

RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 2nd April, 1976/the 13th
Chaitra, 1898 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr.
Chairman in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bifurcation of Hindustan Steel Limited

*541. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : *t*

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for bifurcation of Hindustan Steel Limited into separate companies for each steel plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI
SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) A
statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Bifurcation of Hindustan Steel Limited

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad proposals are as under :—

G) Bhilai Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant (including Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela) and Alloy Steels Plant at Durgapur will become three separate and independent companies with their own boards of management. Durgapur Steel Plant will also be a separate company with its own board of management but will continue as the residual Hindustan Steel Ltd. All these companies will be fully-owned subsidiaries of Steel Authority of India Ltd.

(ii) The coal washeries at Dugda, Bhoju-dih and Patherdih will be transferred to Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : May I know from the hon. Minister from which date these companies will start functioning as separate units ?

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gian Chand Totu.
1—65RSS/76

) SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : There are certain issues which are being sorted out, and as soon as they are sorted out, we would put forward our proposals before this hon. House and before Parliament. As soon as Parliament approves them they will start functioning independently.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : May I presume that these three units would start definitely functioning separately in the next financial year ? My second question is this. What would be the new relationship of SAIL with these units in the light of their separation ?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : These units will have their separate boards of directors and they will function independently under SAIL. As at present SAIL is co-ordinating the functions of these units and it will continue to do so.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : It is really a very good step? that the Government is taking with regard to their separation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a plan for the mini steel plants also. About a dozen of them are in operation. Is there any plan with the Government to have a united board for all the mini steel plants ?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : It is not possible to have any board for the mini steel plants. The mini steel plants have certain problems and Government will very sympathetically look into them. Also, the Government has appointed two expert committees to look into the problems of mini plants and see how to help them. As soon as we get their reports we will see what we can do to help these units.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : It seems that even after the restructuring, the final authority will still remain with SAIL. Now, lately the steel plants have been doing very well. There are very good relations between labour and management, but the problem is, as Mr. Yadav is aware, there is a huge accumulation of coal and the steel plants are refusing to take coal. Huge stocks of coal lie on the ground in Bhilai, Durgapur and everywhere else. This has created a problem for the workers and the

railways. I would like to know what he is going to do about it, whether he is going to take all the coal that is being supplied today. It is, on an average, 14,000 tonnes per day. If not, may I know whether he is proposing to cut down the production of cokina coal ?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Our efforts have been, really speaking, to keep on an average about three weeks' coal stocks in the steel plants. It is a fact that in the last two or three months the coal production has gone higher and we do not have enough stocking capacity at the level of the steel plants. At present most of the steel plants have tried their best to keep more coal, even though their capacity is only for three weeks' stocks. I have issued instructions to all steel plants to see that they should make facilities available at least to keep one month's coal stock. Therefore, necessary steps are being taken. I would also like to assure the hon. Member that only with a view to seeing that the steel plants do better, that they should have a little more autonomy and that there should be *inter se* competition, this instructing of HSL ha', been done.

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The SAIL will be doing the co-ordinating and future planning work and will be only helping these plants in attaining better production,.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN : Sir, in this new Board of Directors how many directors will be there who will be functional directors and what will be the pattern of the Board ? Will there be a Chair'-man-cum-Managing Director or will there be only a part-time Chairman for each company?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Sir, the Government has taken this decision only very recently, i.e., only about three weeks back. All these matters are matters of detail and it will take some time for the Government to look into these matters.

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय,
मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ

कि क्या हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड को अलग अलग भागों में बांटने से पूर्व आप ने कोई अध्ययन दल नियुक्त किया था इस के लाभ और हानि की जाँच करने के लिये ? यदि हाँ, तो उस की रिपोर्ट क्या है ? इस प्रकार के विभाजन से आप को लाभ क्या होने वाला है जब कि आप को अलग अलग डाइरेक्टर्स नियुक्त करने होंगे, अलग अलग आफिसें बनाने होंगे और उस में काफी खर्च होगा ? तो कोई अध्ययन दल एक्सपर्ट्स का नियुक्त किया गया था कि इस से क्या लाभ होने वाला है ?

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : श्रीमान्, पहली बात तो यह है कि इस सदन की ही बहुत दिनों में यह माँग थी कि यह जो प्लान्ट्स हैं उन को ज्यादा अधिकार मिलने चाहिए उनको काम करने की स्वतंत्रता ज्यादा होनी चाहिए और सब से बड़ी बात यह है कि जब से सेल अस्तित्व में आया, एच० एस० एल० और सेल का काम दोहरा हो रहा था और इस काम में कठिनाई हो रही थी। तो अपने अनुभव से

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं ने प्रश्न किया था कि आप ने कोई अध्ययन दल नियुक्त किया या नहीं ?

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : मैं बता रहा हूँ। मैं ने अभी खत्म नहीं किया है। कोई अध्ययन दल नहीं नियुक्त किया गया लेकिन जो हमारा अनुभव है सेल का और एच० एस० एल० का, उस पर हम ने बहुत विस्तार से विचार किया और सोचा और हानि और लाभ के दोनों पक्षों को देखने के बाद हम ने यह निर्णय किया कि ऐसा करना ज्यादा हितकारी होगा हमारे लिये।

SHRI S. W. DHABE : Sir, on the one side public sector undertakings are running into losses; on the other side, one of the objectives of the 20-point programme is the reduction in the administrative expen-

diture by the Government. May I know whether this bifurcation of S.A.I.L. will result in the administration incurring more expenditure or less ?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Sir, I am sorry, the hon. Member has misunderstood the reply. It is not the bifurcation of SAIL. The thing is that the plants are getting more autonomy but the SAIL will continue to function as it is functioning. It will co-ordinate. I am glad to say that last year we had more than Rs. 36 crores of profit. It is not that we are now running into losses and we hope that they will do much better this year. The overall production of steel plants has increased by 16.2 percent over the last year's production and we feel that we will be doing much better this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

दिल्ली टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज

* 542. श्री जगदीश जोशी :

श्री खुरशीद आलम खान :

श्री कासिम अली आबिद :

श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील उर्फ तालिब :

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज की वर्तमान क्षमता पर काफी भार है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो दिल्ली में अतिरिक्त टेलीफोन लाइनों के लिए सरकार क्या योजनाएं तैयार करना चाहती है ?

Delhi Telephone Exchanges

542. SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM

KHAN : SHRI QASIM ALI

ABID : SHRI PIARE LALL

KUREEL

URF PIARE LALL TALIB-SHRI

IBRAHIM KALANIYA :

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Joshi.

सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री जगदीश जोशी द्वारा पूछा गया ।

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that the present capacity of exchanges in Delhi Telephones is over-taxed; and

(b) if so, what plans Government propose to make for additional telephone lines in Delhi ?]

संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ राहाड़िया) : (क) और (ख) दिल्ली के एक्सचेंजों की क्षमता 1,22,350 लाइनों की है और प्रतीक्षा-सूची में 47,730 आवेदकों के नाम दर्ज हैं । इन एक्सचेंजों पर काफी भार है, क्योंकि प्रत्येक टेलीफोन का इस्तेमाल बहुत अधिक किया जाता है । ऐसा प्रस्ताव है कि वर्ष 1976-77 में इस टेलीफोन प्रणाली में 28,000 लाइनें जोड़ दी जाएं । इससे प्रतीक्षा-सूची में आवेदकों की संख्या कम हो जाएगी और वर्तमान एक्सचेंजों पर भार भी कम हो जाएगा ।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAHADIA) - (a) and (b) The capacity of the exchanges in Delhi is 1,22,350 lines and there is a waiting list of 47,730. The exchanges are over-loaded as every telephone is heavily used. It is proposed to add 28,000 lines to the system during 1976-77 which will reduce the waiting list as also the load in the existing exchanges.]

श्री जगदीश जोशी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को इस बात की जानकारी है कि आपात कालीन स्थिति की घोषणा होने के 15 दिन तक तो दिल्ली की टेलीफोन सेवा बड़ी अप-टू-डेट रही और उस के बाद फिर उस का बिगाड़ तेजी से शुरू हो गया है और अब पुनः वही स्थिति है कि जो नम्बर मिलाओ, गलत मिलता है और काफी समय तक संसद सदस्यों के भी टेलीफोन्स डेड पड़े रहते हैं और मरम्मत करने वाला नहीं मिल पाता । तो ऐसी स्थिति को देखते हुए जो क्रम-वार की प्रणाली रही है उस में कोई परिवर्तन करने या सुधार करने