

है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या उन्हें भी इस बात का अहसास है कि 58 वर्ष से 60 वर्ष की उम्र करने से बैकवर्ड क्लासेज, ओ.बी.सी. के तमाम लोगों के हकों पर कूटाराघात हुआ है? जबकि इस समय रोजगार सबसे महत्वपूर्ण समस्या है और इसके जरिए हजारों लोगों को रोजगार से वंचित किया गया है। मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट 60 वर्ष से फिर 58 वर्ष की उम्र रिवियरमेंट की करने पर विचार करेगी?

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, whatever points about OBCs, reduction in employment, etc. are raised by the hon. member these have been discussed threadbare in the Cabinet. It is only after that, this decision has been taken.

Governance through Committees

*322. **SHRI SANATAN BISI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Committees (with names) that have been constituted by Government with the objective of better governance;

(b) how many of these Committees are functioning at present and which are without any assigned work; and

(c) how many Committees proposed to be set up are yet to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (**SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN**): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (c) "Better Governance" is a Multi-faceted concept encompassing various aspects including a responsive, transparent, accountable and efficient administration. The Government has taken several measures from time to time improve the functioning of the administration. After the Administrative Reforms Commission which functioned during 1966 to 1970, the Government has not constituted any Committee with the objective of covering the entire gamut of "Better Governance", nor is there any such proposal presently under consideration.

However, the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws, which was constituted in May, 1998, submitted its report on 30th September, 1998. The recommendations of the Commission have addressed various issues including amendments to repeal of identified laws as well as simplification, documentation and harmonisation of laws. Copies of the Report of the Commission have been sent to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and State/Union Territory Governments in November, 1998 for examination and for devising suitable action plans for implementation of the recommendations.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present Government, under the leadership of Shri Vajpayee, first constituted a task force. Thereafter, the National Security Council was constituted; then a National Task Force on Information Technology and another one on the development of I.T. industry, were constituted. Again a National Task Force on I.T. and another one on infrastructure, under the Chairmanship of the Minister of external Affairs, were constituted; again, another Committee was constituted for software industry followed by another Committee for hardware industry. The Prime Minister, again, has constituted an inter-ministerial panel to vet the recommendations of the task force on hardware industry. On infrastructure, Mr. Chairman, Sir, one more task force was constituted to look into the provisions relating to the setting up of five international airports. Under the same infrastructure, a group on telecommunications (GOT) was constituted to draw up a new telecom policy. Sir, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Committee is different. There is another council called, the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry. In the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry, there are six working groups. I wanted to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether all these things are not overlapping.

SHRI R. JANARTHANA: Sir, the question is about better governance. We have constituted a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws which will take care of all the previous Committees. The question is pertaining to better governance of the Government ... (Interruptions)..

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, we are not getting a proper reply. For that you need not have constituted the whole thing.

SHRI R. JANARTHANAN: The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws was set up under the chairmanship of Shri Jain. The mandate to the Commission is to recommend repeal of some of the laws which are not useful or which are not relevant. Out of 2,500 Central laws which it has identified, it has recommended repeal of 1,300 laws. This is one of the major things which has taken place in the present Government which had not taken place previously for simplifying laws and for repealing laws which are not useful.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: It has nothing to do with the main question. My first, second and third points are very, very clear. If he has not come prepared, we can give him time. I think, that is the proper way to get a reply from the Government.

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी): सभापति जी, मैं माननीय सदस्य का आभारी हूँ कि वह हमें और समय देने के लिए तैयार हैं।..(व्यवधान)..

श्री राजूभाई ए. परमार: खाली सवाल के बारे में।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जो आगे समय मिलेगा उसमें पूछे गए सवाल को भी थोड़ा बदला जाएगा। सभापति महोदय, अगर आप सवाल को देखें:-

"the number of Committee (with names) that have been constituted by Government with the objective of better governance."

बैटर गवर्नेंस ऐसी शब्दावली है कि इसके अन्तर्गत सब बातों का समावेश हो सकता है।

मैं नहीं समझता कि माननीय सदस्य को यह मंशा है कि हम यहां सरकार, उसके विभिन्न मंत्रालय, उसके विभिन्न भाग, इन सबमें बनने वाली समितियों के नाम यहां दें और समितियों का पूरा विवरण दें। इसलिए सवाल का जवाब थोड़ा संक्षेप में दिया गया है और उससे माननीय सदस्य को कठिनाई नहीं होनी चाहिए।

मुझे यह देख कर और भी ताज्जुब हुआ कि जो सवाल है उसमें यह भी कहा गया है कि

"How many committees, proposed to be set up, are yet to be constituted?"

जब कमेटी कांस्टीट्यूट हो जायेगी तभी वह कमेटी का रूप लेगी। इसलिए हमने संक्षेप में उत्तर दिया है कि बैटर गवर्नेंस के कई पहलू हैं। अगर माननीय सदस्य यह बताना चाहें कि वे किस पहलू को ओर इंगित कर रहे हैं तो हम भविष्य में इसकी तैयारी करके आयेगे।

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Let us give some more time to the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very gracious of Mr. Bisi.

DR. M.N. DAS: Sir, I hope, most probably, the hon. Prime Minister, in his long experience in politics, might have heard that there is a familiar idiom, which has been relevant for long in political and administrative circles, which is, "If you want an issue not to be solved but to be shelved, constitute a committee".

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

DR. M.N. DAS: Sir, if there is an iota of truth in this, will the hon. Prime Minister be pleased to convince himself that all these committees will be functional and not obsolete and will actually result in better governance of the country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a suggestion for action. No reply is required.

SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Sir, a lot of changes have taken place since the constitution of the last Administrative Reforms Commission in the sixties. In view of the changed situation, I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating to set up another Administrative Reforms Commission in order to ensure better governance.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति महोदय, यह सुझाव भी आचरण करने के लिए है। हम उस पर विचार करेंगे।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, I beg pardon of the hon. Prime Minister. His reply is very unsatisfactory. It has not really tackled the question asked by the hon. Member. The answer mentions, "The entire gamut of better governance." The "entire gamut" need not have to be Covered by any Committee. According to the definition given by the hon. Prime Minister, "better

Governance" includes responsive, transparent, accountable and efficient administration. Has there been any committee to make the Government more responsible, or transparent or accountable or efficient? The next part of my question is since the copies of the Commission's report have been sent to all the Ministries and departments of the Government of India. Has any action taken report from any department come to the Government at all?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति महोदय, सरकार में चल रहे विभिन्न कानूनों की मीमांसा करने के लिए जो कमीशन बनाया गया है, उसका उत्तर में उल्लेख है। उस कमीशन के अनुसार इस समय देश में दो हजार पांच सौ कानून हैं। कमीशन की सिफारिशें हैं कि इनमें से 1300 कानून ऐसे हैं जो हटाए जा सकते हैं, जो रद्द किए जा सकते हैं। कमीशन ने और भी सिफारिशें की हैं।

इस समय सचिवों का एक ग्रुप बनाया गया है जो उसकी सिफारिशों पर विचार कर रहा है और उसकी सिफारिशों किस तरह से कार्यान्वित की जाएं, इस पर विचार हो रहा है और मैं समझता हूँ उनका विचार-विनिमय समाप्त हो जाएगा और शीघ्र ही इस संबंध में हम जानकारी देने में समर्थ होंगे। सरकार को और अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने के लिए और नागरिकों को सहायता पहुंचाने के लिए सिटीजन चार्टर का निर्माण हुआ है। अनेक मंत्रालयों ने, अनेक सरकार से संबंधित विभागों ने सिटीजन चार्टर के आधार पर लोगों की प्रतिक्रिया जानने का काम शुरू किया है। यह एक सही दिशा में कदम है और हम समझते हैं कि इससे भी सरकार की सक्षमता बढ़ेगी, सरकार में चुस्ती आएगी। राइट टू इन्फोर्मेशन का बिल भी तैयार है और मंत्रियों का एक दल उसको अंतिम रूप दे रहा है। इस तरह के कई कदम उठाए गए हैं लेकिन इन्हें समितियों की सीमा में बांधना मुश्किल है इसलिए जो उत्तर दिया गया है वह शायद लगता है कि अधूरा है लेकिन इसमें अधुरेपन जैसी कोई चीज़ नहीं है।

MR. CAIRMAN: Shri C. Ramachandraia - not here. Okay, Shri S.B. Cavan.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the reply that has been given by the Government is totally irrelevant to the question which has been asked. Sir, the Prime Minister wants to say that the kind of report which has been submitted by the Commission is creating problems for good governance. That is why that report is being discussed in different Ministries. Actually, the relevance is

only about the Administrative Reforms Commission. I do not think any other Committee can be contemplated for good governance. It is a subject which has been discussed. Good governance and repeal of certain Acts or amendment of certain Act are two separate matters.

I do not think the one has anything to do with the other. I do not think the hon'ble Prime Minister wants to suggest that the Commission or the Committee gave the report that some of the Acts can be repealed. Though that Act may have lost its relevance now, it is not coming in the way of good governance. Good governance is a totally different matter. So, the point is only about administrative reforms. Sir, the Administrative Reforms Committee had given recommendations to the Government. Sir, I would like to know whether all the recommendations have been implemented or there are certain issues on which Government is still considering and they are not able to take the decision.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति महोदय, कुछ सिफारिशें स्वीकार कर ली गई हैं, कुछ पर विचार हो रहा है। इन्हें अंतिम रूप देने की कोशिश की जा रही है। मैं माननीय सदस्य से सहमत हूँ कि कानून रद्द करना या न करना, इसका कोई सीधा संबंध गुड गवर्नेंस से नहीं है लेकिन उसका उल्लेख करना जरूरी था इसलिए उसका उल्लेख किया गया है।

SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has taken any steps or not after the Jain Commission submitted its report.

SHRI R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that after the report of the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jain, we have opened information counters, facilitation counters, in 45 Ministries. These recommendations have also been circulated to the State Governments and different Ministries and certain Ministries are coming forward to implement this.

Productivity of cash crops

*323. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the productivity of foodgrains in our country;