the projects in Gujarat, may I know which are the projects in Gujarat on which Central investment will be made? That is No. 1. No. 2, why the Hindustan Machine Tools project at Bhavnagar, which was decided to be established on economic considerations, has been postponed and No. 3 . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, you will go to No. 4, No. 5 and so on. Ten minutes are over.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI: No. 3, what decision has been taken on the second oil refinery and on the offshore drilling in the Gulf of Cambay?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: So far as the first question is concerned, I have not got the list of the industries which will require an investment of Rs. 111 crores. So far as the second question is concerned, the HMT unit has been postponed because what we are producing in the HMT units at Bangalore and other places, we are not able to sell. It is no use increasing production further without the market being there. We are trying to export these things and the export has increased. So far as the internal requirements are concerned, the market consumption has not developed. When the market develops, we shall certainly take into consideration the question of setting up another unit in Gujarat. That is why this unit has been postponed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.