

for which the deal was concluded and their full price deposited with agents of the factory before the devaluation of the rupee; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?]

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री डी० संजीवया)

(क) सरकार को एक मामले के बारे में रिपोर्ट मिली है, जिसमें ग्राहक के कथनानुसार उपर्युक्त निर्माता ने कुछ ऐसे ट्रैक्टरों का अधिक मूल्य मांगा जिनकी पूरी कीमत अवमूल्यन से पहले लेकर सीदा हो चुका था, किन्तु माल के डिब्बों की कमी के कारण ट्रैक्टर वास्तव में भेजे नहीं जा सके थे।

(ख) इस मामले में निर्माताओं से बातचीत हो रही है और इसकी जांच की जा रही है।

†[THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) Government have received a report about a case where according to the customer the said manufacturer demanded higher prices for some tractors in respect of which the deal had been completed through acceptance of the full price prior to devaluation but the tractors could not actually be despatched for want of Railway wagons.

(B) The matter has been taken up with the manufacturers and is being enquired into.]

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

RETRENCHMENT OF SOME ENGINEERS IN THE BHILAI STEEL PLANT

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Iron and Steel to the recent retrenchment of some Engineers in the Bhilai Steel Plant.

THE MINISTER OF IRON AND STEEL (SHRI T. N. SINGH) : On 17th March, 1966, I had the opportunity of making a statement in this House regarding the retrenchment of construction personnel in the Bhilai Steel Plant following the tapering off of construction work connected with its 2.5 million tonnes expansion. On account of the progressive completion of the construction work, surpluses have arisen not only amongst the construction workers but in regard to the supervisory engineering staff as well. So far as the supervisory staff are concerned, in anticipation that such a situation was likely to arise, the personnel were engaged, to begin with, only on a contract basis. The contracts of all the construction engineers expired on 31st December, 1965. The Bhilai management, at this point of time reviewed the assessment of the performance of these engineers in order to decide on the termination of employment or further employment. For this purpose, a Committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, the Chief Design Engineer and the Personnel Manager was constituted and criteria indicated to them for the review assessment. Meanwhile, the plant authorities made strenuous efforts to find alternative employment for the engineers whose employment might be terminated. The persons affected were also afforded all facilities for securing employment outside. As a result of these steps, 96 engineers have been provided employment on the operation side, mines and township in Bhilai in accordance with the requirements of these units. Fourteen engineers have been selected by various other agencies and relieved from Bhilai to take up their appointments. 48 engineers have been selected by outside agencies and are awaiting offers of appointment. Although efforts to find alternative employment have thus succeeded in some measure it became inevitable that the services of a number of engineers, surplus to Bhilai's requirements and who could not find alternative employment, had to be dispensed with on the termination of their contracts. There are 32 such engineers. Of these, 19 engineers, whose contracts were not formally extended beyond the end of 1965 when they expired, were given necessary

†[] English translation.

[Shri T. N. Singh.]

notices of termination of services in accordance with the terms of their contract in July 1966. For the remaining engineers included under this category, the question of issue of notices is under consideration. A careful assessment of the performance of all engineers on uniform criteria was done by the Committee before a list of these 32 engineers was prepared for carrying out retrenchment. The result of the review of assessment of performance was communicated to the Chairman of Hindustan Steel Ltd., at Ranchi and his approval obtained. It will be appreciated that such an assessment can be based only on a judgment in comparative terms and not in absolute terms. I am assured that the General Manager personally went through the records in the cases concerned before taking this step.

I have no doubt that the House would agree that, having regard to the requirements of efficient and economical operation, our steel plants cannot afford to carry more personnel on their rolls than they need. The employment of surplus personnel leads to demoralisation and frustration of the persons so employed themselves. Consistently with this situation surpluses are bound to arise in all categories of personnel engaged on construction, whether it be amongst construction workers or supervisory staff, when construction work draws to a conclusion. There are also limits to which, on their initiative, the authorities concerned could find alternative employment to the personnel thus affected. Reduction in staff is thus inevitable and one or other of the personnel employed is bound to be affected. The question is whether uniform criteria have been followed and fairness ensured in deciding who should remain and who should be retrenched. In the present case, there is every indication that overall fairness has been ensured.

I would add that the termination of the contract of these persons inescapable as explained in the circumstances, is no matter of pleasure for me. Having

regard to the human considerations involved, I would reassure the House that if any cases of undue hardship are brought to my notice, I would be prepared to look into them.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :

सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में विशेष जोर कांटेक्ट बेसिस पर बढ़ा दिया है। परन्तु इससे भी अधिक कांटेक्ट लिया था हमारी सरकार ने जब शासन सम्भाला था, हमारा कान्स्ट्रक्शन् बना था तथा उसके पहले जो जिम्मेदारी ली थी कि हम ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे जिसमें सब लोगों के लिए खाने की व्यवस्था होगी। लेकिन अब “कांटेक्ट” शब्द पर जोर लगा कर आप ने लोगों को रिट्रेन्च कर दिया और इससे अपना भार कम समझें, मैं इससे सहमत नहीं हूँ। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अभी भी कितने आदमी ऐसे हैं, चाहे वे इंजीनियर्स हों, किसी भी स्टाफ के हों, जिनको आपने रिट्रेन्च कर रखा है और आलटरनेटिव जॉब नहीं दिला सके हैं।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब कि पब्लिक सेक्टर में काफी नये प्रोजेक्ट्स चल रहे हैं और कई योजनाएं चल रही हैं तो ऐसी स्थिति में—उदाहरण के लिए आप हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड में, फाट-लाइजर कारपोरेशन में, एल्यूमीनियम कारपोरेशन में, सीमेंट कारपोरेशन में और आयरन रिफाइनरीज में, जहां कि टैकनिकल आदमियों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है, ऐसी कोऑर्डिनेशन एजेन्सी का निर्माण सरकार की ओर से क्यों नहीं किया जाता जहां पर रिट्रेन्च लोगों की लिस्ट रहे और जहां पर जगह खाली हो उन्हें लगा दिया जाय। इसी तरह से सरकार के दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट में भी जगह होती रहती हैं, अगर सरकार की ओर से इस तरह की कोई कोऑर्डिनेशन एजेन्सी का निर्माण हो जो कि सब जगहों की लिस्ट रखे तो रिट्रेन्च किये हुए लोगों को आसानी के साथ

इन्जो किया जा सकता है। तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था करने वाली है? इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन लोगों को रिट्रेन्च कर दिया गया है और अभी तक आलटरनेटिव जाब नहीं दिया गया है, क्या सरकार की ओर से ऐसी व्यवस्था की जायेगी कि जब तक उन्हें जाब नहीं मिलता है तब तक उन्हें कोई एलाउन्स दिया जा सके ताकि वे पेट भर सकें?

श्री टी० एन० सिंह मैंने यह उत्तर दिया कि इन लोगों के बारे में काफी कोशिश की गई जिन्हें वहाँ पर नौकरी नहीं दी जा सकती थी। मैंने यह भी कहा कि 96 आदमियों को ऐसी जगहों पर लिया गया और कुछ को फैक्टरीज में लिया गया है और इस तरह से इन लोगों की सब जगह नौकरी दिलाये जाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। मुझे कभी-कभी यहाँ तक भी चिन्ता हो जाती है कि जिन कुछ आफिसरों को नौकरी मिली उन्होंने उम्मे जाने से इन्कार भी किया। मेरे पास ऐसे उदाहरण हैं और मैं देना नहीं चाहता हूँ और यह भी नहीं कहना चाहता कि हम उनके लिये क्या कुछ मदद कर रहे हैं क्योंकि हम इस तरह के लोगों की हमेशा ही मदद करते रहते हैं और जितने भी प्रोजेक्ट्स चल रहे हैं उनसे इस तरह के लोगों को लेने के लिए भी कहते रहते हैं। एक बात जरूर यह समझनी चाहिये और जिसको मैंने इतने दिनों से अनुभव किया है कि जब हम कन्स्ट्रक्शन स्टाफ जो कि पब्लिक सेक्टर में लगा होता है उसके बारे में कुछ कार्यवाही करते हैं तो उनके बारे में न जाने क्यों हम लोग दूसरी नुक्ते नजर से देखते हैं जबकि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में इस तरह की बात पर हम कोई आलोचना नहीं करते हैं। जबकि उनको काम नहीं दिया जाता है। मैं चाहूँगा कि अगर सचमुच में टैक्सपेयर यह चाहें

कि कन्स्ट्रक्शन का काम खत्म होने पर भी उनको नौकरी दी जाय तो आप इस बारे में वोट कर सकते हैं।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया : मैं आपका प्रोटेक्शन चाहूँगा। मैंने एक यह चाहा था कि कितने आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनको आलटरनेटिव जाब नहीं दिया जा सका है। इसके बारे में हमें फिर्मा नहीं दी गई है।

श्री टी० एन० सिंह मैंने बतलाया कि कुल 34 आदमी थे जिन्हें इस वक्त नौकरी नहीं दिलाई जा सकी है। इसमें से दो को और नौकरी मिल गई है और अब 32 रह गए हैं। इसमें से 13 चले गए हैं और इस तरह से अब 19 आदमी बाकी रह गए हैं।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया : दूसरी बात मैंने कोऑर्डिनेशन एजेंन्सी बनाने के बारे में पूछी थी कि सरकार को इसके बनाने में क्या आपत्ति है ताकि जितने भी इंजीनियर हमारे सरपलस हो जायें उनकी लिस्ट तैयार रहे और जहाँ पर जगह हो वहाँ उन्हें भेज दिया जाय।

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : जहाँ तक को-ऑर्डिनेशन का काम है, यह हमारे यहाँ हमेशा होता ही रहता है और जो हमारे पास आदमी आते हैं उन्हें हम प्रोजेक्टों में लगाते रहते हैं। बुकारो प्रोजेक्ट में आदमियों की जरूरत पड़ी तो वहाँ के जनरल मैनेजिंग डाइरेक्टर स्वयं भिलाई आये और उन्होंने लोगों का इन्टरव्यू लिया और जितना वे ले सकते थे, उन्होंने लिया।

SHRI G MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh) . I would like to know from the Government whether it is not a fact that it is not 13 people that have not received alternative employment but that the number is now 34 because some more people were retrenched on the 1st of August. I would also like to know whether it is not a fact that in the course of the next few months there

[Shri G. Murahari.]

are 300 such people who would be retrenched. I would also like to know whether some of these people were offered jobs in the Border Roads Organisation and they were asked to become and in the same scales, all of them would have accepted. They came here and told me also. I do not think the Minister can say that they just refused the jobs that were offered.

Then he says that there has been no discrimination in trying to provide alternative employment. It may be so but as far as my information goes, there has been some kind of favouritism even in the allocation of alternative employment because some of these people had applied to Bokaro trying for alternative employment. Even when they were employed in the Bhilai Steel Plant they had applied for jobs in Bokaro because they were expecting retrenchment and their applications were not forwarded by the General Manager and a note was sent saying that they should apply separately and their applications would not be forwarded.

Another point is, these engineers were engaged in construction work. There is construction going on in Bokaro and new people are being recruited in Bokaro and how is it that people who have put in 8 to 10 years of service and who have been in Bhilai in service and who have long experience are not given employment and new people are recruited in Bokaro? I would like to know why the Government is doing all this. These are facts and I would like the Minister to answer them. There have been some people who have been promoted from the same category of engineers who are being retrenched now. Some have been promoted. They were also taken on contract. It was not only these who were taken on contract. There were also others. I would like the Minister to assure us that he is prepared even at this stage to take these people in Bokaro and give them alternative employment.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I do not want to prejudice the cases of the engineers concerned and therefore I would not like to say why someone was not select-

ed in a particular case but in reply to the question as to what we are doing for co-ordination purposes, I was very hesitant to explain certain facts but I *am compelled now to give that information*. Three Divisional Engineers (Mechanical) were called for interview for the posts of Executive Engineers for Bailadilla Iron Ore but none of the three was willing to accept. In fact one of these three, though not willing, was offered the post with two advance increments but he again refused. The post of Mechanical Engineer under Manganese Ore India, Nagpur, was circulated but none of the engineers applied. One of the Divisional Engineers was called for interview by the Cement Corporation but he did not attend. One of the Zonal Engineers was interviewed by the NMDC but he refused to accept the post. I do not want to add to these. What I say is, we have been making efforts all the time to find alternative jobs for the people whose contracts were likely to end. I have only tried to make that point.

In regard to Bokaro, I say now, after all this experience, that I am not in favour of having departmental construction at Bokaro any more.

SHRI G. MURAHARI : Why ?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : That is the decision. I feel that we cannot take on the responsibility of having people employed temporarily for a period and when the construction is over, to dismiss them. Even the contract entered into for a period is not the right thing. Regarding recruitment at Bokaro, as I said, the Managing Director was himself asked to visit Bhilai. There was no question of anybody trying to apply. He visited that place and called for the particulars of the personnel and selected out of them. That is why there was no question of submitting any applications from these people for Bokaro.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Here is a letter which says :

"It has been decided that for Technical Staff (Engineers and Technicians required for construction, operation and maintenance, etc.) in the scale of Rs. 400—950 and above,

Bokaro Steel Limited will intimate their requirements to the Head Office of Hindustan Steel Limited who will co-ordinate the selection of such staff from the plants and Bokaro Steel Limited will select such persons either in collaboration with representatives of Head Office or/and of the Plants, as may be decided from time to time."

Here was a definite assurance given to them that they would be absorbed in Bokaro and that they would be interviewed.

It is signed by Mr. Baljekar, Deputy Chief Engineer.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Will he read the assurance ? Where is the assurance ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : It says : "... will indicate their requirements the Head Office of Hindustan Steel Limited who will co-ordinate the selection of such staff. . . " Then there is information that the Government of Bihar has issued a circular separately that no persons outside Bihar should be recruited to Bokaro Steel Plant without their consent and this is a discrimination practised and perhaps under pressure from the Government of Bihar this assurance is being nullified whereas Indian citizens should not be categorised in this way. They should get employment everywhere on merits but here is a case which shows definitely that a State Government in the case of even skilled technical personnel, are coming in the way of recruitment of people, who have long years of experience, in Bokaro. All of them have put in 9 to 10 years of service. So I want this point to be clinched and clearly answered by the Minister.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : So far as my knowledge of English goes, I did not find any obligatory assurance in the letter that was read out. I will put it to you, Sir. And if there is anything obligatory on our part, certainly it shall be honoured. In regard to the question raised about a particular State Government, I can say that the Government

of India is not prepared to accept the provincial principles as such but I would most humbly suggest to the House that these questions of some State doing this or that need not be brought and discussed here. Unfortunately, certain things are there in our country but why high-light them ?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) :

श्रीमन् मुझे यह निवेदन करना है कि जिन लोगों का रिट्रेंचमेंट किया गया, साधारण नियम यह है कि जो बाद में भर्ती किए गये थे उनका सबसे पहले रिट्रेंचमेंट होना चाहिये था, लेकिन यहां जो लोग रिट्रेंच किये गये, साधारणतया उनमें अनेक कैटे-गरीज़ ऐसी हैं कि जिनमें सीनियर मोस्ट आदमी को पहले रिट्रेंच कर दिया गया । तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि रिट्रेंचमेंट में इस नियम का पालन इन लोगों को रिट्रेंच करते समय किया गया अथवा नहीं और अगर इस नियम का उल्लंघन किया गया है तो क्या मंत्री महोदय ऐसे सभी लोगों को, जिन का रिट्रेंचमेंट में सबसे नीचे नम्बर नहीं था उनको दुबारा रखने का प्रयत्न करेंगे ? मुझे केवल एक दूसरा निवेदन यह करना है कि पहले भी इस प्रकार के लोगों को इस कारखाने से निकाला गया था और बार्डर रोड आगेंनाइजेशन में उनको भेजा गया था, परन्तु वे जब फिजिकली अनफिट हो कर के वापस आ गये तो उनको फिर से इसी कारखाने में नौकर रखने के लिये दस प्रकार की अर्तें लगाई जा रही हैं । उनका हिसाब साफ कर दिया था, पैसा दे दिया गया था, वह एकमुश्त उनसे वापस मांगने पर ही उनको नौकरी की सहूलियतें देने का विचार चल रहा है ।

मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार इस प्रश्न पर भी विचार करेगी कि उनसे एक मुश्त पैसा वापस न ले, इन्स्टालमेंट्स में उनसे वह पैसा लिया जाय ।

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : मैंने पहले अर्ज किया था कि यह सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ है। इसके नियमों में और और लोगों के नियमों में बड़ा फर्क है जो कि जनरल वर्कम है। साथ ही हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि वे हमारे कन्ट्रैक्ट पर थे। उसमें फर्स्ट क्लास लास्ट गो, लास्ट क्लास फर्स्ट गो का सवाल नहीं है। किसी पॉरिड में जब कन्ट्रैक्ट खत्म होता है तब नोटिस का सवाल होता है।

हमारा फर्ज यह है कि—और मैं उसको मानता हूँ—जहाँ तक हो सके हमें इन सब सज्जनों की मदद करनी चाहिए और हम उसको करने को तैयार हैं और कर रहे हैं। मेरा आशय सिर्फ यह दिखलाना था कि उनके लिए हमने काफी कोशिश की और अब भी करते जा रहे हैं और समझते हैं कि करना चाहिए, लेकिन इसमें ज्यादा गवर्नमेंट पर भार देना उचित नहीं है। बहुत लोग बार्डर रोड्स पर गए, कितने लौटे, वहाँ से क्यों लौटे उसको मैं जानता नहीं। जब केम समझ लूंगा तो जवाब दे सकता हूँ। इस केम से यह उठता भी नहीं।

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, why were the engineers prohibited from applying for Bokaro last year? That is one thing. So far as efficiency is concerned, may I point out that Mr. M. S. Rajagopal, who was the first to be retrenched in this batch, was actually given a merit certificate earlier? And so far as economy is concerned, may I mention—from amongst many examples just to cite one—that for the personal lawn of the General Manager Australian grass was air-lifted from Calcutta to Bhilai at the cost of the plant. This is the economy we are having there. Against this background (*Interruptions*) and in the light of the assurances given to these engineers by the then Minister in-charge, and also the General Manager, will the Government assure that for Bokaro or other plants there will be no advertise-

ments calling for new applications unless and until these old engineers are absorbed elsewhere?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : This is exactly what I pointed out, Sir. In the case of these employees, in Bokaro we followed the special procedure of asking the Managing Director of that place to go direct to Bhilai when we have any applications or any such advertisements, and try to select as many as possible from out of this lot. As regards his allegation that they were not allowed to apply, this is the tragedy of the whole situation; we went out of the way to suggest that the Managing Director should visit that place and try to select as many as possible out of these people, which he did. As regards the merits of these various officers, of supervisory engineers, I would not like to go into any of these cases, I would not like to comment, despite provocations, about their merits.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR (Kerala) : The Minister said that these engineers are appointed on contract. But, at the same time, when applications were invited, were there not indications that their services would be needed for a longer period and also that they would have to serve in other parts of India, which means that, at that time, the then Minister felt that, since the steel industry is a growing industry, the experience of these engineers who were employed in Bhilai would be necessary for construction work in other places. Now the Minister said that it is a demoralising thing to have more engineers in an industry than were necessary. I agree. At the same time, the casual way in which the Ministry is dealing with the talents and experience as far as technical persons are concerned, that also is a very demoralising factor, especially when we are short of such experienced persons. Now you are planning about Bokaro and now you have decided, with all these experienced people under you, now you have decided that the construction work should be given to contractors. Why is it that the Government is not thinking in terms of doing it themselves as they

have done in Bhilai, Rourkela and other places? No explanation has been given in that regard. Not only that. The Minister said that the Managing Director of Bokaro came to select engineers whom they wanted from there. So are you telling us that the number of hands needed in Bokaro has been finalised and settled and no more recruitment is needed there, even when we read from newspapers that nothing has been finalised about the Plan itself?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir, I do not know to what assurance the hon. Member is referring. But a letter was read, and if that is the assurance, I do not think we can plead guilty to the charge made. But whatever the assurance or no assurance, it is our intention and desire to do whatever we can to help these people to get jobs, and I claim that we have been doing that consistently and all along the line. As regards the departmental work, really it is tragic that we in the public sector are taken to task when not a tear is shed when a contractor dismisses or terminates the services of any other engineer in his own private sector employment. And yet we are expected—and this House has directed us—that we should work these projects on a profit basis, and we shall try to earn profit. Now with all these conflicting objectives I do not know what other course we could have adopted than what we have adopted.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the hon. Minister was kind enough to state—and he has also abundant kindness towards those employees—that because of surplus these people could not be entertained further and because of the termination of the work certain people have got to be retrenched. Now the basis on which the retrenchment has taken place is the past performance of these engineers, and in that connection the contractor has been relied upon and their services have been terminated. But in this connection, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the performance which was done by these people. Now I find that two of the Superintending Engineers have been promoted as

late as in 1965 because of their past performance, and in the case of one of them the Confidential report has been written as late as on 2nd July 1966. And the retrenchment was on 15th July. So in view of these things the propriety of the statement “relying on the past performance” has to be taken with a pinch of salt. And, secondly, in 1964 and 1965, when there were advertisements in the press for new applications for various types of engineers required for the Bokaro plant, and when these people applied for these posts in 1964 and 1965, the management gave a categorical assurance to them that they will be considered for the Bokaro steel plant and their applications were returned back to them along with the Postal Orders, returned to the employees who had applied for them. And now the Minister comes and says : “We are not going to take the responsibility to recommend these people.” I can make special mention of some of these people but I do not like to name only some of them. Therefore it is patently clear that there is something behind the back of this retrenchment; it is not a simple thing as that. There are good engineers who have experience of the last seven or eight years, and who have had promotions, not one promotion, but two or three promotions also which they got in Bhilai. And now they are branded too damned a lot to be recommended to the Bokaro steel plant. In view of all these things, therefore, I would request the Minister to go into the whole affair again and recommend these people. Bokaro is just like an elephant, which can consume anybody now. Therefore the Minister should kindly reconsider the whole thing, stand on their own assurance to recommend these people and send these people to the Bokaro steel plant.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir, I have already stated that we have taken all the care that was possible to find employment for these people, and we shall continue to do so. I do not want to go into the merits of all these officers whether they be officers who have gone out or officers who are in service there. I personally think that they are all good

[Shri T. N. Singh.]

engineers and they should get jobs and they can get jobs. But on the question of discussing the merit of officers here I would submit in all humility that it should be discouraged and we should not try to bring these factors here. But in case some cases are brought to my notice, as I have already stated, and if Members feel that they are really hard cases, I will certainly look into them. Let them bring them to my notice. As a matter of fact, even now I am looking into some individual cases and if the hon. Member brings to my notice any specific cases, I will certainly look into them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mariswamy.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Madras) : Sir, the hon. Minister stated that the case of each and every one of the engineers who have been retrenched has been gone into and then they had arrived at this conclusion that they have reached. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that in the year 1965, Shri Inderjit Singh, the then General Manager at Bhilai told a delegation of engineers in the presence of the then Minister of Steel, Shri Sanjiva Reddy, that they were being given contracts up to the end of 1970. It was an oral assurance. Also may I ask when retrenchments are made, why don't they adopt the policy that those who came last should go first? Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister who has now given this reply that out of ten engineers who were retrenched three had been given promotion very recently, overlooking the seniority of several others. They were given this promotion and with in such a short period of six months they get the order to go. Is that not a fact?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir, as I have already submitted, I do not want to go into the question of merit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you all agree, if I have the agreement of all the Members who have given their names I will pass on to the next item on the list of business.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
एक सवाल सिर्फ मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ।

श्री सभापति : आपका तो नाम ही नहीं है।

श्री राजनारायण : सिर्फ एक सवाल।

श्री सभापति : अभी तो वह लोग है जिन्होंने सवाल पूछा है। मैं तो उनकी ही पूछ रहा हूँ।

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : Sir, he has not answered my first question, whether those engineers were not given that assurance.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : About assurances I could not say anything. If Shri Inderjit Singh had made that statement, I do not have it with me and so I could not say anything. In any case I will certainly try to verify that point.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान् श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मंडल का नाम यहाँ है। उनकी जगह हमें ले लीजिये।

श्री सभापति : आप भला किम्बा की जगह कैसे हो सकते हैं। आप अपना जगह है।

श्री राजनारायण : हम आधा मिनट ही लेगे, अगर आपकी आज्ञा हो तभी।

श्री सभापति : इन नामों के हो जाने के बाद ही आपको मौका मिल सकता है।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, अगर आपकी आज्ञा हो

श्री सभापति : इतना मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें जो नाम है उन्हीं को मैं बुला रहा हूँ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं एक ही सवाल

श्री सभापति : इन नामों का खत्म होने के बाद ही आपको बुला सकता हूँ।

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN (Andhra Pradesh) : Nothing satisfactory has come from the Minister.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, my name is there in the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thought your agreement would be available for us to pass on to the next item. The names being there does not mean that all the names should be called. We had recently a notice where there were a hundred names. I could not have called all of them.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : Sir, you have seen that from one Party as many as three Members were allowed to speak. That party had three Members to represent it and we are not allowed any time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, yes. All right. You can have your say

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : One Party had three men to represent it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree. Don't argue. I agree. Please say what you want to say.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : This is an esteemed item in our public sector. I mean Hindustan Steel. It is the focal point. And so far as Bhilai is concerned, my simple question would be this. May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is correct to say that in every steel plant in the Hindustan Steel, i.e. Bhilai, Durgapur or Rourkela, the engineers are being retrenched and the technical posts are being occupied by non-technical men only because of favouritism, in order to enable them to earn the production bonus?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I do not accept this allegation of nepotism, unless there is something definite or something substantial produced. Regarding Rourkela and other projects, we are trying to find jobs for all these people and we are making every endeavour and we shall continue to make every endeavour.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : Is it a fact that technical posts are occupied by non-technical men, that engineers whose posts are technical posts are being retrenched and their places are filled by non-technical hands?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I have already denied it. If any specific case is pointed out to me I shall look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I will pass on to the next item.

श्री राजनारायण : आपकी आज्ञा नहीं हुई श्रीमान्। आपकी आज्ञा हम गरीब पर नहीं हुई। हम रिपीट नहीं करेंगे कोई क्वेश्चन, एक नया सवाल पूछेंगे अगर आप आज्ञा दें।

श्री सभापति : मैं कैसे कह सकता हूँ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आपकी आज्ञा को शिरोधार्य करूंगा, इस उम्मीद पर करूंगा कि कल आधा घंटा इस पर डिबेट और करने देंगे। श्रीमान्, वही एक सवाल है जिस पर कि सारा अनर्थ हो रहा है, अगर आप आज्ञा दें तो मैं पूछूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajnarainji, please . . .

श्री राजनारायण : तो कल आपको हमें थोड़ा सा समय देने की कृपा करनी होगी। अगर आपको आज्ञा हो तो मैं अभी पूछ लूँ।

श्री सभापति : अभी नहीं।

श्री राजनारायण : हम आपकी आज्ञा से अभी मान जाते हैं ।

श्री सभापति : राजनारायण जी, आप तो जानते ही हैं मैं आज्ञा नहीं देना चाहता हूँ लेकिन अगर आप इस्मर करोगे *then* I would not be unjust to those whose names are here.

श्री बी० एन० मंडल (बिहार) : मेरे बदले में राजनारायण जी को पूछने दिया जाय ।

श्री सभापति : जी नहीं । आपको सवाल करना है तो कृपया वर्ना आगे का नाम बताऊँ ।

श्री बी० एन० मंडल : अभी मिनिस्टर ने कहा है कि बिहार के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने बिहार के अधिक लोगों की बहाली का जो रिक्वेस्ट किया है, एप्वाइंटिंग अथॉरिटी में उसको हम मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं है । तो क्या इस बात को मैं जान सकता हूँ कि क्या संविधान में इस तरह का प्राविजन है या नहीं कि जिस राज्य में जिस किसी कैटेगरी के आदमी की कम बहाली किसी सर्विस में हुई हो—चाहे वह इंडस्ट्रियल अंडरटेकिंग हो या कोई और ही क्षेत्र में हो—तो समान स्तर पर लाने के लिए अधिक बहारी की मांग संविधान सगत है या नहीं है ।

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : इसके बारे में मैं जवाब दूंगा कि जब सवाल पूछा गया था कि क्या ऐसा है कि कोई दूसरी जगह का आदमी आने न पाये तो मैंने उसको इकार किया था कि ऐसी कोई प्रवृत्ति नहीं है । लेकिन जहाँ जा स्थानीय आदमी होते हैं उनको जरूर थोड़ी बहुत तर्जीब मिलती है ।

श्री सभापति : श्री जगत नारायण । अगर आप नहीं करना चाहते तो नहीं करे लेकिन मैं तो जरूर बुलाऊंगा ।

श्री जगत नारायण (पंजाब) : करना चाहता हूँ ।

श्री सभापति : जरूर कीजिए ।

श्री जगत नारायण : मैं जनाब बजीर साहब से यह दरियाफ्त करना चाहता हूँ कि जब इंजीनियर्स को अप्वाइंटमेंट आर्डर दिया गया था तो क्या उनसे ये दो बाने लिखवाई गई थी :

“You are likely to be continued on a long-term basis. You are required to serve anywhere in India.”

इन दो टर्मों पर उनके दस्तखत करवाये थे । तो जब आपने यह वायदा किया था कि हम तुमको बाहर भी भेज सकते हैं तब जब आप इनका रिट्रेचमेंट करने लगे तो जो इतने प्राजेक्ट्स भारे हिन्दुस्तान में है उनमें आपने जो एश्योरेंस दिया था उसके मुताबिक उनको दूसरी जगह पोस्ट करना चाहिए था । तो आपने उनको क्यों नहीं पोस्ट किया ।

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : गवर्नमेंट ने कोई वायदा नहीं किया था अधिकार लिया था कि उनको जहाँ चाहें भेज सकते हैं अपनी स्टील मिनिस्ट्री के सम्बन्ध में, तो स्टील मिनिस्ट्री में तलाश की जा रही है कि वे कहाँ भेज सकते हैं और दूसरे प्रोजेक्टों में भी तलाश कर रहे हैं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Arjun Arora.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh). Sir, I forego my right to save the time of the House and I request you to pass on to the next business.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Arising out of the answer given to the question whether non-technical

persons are being appointed to technical posts when the technical persons have been retrenched, may I ask whether it is a fact that in Rourkela, Shri P. K. Sen who was . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No names, please.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It comes out of the reply given.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You say "somebody".

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Mr. P. K. Sen . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Some officer who was in charge of the coke oven plant was retrenched and some non-technical man was posted in his place.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I do not have the list of all the people who were there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, on a point of order. You gave the ruling here that the names of persons are not to be taken. But when we make reflections on some people then certainly there is no objection to taking or mentioning their names. Here the mention was to one P. K. Sen and the hon. Member asks whether Mr. P. K. Sen or somebody had been retrenched like that. These things can be uttered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I quite see the point. But his purpose can be served by his saying "some officer".

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He said that no non-technical person was appointed in the place of some who were technical hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your information is that some one was appointed.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Mr. P. K. Sen was a technical man.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I was dealing with Bhilai and this question does not relate to that but to Rourkela.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He does not have all the information about Rourkela. Shri Somasundaram.

SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM (Madras) : Sir, is it not a fact that after retrenching 19 people who were technical men they had appointed another 19 persons? I want to know that.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I could not follow the question clearly, Sir. But he is probably referring to the 96 people who were found jobs. They are technical jobs. They are not non-technical ones.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, जब 1965 में एग्जीमेन्ट के बारे में कहा था कि 1970 तक ये सब इन्जीनियर्स रहेंगे, जो आखिर में आए, वह पहले जाय यह भी सिद्धान्त सरकार को मालूम है, उसका भी पालन नहीं किया गया और ऐसे-ऐसे इन्जीनियरों को छोट दिया गया जिनको राष्ट्रीय पदक भी मिल चुका है, तो उन सब कारणों का एक मात्र कारण क्या यही है कि एक मंत्री महोदय का लड़का जो सर्वप्रथम भिलाई में— He was chargeman and he was promoted as Assistant Foreman. पहले वह चार्जमैन था . . .

श्री सभापति : असिस्टेंट फोरमैन था ।

श्री राजनारायण : पहले वह चार्जमैन था भिलाई में बाद में वह असिस्टेंट फोरमैन बना दिया गया और जिसके बारे में आम चर्चा है भिलाई में कि दिल्ली की गली-गली और सड़क सड़क और हर संसद सदस्यों के पास वह मंत्री का लड़का वहां के जनरल मैनेजर के साथ बराबर घूमता रहता है गाड़ी में, काम नहीं करना और दिल्ली में भी रहता है, और वही जिस जिसको कहता है वह वह निकाल दिये जाते हैं और जिस जिस को चाहता है रख लिया जाता है; जिस जिस को चाहता है तरक्की हो जाती है, जिस जिस को चाहे नाराजी हो जाती है

[श्री राजनारायण]

तो क्या मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि कौन ऐसा मंत्री है, उसका कोई लड़का है . . .

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Who is the Minister ? Central or State ?

श्री राजनारायण : सेन्ट्रल । मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप निहायत अदब के साथ मंत्री जी से पूछें कि वह किस मंत्री का लड़का है ।

श्री सभापति : भिलाई में ?

श्री राजनारायण : भिलाई में मंत्री जी का लड़का है, भिलाई में पहले चार्जमैन था, अब वह प्रमोट कर दिया गया है असिस्टेंट फोरमैन की जगह पर और वह जनरल मैनेजर के साथ बराबर घूमता रहता है, उसी के इशारे पर सारी कार्यवाही होती है . . .

श्री सभापति : यह आपने कह दिया है ।

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : मुझे पता नहीं महोदया, मैं देखूंगा ।

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : Sir, on a point of order. Yesterday, you gave a ruling that no name should be mentioned here when such insinuations are made.

श्री राजनारायण : नाम कहाँ लिया ।

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : Here is a new problem. There are so many Central Ministers with children and we do not know who it is. When this kind of allegation is made . . .

श्री राजनारायण : क्या एलोगेशन है ?

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : . . . unless we know who is involved . . .

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे पास जो नाम हैं, श्रीमन् . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You can name the Minister.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : . . . Shri T. N. Singh. What are the qualifications of his son who is working in Bhilai ? He was Chargeman before and . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had asked you not to name.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, you reconsider it. Any ruling cannot be ruling. Sir, you must consider; Ministers' names can always be taken.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I am very glad, Sir, that he has taken my name.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am not saying anything with regard to him. To set the records straight, I say the Ministers are present in the House and the Central Ministers' names can always be taken. They can defend themselves here. And what is more, here the Minister is present in the House. Therefore that ruling of yours which you gave must be reconsidered. If you say that the Ministers' names cannot be taken, you can ask us to get out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I am not asking you to get out.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But then, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have understood you. Since Mr. Rajnarain had agreed not to name and the Minister said that he will look into the matter I thought the matter was closed.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन् मैं आपकी इजाजत से आपकी भावना, आपकी इच्छा, आपके हुक्म का पालन कर रहा हूँ । मगर जहाँ तक हमको पार्लियामेंटरी प्रैक्टिस की जानकारी है, मैं भूपेश गुप्त से कतई सहमत हूँ कि मिनिस्टर का नाम लिया जा सकता है, मगर चूँकि आपका हुक्म था इसलिये मैंने मान लिया ।

श्री सभापति : मैंने यह नहीं कहा है कि किसी का नाम नहीं लिया जा सकता है ।

आप कह रहे थे कि नाम लूँ, मैंने कहा

न लोजिए। आपने कहा कि किसी मिनिस्टर का लड़का है, मंत्री जी ने कहा मैं मालूम करूंगा। हा, आप कुछ कहना चाहते हैं तो कहिए।

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I am really sorry that some allegations are made like this. My son was appointed as long ago as, I think, 1957 or 1958. He was not appointed as a Chargeman. He was a Science student and after he passed he was appointed as Senior Operator. And on next promotion in the course of eight years he becomes an assistant Foreman and that was also when I was not the Minister of Steel. I am really sorry that . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : You were not a Minister ?

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Probably, I think I was then in the Planning Commission. And to make these allegations, it is really character assassination. I do not know how this kind of thing can be said if somebody has been promoted like this. It is really very very painful.

SHRI ABID ALI (Maharashtra) : Shame.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I can say that in this small life of mine I have tried to observe certain standards of rectitude. If Members of this House desire, my whole history is an open book for anybody. I can make this definite statement. It is unfortunate today that I am a Minister. I wish I were not so because at the least provocation things are said, and especially by people I have known, who know me and whom I know from childhood.

SHRI ABID ALI : It is political motive.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : And this should go that far. I cannot say what you should do in such matters. I do not know what remedy I have. It is really painful to hear such things.

SHRI ABID ALI : He should apologise.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : I do not know what to do. If my son comes to Delhi, is that an offence? Where should he stay? He has got to stay with me. I cannot make out what remedy one has if one happens to have the misfortune of becoming a Minister. I am in your hands, Sir, that is all I can say. It is one of the most painful experiences to me to hear such things in this way in this House. I can only seek your protection in such matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you have said is explanation enough and that should satisfy.

SHRI ABID ALI : If Mr. Rajnarain has self-respect, he should apologise.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No; I pass on to the next item.

श्री राजनारायण : मुझे बड़ा दुख है श्रीमन् कि . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow you.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आपकी सहूलियत के लिये और उनको जो दुख पहुंचा . . .

श्री सभापति : आप मेरी सहूलियत मत चाहिये। मैं ऐसी सहूलियत नहीं चाहता कि आप हमेशा बेइज्जती करें।

(Interruption)

श्री आबिद अली : नहीं सुनना चाहते आपकी बात।

श्री राजनारायण : हल्ला न करिये। जितना उन्होंने कहा उसकी असत्यता भी प्रमाणित हो जायेगी . . .

श्री सभापति : मैं आपको किस तरह मुतमैयन कर सकता हूँ कि आप खामोश रहें।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं बिल्कुल खामोश हूँ, बशर्त कि ट्रेजरी बेंच वाले चाहें कि मैं खामोश रहूँ।