

Agency, Research and Analysis Wing, Directorate of Signal Intelligence, NATGRID and Delhi Police. These are the authorized agencies to conduct whatever they need for investigative purposes.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, this CDR menace is manifested in phone-tapping. Private detective agencies are thriving like mushrooms because they can easily import equipment from Israel and other countries and which can tap phones in the vicinity of one kilometre or two kilometres. Why don't you ban import of these equipments? I would like to know from the Minister because illegal tapping is going on.

Secondly, some Government agencies, authorized or not authorized, are also tapping phones illegally through these equipments. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has got any direct answer or not. Kindly respond to this.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, those unauthorized equipments available in this country have either been seized or deposited with the Government. As per the records, we don't have such unauthorised equipments in place.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Why don't you allow import of that? If we smuggle, then it is a very serious matter.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I agree to the point of Rajeev Shuklaji that if the Government decides on those equipments which are useful for the purpose for which it is to be imported, they will be regulated. We can't allow the equipments to be imported just because it is useful. It must be useful for the country, for the agencies, not for misuse.

Land acquired for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

*182. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had promised people whose land was acquired for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, that every family would get one permanent job at the plant;

(b) how many such jobs were eventually given at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(c) whether many families whose land was acquired never got any benefit from the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(d) the reasons for neglecting families to whom promises were made solemnly by Government for the land acquired for the plant; and

(e) what steps will be taken to review the entire history of relief and compensation promised and not given by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to local people?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The land for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) was acquired by Government of Andhra Pradesh. The compensation and rehabilitation benefits are made to the land owners/ displaced persons by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited-VSP has provided employment to 7473 displaced persons as against 5,000 agreed to.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, the information that has been provided by the hon. Minister is factually incorrect and contrary to the information that has been obtained by me through RTI. Sir, 23,000 acres have been acquired and 16,500 families, either poor farmers or poor farm labourers, residing in 64 villages since early 1990s have been displaced. Sir, my question is, whether the assurances that have been given to these farmers and farm labourers have been honoured or not. According to the information available to me, these promises have not been honoured. My humble request to the hon. Minister is, the Minister has to give a direction to CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited to receive the delegation and accept the memorandum so that the facts that have been obtained by me through RTI and the information that has been provided by the Minister can be compared and verified and the memorandum to be submitted to the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited can be accepted in letter and spirit.

CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, as far as meeting of the delegation with the CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited is concerned, there is no problem. Any delegation can meet. Even there is no need for my direction to be issued. The other question which was raised was that the information which is supplied to the hon. Minister is contradictory to what the information that he has got. Sir, if you see, the total land which was acquired, was acquired way back in 1972 and it continued to be in process for about 20 years. The last acquisition was only four acres of land which was acquired way back in 2004. What I mean is, there was this understanding that the families who are displaced would be considered for jobs because most of the families were given R-Cards (Rehabilitation Cards) and rather a tripartite agreement was signed between Andhra Pradesh Government, the Ministry of Steel and the representative of the displaced persons and it was agreed upon that for these 5000 families, one member from

each family, would be given jobs and now I would say that out of these 16,000 families, to 5000 families the jobs have already been given. Not 5000, Sir, employment has been provided for 7,473 persons -unskilled-4,407, semi-skilled-3066. Whereas it was agreed upon to give jobs only to 5000 families.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, a separate sub-Employment Exchange has been established at Gazuvaka in Visakhapatnam wherein even today 7,500 R-Cardholders remained to be employed by the RINL.

Further, in reply, the hon. Minister said that it is a fact that 16,500 families residing in 64 villages have been displaced. Out of 16,500 families displaced, only 7,500 families have been provided with employment and the remaining 9,000 families who were promised that they would be provided with employment have not been accommodated and promises have not been fulfilled. Sir, the hon. Minister says that it is the responsibility of the State Government which has given the commitment while acquiring land. But, my humble submission is: According to law, the buyer cannot get a better title than what seller has got. Therefore, land acquired by the State Government with a rider that employment would be provided to the displaced families should be honoured by the RINL, because these 23,000 acres of land ultimately came to RINL's fold.

CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, as far as setting up of Employment Exchange in that area is concerned, it is a fact and they have been asked to register their names in that Employment Exchange. Also, one of the conditions was that they should also produce the R-Card. I say that the entire land was acquired by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of Andhra Pradesh, in turn, gave that land to the Ministry of Steel. The Ministry of Steel, in turn, gave the Power of Attorney to the RINL for erection of plant on that site. So, Sir, as I explained, when the Tripartite Agreement was signed between all the three concerned parties, it was decided that employment would be given to 5,000 families. And, giving employment is a continuous process. Whenever there is vacancy, this very Employment Exchange is also given information. If somebody claims that he is in the third generation of that family and he should also be given the benefit of land acquisition, then it is not possible.

And, Sir, in 2008, the Supreme Court judgment was very clear. The judgment says that article 14 does not permit that one should get double advantage — compensation and employment. But, still, what I say is...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. They say it is a promise of the Government. Now, they are saying that the Government has promised that one member of each family

would be given job. So, it is only a question of fulfillment of the promise. That is what they are saying.

CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: No, Sir. What I have said is: When land was handed over to the RINL, there was a Tripartite Agreement. A Committee was constituted and one section of the ousters was represented by one of the Commissioners and the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Ministry of Steel all put together decided, ultimately, that 5,000 families would be given jobs. As I have explained, it is not just 5,000; rather, we have given jobs to 7,473. It means, we even did not stick to the figure of 5,000. Still, what I would like to say is that Employment Exchange is provided with all information that whenever there is any vacancy, it is informed and whosoever qualify for any particular technical job is also given an opportunity.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I have been associated with the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for the last thirty years. The hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that the land for Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant was acquired by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Before putting my question, let me clarify this. Though, in principle, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had acquired land, yet a lot of agitation had been going on at that time. The land-owners were not prepared to give their land unless they had been promised that one member from each family would be provided a job in the steel plant. After that, the Ministry of Steel, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Ispat Nigam joined together and assured the land-owners that one member each from all the 16,000 families would be provided jobs. I do not know how the hon. Minister has got the figure of 5,000. The fact is that even today whenever I go to Vishakhapatnam, people keep on crying that their land has gone, they are very poor people, they have nothing to eat and the ispat Nigam has not given them jobs. Therefore, my question is this. What steps will be taken to review the entire history of relief and jobs not being provided? When are you going to review all this — what your promise was; what has been given; what you are going to give. ...*(Interruptions)*... When the land was acquired, there was no expansion programme of the steel plant. Now, it has expanded many times. But despite so much expansion, jobs have not been provided to one member each of all the sixteen thousand families. ...*(Interruptions)*... When are you going to fulfil your commitment?

CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, if you see, the tripartite agreement was confined only to 5,000 families. And, when I say that more than 7,000 families have been given jobs, ...*(Interruptions)*... There were only 450 families of two villages who were a bit reluctant to part with their land. Ultimately, they went to the court. The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, during the last phase of acquisition, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh

were still in the process of rehabilitating those 450 families. The problem was that those 450 families of two villages were insisting that they should be placed at one place and should not be spread over different colonies. So, that was the problem. And, when this problem could be sorted out, then, the entire 450 families are ready to go to the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Tapan Kumar Sen, please put your question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay; okay. That's all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tapan, you start and put your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI READY: Sir, 16,000 families ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister is again and again referring to ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Subbarami Ready, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot disturb like this after putting your question. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... After putting your question, you cannot disturb like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are disturbing Mr. Tapan. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister is again and again repeating that the tripartite agreement had committed 5,000 jobs. You may personally see the area that has been taken over. It involves more than 20,000 families. So, the tripartite agreement, which had taken place at that point of time, had excluded the majority part on local political considerations. While working in the trade union, I have been associated with the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant right from its erecting stage. I know the entire story. At different times, there had been spells of agitations. You also understand that for a giant steel plant like the RINL, the figure of 5,000 itself is very much under rated. It is a very old problem. You have rightly said that about three generations are involved in that. But the agitations are still alive. So, let it be reviewed practically, and, I think, the RINL is on an expanding mode. So, there are rooms for accommodation of all the affected land-oustee families. Will the Minister kindly review these aspects from a practical point of view? I think, the problem can be addressed and it is possible to address it to the satisfaction of all concerned. Will you kindly review these things? Don't hinge on that tripartite agreement.

CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is right. As far as the families are concerned, the number may be around 20,000. But if the plant itself is not having the full capacity of 20,000, all put together, then how would it be possible? Now, we have the total strength of 17,700. That is the strength of the RINL. But, on the other hand, you are right that expansion is taking place and also there is modernization of the plant. As the hon. Member has mentioned, there is an Employment Exchange situated in that area where the land was acquired. So, we would also see that the people or the job-seekers are registered in that Employment Exchange. I will ensure that they should also be given that kind of priority but, as I have put it, they are asking for jobs for the second generation, third generation. But we would try that in case of expansion and we are to take more on our roll, then, naturally, they may also get that kind of consideration.

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Sir, during 60s to 90s, many public sector steel plants were put up and huge tracts of land were acquired, say, in RINL or Bokaro Steel in Jharkhand and, maybe, in other States. Now, even after fifty years, this Government has inherited the problem of rehabilitation of the people who gave the land. Now, this is also causing resistance to the new proposals of the steel plant. Sir, the technology has changed. Now you require lesser number of people and also lesser amount of land. Thus, gradually, the requirement is coming down. All these steel plants have a lot of unutilized land. Sir, through you, my question to the hon. Minister will be: Can't the Government think of finding solution to this problem by considering in terms of rehabilitation and some other means rather than by only providing the jobs?

CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: The land which was acquired way back forty years or fifty years was under the 1894 Land Acquisition Act and that is a fact that at that time any quantum of land which was projected in the plan of putting up a plant was given consent and accordingly in some of the plants — I am new to this Ministry — I have seen that the land is to the tune of 26,000 acres. So, in some of the plants, they have established a lot of good work. Colonies are there. Even in one of the plants, Bokaro, there is 700-bed hospital. Sir, these kinds of facilities are provided not only to the residents of that plant area, but even in the neighbouring areas also. The hon. Member has asked, "Why can't there be any possibility that the vacant land is utilized for this?" Sir, we are not in the real estate business. I am sorry to say.

Cases registered under NDPS Act, 1985

*183.SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: