

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 82 ... (*Interruptions*)... Please, let the Question Hour proceed. (*Interruptions*)... Please let the Question Hour proceed. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please let the Question Hour proceed. ... (*Interruptions*)... Panyji, take your seat. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please ... (*Interruptions*)... Question No. 82. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please ... (*Interruptions*)... Will you please resume your place? ... (*Interruptions*)...

Strength of employees in PSUs

*82. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:††
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent employees working in PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry as on 31st March, 2007 (unit-wise break up); and

(b) the number of contract/casual/contingency workers working in these units as on 31st March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Strength of employees in PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industries.

Sl. No.	Name of PSE	No. of Regular/ Permanent employees	No. of Contract/ Casual/ contingency workers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL)	15797	5121
2.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd. (BBJ)	93	533
3.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)	42124	10078
4.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. (BHPV)	1512	369
5.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd. (BPCL)	1214	54
6.	Bharat Wagon & Engineers Co. Ltd. (BWEL)	930	0
7.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. (Braithwaite)	525	525
8.	Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd. (B&R)	1449	930
9.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL)	1520	1771
10.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)	1535	1597
11.	Engineering Projects India Ltd.	469	127
12.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd. (HEC)	3330	2050
13.	Hindustan Cable Ltd. (HCL)	3105	225

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN.

1	2	3	4
14.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. (HNL)	1002	918
15.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (HPC)	2750	2875
16.	Hindustan Photo Films Ltd. (HPF)	1066	188
17.	Hindustan Salt Ltd. (HSL)	122	332
18.	HMT (B) Ltd.	326	125
19.	HMT (Chinar watches) Ltd.	576	9
20.	HMT (Holding) Ltd.	2340	524
21.	HMT (I) Ltd.	65	8
22.	HMT (MT) Ltd.	4236	918
23.	HMT (Watches) Ltd.	2152	152
24.	Hooghly Printing Co. Ltd. (Hooghly)	60	-
25.	Instrumentation Ltd. (ILK)	1677	106
26.	NEPA Ltd.	1455	279
27.	Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL)	504	56
28.	Rajasthan Electronics & Instrumentation Ltd. (REIL)	206	193
29.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd. (R&C)	73	156
30.	Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL)	133	291
31.	Scooters (India) Ltd. (SIL)	1601	1
32.	Triveni Structurals Ltd. (TSL)	304	07
33.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL)	109	11
34.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL)	252	694
TOTAL:		94612	31223

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, it has been revealed that out of 34 industries, in seven industries, the number of contract/casual/contingency workers is more than the regular workers; in two industries, the number of contract labourers and that of regular labourers is almost equal, and in eight industries, the number of contract workers in the total workforce ranges between 30 per cent and more than 50 per cent. If we see the public sector in general, we will find that in other Ministers the situation is even more precarious which clearly reflects that these contract/casual/contingency workers are being utilised in the regular, permanent and perennial operational jobs, which is not permissible under the law of the land.

Sir, my first supplementary is: (a) In view of such a violation of the law of the land in the work places run by the Government of India, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to instruct the concerned management and take direct initiative to see that the rule of law is established in the work places run by the Government of India itself, and ensure that the contract workers engaged in the regular operational areas are immediately regularised. Part (b) of my supplementary is ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that your first supplementary?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, that is part (a) of my supplementary. Part (b) of my supplementary is ... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Please, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One supplementary, one question.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it is related to that. Since they are related to operational areas, the wage that is being paid to them should not be the minimum wage declared by the State Government, but the minimum wage applicable to that industry. If it is not done, again, it will, again, be a violation of the law of the land. So, my first supplementary relates to implementation of the law of the land by the Government of India where it itself is an employer in the work places/PSUs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members to put questions and not make a statement. We are taking away precious time of the House. Now, Hon. Minister.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate that the hon. Member is saying that the Government of India is following illegal practices. No, I strongly condemn this idea of the hon. Member. He is a seasoned and old Member of the House. When we make a tender in various parts of the country, we give our wages. We get them. We take some permanent labourers but, on the spot there, it is more reasonable and competitive for us to take local labourers; so, there is no illegality. But we maintain the minimum wage law of that particular State where they do the work. The minimum wage varies from State to State, the best being in Kerala. In other States, it is not that good. I do agree that it needs to be considered by the Ministry of Labour and not by me. As regards his question as to whether we will permanently absorb these labourers; no, but we give them the facilities of Provident Fund and other things. If they work for seven days. Provident Fund is cut from their salaries and is deposited. Sometimes, if they participate in the contributory system of Provident Fund, it is cut from their wages. This is one of the innovations in India. In other parts of the world wherever I have gone, I have found that Provident Fund is not given to the casual workers. So, we should feel proud that in our country the labour laws are such as to protect the interests of the working class. I request the hon. Member not to form an idea that we are doing something illegal.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, my second supplementary is this, I would just like to inform the hon. Minister that illegality does not lie in the area of tendering for appointing contract labourers. The illegality is in utilising the contract and casual work in regular, permanent and perennial job as per provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act. When these workers are deployed for regular operational job, an illegality is committed and that is to be corrected.

Sir, since the hon. Minister is also in charge of the Department of Public Enterprises, I would also like to add one thing here. Sir, currently in the public sector, the seventh round of wage revision for the employees and workers of public sector employees is taking place. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, through DPE, he will direct the concerned public sector that along with the revision of wages of the regular workers in the public sector, the wage revision of the contract labour engaged there in the regular operational job and also

contributing to the company and to the country will also be taken into consideration. I want to know whether he would ensure that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Well, this is a suggestion for consideration

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, he may please clarify the question of illegality. He may please clarify that. He has not clarified the illegality point. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: There is no illegality ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: He has not clarified the illegality point. ... *(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I am not interrupting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN; Sir, he has not replied to my question. ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has given an answer. ... *(Interruptions)*... Shri Prasanta Chatterjee. ... *(Interruptions)*... You can quiz the answer, but there is a separate procedure for it. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I did not want to elaborate ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMER SEN: Sir, the contract workers are engaged in regular work ... *(Interruptions)*... I want to know whether it is an illegality as per the law of the land.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, allow me to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sen, please.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, there is a Supreme Court judgement in Karnataka in the Uma Devi case. What I have said is that they have given the judgement. This is the highest court in the country. It is not necessary mandatory to give permanent job to a casual worker. The casual worker does go all over the country. The migrated labours are also there. So, there is nothing illegal in it. ... *(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let the hon. Minister finish. ... *(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ... *(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, he is violating the contract worker laws. ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the hon. Minister to finish. ... *(Interruptions)*... Please, Please. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: With all authority at my command standing in this House, I would like to say that this is a practice which is also being followed in West Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: That is not the point. ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee to raise his supplementary question. ... *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee. ... *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee, please.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, it is not the question of a particular State ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Minister is hiding behind the Supreme Court judgement. ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, an hon. Member is raising a supplementary question. Please allow him to proceed. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Yes; Sir, but the point is ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; please. I have not conceded the floor to you ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMER SEN: What is the relevance between West Bengal and his question? ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, it is not the question of a particular State. It is the question of legality. ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee, please.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether there is any machinery to ensure that no change of labour takes place even after change of contract. I want to know whether he would ensure that no change of labour takes place even after change of contract. I want to know whether there is any machinery to ensure that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, there is a misconception. Suppose my Department gets a contract of Rs. 500 crores. All permanent labour cannot do this work and it will take a long time also. So, there are registered firms who have expertise in doing separate work in separate fields. On the basis of a competitive tender, the agency to do the work is selected. If they get a contract, it is their onus whom they should appoint or whom they should not appoint. We do not say that you cannot take x, y or z. It is up to that company. There are firms like Larsen & Tubro, Gammon India, etc. These are the firms. They have their own set of labourers, own set of engineers and they are entitled to take anybody. As per rules, their salary and other facilities are also protected in our country.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the disinvestment policy of the present Government still exists or there is some change in the disinvestment policy in order to safeguard the interest of the workers. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister about a company in Mumbai called the Richardson & Crudas Limited. There is a court case with regard to this company, between the workers and the management. Is the Minister aware that the workers there are prepared to accept the voluntary retirement scheme and the Government is not prepared to give it to them? Is there any reason for that?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a long story. The latest position is that they have demanded that they should not be given voluntary retirement. A section of them wants to work with the company because, of late, they have been getting orders from various States, especially in water supply systems, which you may also be knowing about as you are the erstwhile Minister of that department. You have done a lot for that company and I am aware of that. We are now before the BIFR; the BIFR is examining the case and it has got two precious lands, whose value is more than Rs. 100 crores. We are asking them to go to a land where there is not dispute. We will continue the company there and we shall sell the surplus land in a transparent manner, for which we shall also invest in Maharashtra in some areas.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, the BHEL, one of the profit-making navaratnas, has the maximum number of employees so far as the heavy industries are concerned. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, (a) whether the Government has any proposal for giving at least *ex-gratia* benefit to these employees who are not getting pension benefits and (b) whether the contract labour in these industries would be given priority in recruitment.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is not within my jurisdiction to decide about these policy matters. It is for the Government to decide. If any proposal comes before the Cabinet, we may consider it.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, as we all know, all these public sector undertakings, as per the repeated judgements of the hon. Supreme Court, have been hold to be 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in these public sector undertakings where the figures which have been shown in the reply disclose that almost one-third are casual and contract labourers as compared to the permanent labourers - Therefore the Honorable Minister may kindly inform whether while making these casual and contractual appointments the P.S.U's are following the constitutional mandate which is required to be fulfilled under Article 16 for providing reservation in all appointment veaneies to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes because if the casual labour is being employed and given permanent work, against permanent vacancies, then this means that this is nothing but depriving this section of society and, thereby, violating the constitutional mandate under Article 16.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, we are supposed to follow, and we do follow, the Constitutional mandate. There are Provident Fund Commissioners and Labour Inspectors who regularly visit our companies and submit their reports. If there is anything there against the company, we take immediate steps. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, I am asking something else. This issue relates to one-third of the employment. Is SC/ST reservation being followed in the case of casual employment or not? Casual employees constitute one-third of the total employees. Even otherwise most of P.S.U.s are being privatised. (*Interruptions*) This is the answer which is being called for.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the hon. Member must remember that these 34 companies were 'closed companies'. When our Government came into power, in our Common Minimum Programme, we gave an assurance that all of these would be revived, if they were viable. There is an institution, the BRCP, created by our Government. It has experts from the field, not from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... On the basis of their report, we go to the Cabinet, the Finance Ministry also gives us the funds. So, this Government is very much sympathetic towards these companies.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, with due respect, this is not the question at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 83. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, this relates to the employment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. Let us proceed with Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Let him give an answer later on and for that direction can be given. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a question of reservation with respect to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Whatever you are saying of this company and closed companies, SC/ST quotas are...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, we go to the next Question No. 83.

*83.[The questioner (s) (Shri Ekanath K. Thakur) was absent. For answer vide Page. 19]

भारत में मुद्रास्फीति की दर

*84. ~~श्री~~ मुरली मनोहर जोशी:††

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठः

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सितम्बर, 2007 से जनवरी, 2008 की अवधि के दौरान भारत में मुद्रास्फीति की दर विश्व की अन्य प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की तुलना में अधिक रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) उपर्युक्त अवधि के दौरान अमरीका, इंग्लैंड, यूरोपीय देशों, जापान और चीन में मुद्रास्फीति की औसत दर कितनी-कितनी रही है; और

(घ) उक्त दर भारत में मुद्रास्फीति की औसत दर से कितनी कम या अधिक है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) भारत में, औद्योगिक कामगारों के उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (सीपीआई-आईडब्ल्यू) पर आधारित मुद्रास्फीति की दर सितंबर, 2007 में 6.4 प्रतिशत से गिरकर जनवरी, 2008 में 5.5 प्रतिशत पर आ गई। प्रमुख विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में सितंबर 2007 से मुद्रास्फीति की दर बढ़ी है। प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (सीपीआई) द्वारा यथामापित मुद्रास्फीति की दर सितंबर 2007 में संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका में 2.8 प्रतिशत, यूके में 1.8 प्रतिशत और यूरो क्षेत्र में 2.1 प्रतिशत की तुलना में जनवरी 2008 में क्रमशः 4.3 प्रतिशत, 2.2 प्रतिशत और 3.2 प्रतिशत थी। जापान में मुद्रास्फीति सितंबर 2007 के -0.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर दिसंबर 2007 में 0.7 प्रतिशत और चीन में यह सितंबर 2007 के 6.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर जनवरी 2008 में 7.1 प्रतिशत हो गई। भारत में, सितंबर 2007 से जनवरी 2008 की अवधि के दौरान, औसत मुद्रास्फीति 5.7 प्रतिशत थी। सितंबर 2007 से जनवरी 2008 की अवधि के दौरान, औसत उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक मुद्रास्फीति अमरीका, यूके, यूरो क्षेत्र, जापान (सितंबर 2007-दिसंबर 2007) और चीन में क्रमशः 3.8 प्रतिशत, 2.1 प्रतिशत, 2.8 प्रतिशत, 0.4 प्रतिशत और 6.6 प्रतिशत थी (सारणी 1)।

(घ) यद्यपि अन्य प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं-अमरीका, यूके, यूरो क्षेत्र और जापान में औसत मुद्रास्फीति दर, भारत की मुद्रास्फीति दर की तुलना में कम थी, परन्तु चीन में मुद्रास्फीति -दर भारत में मुद्रास्फीति की अपेक्षा अधिक थी।

सारणी 1: उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक पर आधारित वार्षिक मुद्रास्फीति की दर (प्रतिशत)

माह/वर्ष	भारत	यूएस	यूके	यूरोपीय देश (यूरो क्षेत्र)	जापान	चीन
सितंबर-2007	6.4	2.8	1.8	2.1	-0.2	6.2
अक्तूबर-2007	5.5	3.5	2.1	2.6	0.3	6.5
नवंबर-2007	5.5	4.3	2.1	3.1	0.6	6.9
दिसंबर-2007	5.5	4.1	2.1	3.1	0.7	6.5
जनवरी-2008	5.5	4.3	2.2	3.2	उपलब्ध नहीं	7.1
औसत (सितंबर-जनवरी)	5.7	3.8	2.1	2.8	0.4 *	6.6

†† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री मुरली मनोहर जोशी द्वारा पूछा गया।