

friend opposite, Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, will offer his cooperation to me, so that we may be able to increase the production of steel and coal. I do not wish to say anything more about it, at this stage. I will be coming at a later stage after I have made more specific study of the various points where I have to catch those defects.

But, in the end, I must remind him of certain things which are in common between ourselves,—between ourselves sitting here and members of the opposition, members of the opposite party sitting before me,—and this is, we have certain common interests. We have to keep those common interests in view. And, if we look to those common interests we cannot ignore the fact that there are a large number of post-nationalisation problems which have to be solved and those problems shall be solved even if they are not cooperating, even if we are not finding enough cooperation from certain anti-social elements, because without solving those problems the increase in the production of coal, the increase in the production of steel, will not be possible.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I rise on a point of order. The hon. Minister just now said that certain things stated by me are not obviously accurate. May I very humbly ask him to point out to me which are the things that are accurate and which are the things that are not accurate?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, you are so good outside.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: If I quote rule 353, the House will know what the actual position is.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not quote from the book. I know it better.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I bow to your request.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chandrappan.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: (Telliacherry): This is a very peculiar situation in which we are placed in the context of coal shortage. The Government says that the production of coal has increased from 74.81 mil-

lion tonnes in 1972 to 77.17 million tonnes in the year 1973. So, there was no shortage of coal as far as its production was concerned. The Railway claims that it is efficiently handling the transportation and so they say that they are not responsible for this. But, the coal mining authority says that there is increased production of coal and about 6 million tonnes of coal is lying at the pithead which should have been transported. But the fact remains that the steel mills and the railways still suffer because of the shortage of coal.

In this situation, I think that the matter should be examined more seriously than it was done so far as mentioned by the Minister. I want to know whether the Minister finds only anti-social elements as responsible for this situation. I think the responsibility should be fixed on the people who are in higher-ups who are the bureaucrats and who are running the Railway Board and who are responsible for various authorities and organisations set up by the Government. This is a conspiracy between the monopoly house, the private sector and the top bureaucrats who are running the administration sitting just near the Minister. And this conspiracy is just to malign the public sector and to discredit it and to glorify the private sector. The conspiracy is also to malign the working class and also to escape the responsibility. This is what is happening actually if you examine this a little more carefully. I would like to cite one or two examples in this context.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your questions.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am asking the question. TISCO has been closed down because of coal shortage. Is it not a fact? It is the captive mines owned by TISCO which are responsible to supply coal to the extent of fiftyone per cent. This Steel Mill. Is it, therefore, not a fact that they did not exploit the non-nationalised captive mines for the last several months? They did not bring in coal which they should have brought for the working of the TISCO Steel Mills? They have blamed the Government precisely, the reason is this. They wanted to hide the fact that it is they who were responsible for bringing in 51 per cent of the total coal requirements of that Company. It is not the nationalised coal mines and railways which are fully responsible for this coal shortage as far as TISCO was concerned. They were not supposed to bring in the total coal requirements of that company as they have their own captive mines.

In the meantime one of the top officials went there to settle the matter. At Patna he made a public statement. It has been alleged that he had stated that the opening of Bokaro without finding sufficient coal was responsible for the crisis in TISCO. Is that officer not indirectly telling the people that the public sector undertaking, and one of the creditably run public sector undertakings like Bokaro should be closed down in the interests of the Tatas and the TISCO? It is a fact. The hon. Minister should examine that.

The hon. Minister has already said that there are blackmarketeers, and there is large-scale pilferage. There is smuggling and all these are happening in the coal mines. Coal is produced but it is sold in the black market and it has been stolen from mines. There are cases in Asansol and Dhanbad and his own officials have ...

MR. SPEAKER: Let him please confine himself to the question. Only one question is to be allowed. I am still allowing the others also.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I would like to know whether Government will look into the matter of how far the bureaucrats who are in the Railway Board and who are in the SAIL and who are in the Coal Mines Authority are responsible for creating this kind of coal shortage and how far they are responsible for discrediting the public sector undertaking and supporting the private sector undertakings in our country.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I shall be very brief in my answer. First of all, I have never said a word or any sentence or expressed any sentiment whereby I have maligned the workers who are now busy producing coal, except that I was referring to some antisocial elements.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN. He has not maligned, but his officials have maligned.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I was referring to certain anti-social elements trying to create problems there for the workers as well as those who are responsible for increasing the production. I know that it is the workers who are producing the coal and if the workers are not given proper conditions I have no justification for asking them to increase the production.

The hon. Member had asked me only one pertinent question, namely whether the senior bureaucrats of the railways, or the Coal authority or the Mining Department are responsible, either in collusion with certain other elements or without collusion, for creating problems which are ultimately resulting in less production. I categorically say 'No'. The only thing is that we might be lacking in the experiences which are required today for solving the post-nationalisation problems that we are facing. There are plenty of places where corruption is still going on. It

is our duty, with the cooperation of the Opposition, and it is the duty of the high officers, and they are discharging their duty quite well, to catch and specify those points where corruption might still be going on either at a lower level or even at the same level. I make a promise here that it will be our serious effort and endeavour to see that all these holes are plugged and we are able to catch those people. That we are going to ameliorate the condition of the workers and that we are going to create a pattern of coordination between ourselves which will ultimately effectively increase the production.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: He has not answered my question. It is a very serious thing. 51 per cent of the coal should have been brought from the captive mines of TISCO. But the hon. Minister did not say anything about it.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The coal which reaches the steel mills is not enough to register an increase as we want it to, or as has been recorded now or planned now for production. If we increase the quantity only by a little, that is not enough even to increase the production of coal because we must have a buffer stock in order to ensure ...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): He is asking about the TISCO captive mines.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: TISCO captive mines are not closed.

Their production alone has been reduced.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Kindly ask the Minister to listen. TISCO have their own captive mines and 51 per cent of the coal required by TISCO could have been supplied by exploiting those mines. TISCO did not do that in a deliberate effort to sabotage production.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I will make enquiries and let the hon. member know.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice of so many adjournment motions.

The first is one by Shri P. M. Mehta; then there are many others, Shri Madhu Dandavate, Shri C. K. Chandrappan, Shri Ramavatar Shastri, Shri H. N. Mukerjee, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Bhogendra Jha, Shri Samar Mukherjee, Shri Saroj Mukherjee, Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya. Shri Dinesh Joarder, Shri Samar Guha, Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu and Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik, Shri Mehta's motion is on 'failure of the Government to check the unprecedented rise in price of all essential commodities and in particular in the food-grains at the time when the country had bumper crops'. Is he pressing for it?

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): I would like to make a submission. We, the signatories of the motion, have consulted among ourselves and we feel that as many members are electioneering, no fruitful or purposeful discussion will take place. Therefore, I do not press for my adjournment motion.

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many others also.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): You have to ask one after another.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot ask everybody.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That is the procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I take it that you do not want it?

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I do not want to move it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You should take what Shri Mehta has said ...

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am trying to help you.