

to Mr. Rajnarain. The Minister, I know, is in possession of facts. Why is he not giving answer to my question that two officers, who helped the Government in detecting malpractices by the Bennett Coleman management of Shanti Prasad Jain, and who had been earlier got prosecuted by Shanti Prasad Jain, are again sought to be prosecuted despite the assurance of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, that they would be protected against such prosecutions? Let him get up and say that they would be protected. Is it not proper that the management of the Board of Directors should be changed so that even when the company gets a director from the Government, the Government Director is helpless as in the case of Bennett Coleman & Co.?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you should put a separate question.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : These are extraneous matters which hardly arise out of this question, both what Mr. Bhupesh Gupta or Mr. Rajnarain said.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हमारे सवाल के जवाब का क्या हुआ।

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY : Though the question raised by honourable Mr. Bhupesh Gupta does not arise out of this question, I do not want the hon. Member to go away with the impression that we are trying to hide something. We may be receiving a number of representations on various matters, but since the cases are *sub judice* it is not proper for us to say anything. I am only inviting the hon. Member's attention to section 635(b) of the provisions of the Company Law which deals with this matter. Any person who is aggrieved can certainly resort to the protection granted by the Company Law.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हमारे सवाल का जवाब ही नहीं हुआ।

SEPARATE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR STEEL PLANTS

*678. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :†

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Niren Ghosh.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised a scheme to constitute separate and independent boards of management for each steel plant in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEVAK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The whole question of the re-organisation of the Steel Industry in the Public Sector is still under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Mulgaokar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Steel Plant. The other day the Minister said that he had no information. But the next day we found in the papers that such a thing had been done. I consider it almost a breach of privilege of this House. When the House is in session, without giving the information first to the House, he gave it to the press. Who is this Mulgaokar? A Tata man. Do they intend to hand over the public sector to the private sector in this way?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : The question raised by the hon. Member has nothing to do with the present question. And there is no question of privilege because there is nothing that I have not said or I have hidden.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : The question of privilege does arise if Mr. Mulgaokar has been appointed the Chairman of the Hindustan Steel Plant. Day before yesterday when the Minister made a statement on the Calling Attention motion, he said he was going to appoint...

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : The question does not arise here. The hon. Member is on the wrong premises. No appointment has been made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I have a second question to put. The second question is this. On what basis this Mulgaokar has been appointed?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He has not been appointed, he says.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Then who has been appointed? How can it be given in the press. Would the Minister give an

assurance that an independent, technically qualified personnel would be appointed because I find that in the public sector they are being appointed on the basis of favouritism. In Durgapur Mr. Atulya Ghosh's man was appointed and he had ruined the plant, an ex-General Manager. Now can we get an assurance from the hon. Minister that an honest, independent and technically qualified person would be appointed as the General Manager and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Durgapur Steel Plant ?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : I am afraid this is a matter of opinion and no question of assurances is called for in this context.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The hon. Minister in this House said that the matter was under consideration. He had many things in mind but he did not divulge. And the next day the newspaper carried the name of Mr. Mulgaokar. First of all, I should like to know whether the Minister is connected with the celebrated Mr. Mulgaokar of the Hindustan Times, whether he is related or any such thing. That is one thing.

Secondly, I should like to know why the Government did not issue immediate contradiction when this report appeared in the papers that he had been appointed or chosen as the General Manager and so on ? Why did the Government not issue the contradiction ? I infer from it that actually the news is correct although officially it has not yet been announced. Sir, you have noted the question. Now please ask him to give the exact answer.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : The exact answer is. The question of any news item cannot be taken up every day for contradiction by the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Now is it the answer ? Sir, that is why the Question Hour takes a long time. Now this is the answer. It is not just an ordinary matter. This is a matter over which Parliament has been agitated. We should like to know who is going to be the head of the public sector undertakings investing public money worth thousands of crores of Rupees. It is not a small thing. You know, Sir, how we are agitated over this matter, rightly or wrongly. It is the duty of the Government to clarify the position. He is open to the charge that he concealed information from the House and doled it out through the press.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister assured that nobody has been appointed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then I ask that in view of the urgency and gravity of the matter, why immediately a contradiction was not issued. Government issues contradictions in such important matters. May I know why in this a contradiction was not issued ? It is not a small matter.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : The question of the House being agitated is true. But I am sure you would appreciate and the House would appreciate that the question of the details of appointing a Chairman cannot be discussed in this manner.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has accepted the principle of workers' participation in management long back. But so far we have not seen any result. When this scheme of having new management is under consideration, may we know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider to have at least two representatives of the employees on the Board of Directors ?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : I cannot categorically state whether there will be two. But I can assure him that that has also been my thinking and we will try to see how we can associate workers.

NON-USE OF FOREIGN COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS

*679. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been any cases where foreign collaboration agreements have not been used by Indian parties during the last five years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any such Indian parties have been blacklisted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) to (c) Information regarding the cases if any, in which foreign collaboration agreements which had been concluded have not actually fructified for reasons attributable to the parties, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.