

the Government, the issue of their going to school for getting education and our providing all these facilities hardly arises. So, my question is whether the Government would prohibit child labour so that they can go to school.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Madam, this question concerns the Labour Ministry. Still, I would like to say that there is already an Act called the Child Labour (Prohibition) Act, under which employment of children below a particular age is prohibited in hazardous industries and also in mines. There is already this Act and it should be properly implemented.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are so many hon. Members, who want to ask questions on this. We have already spent half an hour on this question. There are other questions also. (*Interruptions*) One second, please. It is a very important question and it requires a lot of discussion. It has a bearing on our education policy. I think we can have a full-fledged discussion on it. All those hon. Members, who have given their names, will be participating in that debate. That would be better. Now, we move on to the next question.

Revival Plan for IDPL

*142. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of the revival plan for IDPL; and

(b) by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A revival package, formulated by the IDPL Management and vetted by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Mumbai, was approved by the Board for Industrial &

Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on the 10th February, 1994. The revival operations were for a period of 10 years beginning from 1994-95. The package, inter alia, envisaged higher production, sales, reduction in excess manpower, fresh financial support and capital restructuring from the Government, support and sacrifices from the Bankers, the employees, etc. Capital restructuring, as envisaged in the package, was agreed to by the Government. Fresh financial assistance amounting to Rs. 140.31 crores was provided to IDPL in the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 as against the total financial assistance of Rs. 119.94 crores envisaged in the package.

IDPL, in 1994-95, the first year of the revival operations, could not reach the targeted levels of operations. The Management thereafter proposed modifications in the existing package which, inter alia, envisaged additional fresh financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 98 crores from the Government. The Group of Ministers (GOM) under the chairmanship of the then Finance Minister decided in January, 1996 that no further commitment of financial assistance could be given and the modified plan should be got vetted through an Operating Agency appointed by the BIFR. The BIFR was informed accordingly. The BIFR declared the earlier package as having failed and appointed the IDBI, Mumbai, as the Operating Agency for a techno-economic viability study and for a report in this regard. IDPL management were also directed to submit their long-term revival proposal to the Operating Agency. The BIFR in a subsequent hearing directed the IDBI, Mumbai, to take the help of a reputed consultant for a diagnostic study of IDPL. M/s. A.F. Ferguson & Co., identified by the IDBI, Mumbai, were engaged for this purpose. The reports of M/s. AFF and also the IDBI, the Operating Agency, which were received in January, 1997, indicated that IDPL was not viable on "as is where is" basis. IDBI, Mumbai, further expressed a view

that it would not be possible to suggest a viable and acceptable revival scheme for IDPL. The position arising out of the reports of the consultant and the Operating Agency, was made known to the IDPL employees through their leaders in a meeting held in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers on the 11th February, 1997. The representatives of IDPL employees rejected the findings of the consultant and the Operating Agency and they stated that they would themselves prepare a revival package. Two such revival packages prepared by the Unions of IDPL were received. These packages were found to be incomplete and inadequate. Later, the Union Cabinet in a meeting held on the 7th May, 1997 decided to constitute a Group of Ministers (GOM) under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister with the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to go into the IDPL matters in detail. During the meeting of the GOM held on the 21st May, 1997, a fresh revival scheme, prepared by IDPL employees, their leaders and the management, was made available. This scheme was examined and the GOM considered the matter again on the 28th May, 1997. At the direction of the GOM, the plan has been re-examined from certain specific angles and the GOM is now expected to consider the matter, and take a view shortly.

श्री गया सिंह : मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जो उन्होंने अभी जवाब दिया है, मुझे अफसोस है कि जिस आई.डी.पी.एल ने पिछले कई सालों से देश के लाखों लोगों को दवा दी और उनकी जान को बचाया, आज उसी आई.डी.पी.एल. के साढ़े सात हजार मजदूर और कर्मचारी भूख के कगार पर है। चार महीने से उनको तनखाह भी नहीं मिली, तो मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि बी.आई.एफ.आर. के सामने 1994-95 में दस साल के लिए इसका रिवाइवल पैकेज दिया गया था और 1996 में ही उस समय की जो सरकार थी उसने रोक दिया 1996 के अक्टूबर से मद्रास, मुजफ्फरपुर, गुडगांव, ऋषिकेश, हैदराबाद के पांचों यूनिट का प्रोडक्शन बंद है। आज हजार करोड़ से ज्यादा यह सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से मेडीसिन खरीद

रहे हैं औ यहां तक मंत्री जी ने भी अपने जवाब में कहा है। कि इन्होंने एक कमेटी मिनिस्टर्स की बनाई है। तीन महीने हो गए कमेटी बने, लेकिन अभी तक निर्णय नहीं किया है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह 10 साल का पैकेज जो था वह एक साल में ही फेल हो गया? फिर आपकी यह जो तीन मंत्री की कमेटी है, जब तक उस कमेटी का कोई निर्णय नहीं आता तब तक प्रोडक्शन आरंभ करेंगे या नहीं? और दूसरी बात, उनकी जो तनखा, मई और जून का तो एसोरेन्स दिया है, लेकिन जुलाई, अगस्त और उसके बाद की तनखाह उन्हें मिलेगी या नहीं? यही मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam Deputy Chairmam, the hon. Member's statement that the salaries for the last five months have not been paid is not correct. In fact, salaries up to April have been paid. Only yesterday salaries for the months of May and June have been released. Employees will be getting their salaries either today or tomorrow.

Madam, so far as the revival package is concerned, it has failed because of a lot of deficiencies in the package itself. According to the revival package, they have asked for Rs. 119.94 crores. But the Government has released about Rs. 140.31 crores. In spite of that, they are not able to make it. Therefore, it went to the Cabinet and the Cabinet has decided to send it to the 'Group of Ministers'. The 'Group of Ministers' will go into it. The next meeting of the 'Group of Ministers' is going to be held on the 7th of this month.

श्री गया सिंह : मैडम, मेरे पहले ही प्रश्न का जवाब मंत्री जी ने नहीं बताया। मई और जून का तो इन्होंने कहा कि भुगतान होगा, लेकिन जुलाई, अगस्त, सितम्बर यानि आगे जब तक कमेटी का निर्णय न हो तब तक उनको तनखाह का भुगतान होगा या नहीं? यह एसोरेन्स पहले ही सवाल में मैंने चाहा था।

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, I said it clearly that salaries for the months of May and June have been released yesterday. The employees will be getting their salaries either today or tomorrow. I said it very clearly.

उपसभापति : श्री बंगरु लक्ष्मण ।

श्री गया सिंह : मैडम, सेकेण्ड सप्लीमेंटरी नहीं हुई ।

उपसभापति : सेकेण्ड नहीं पूछा आपने ?

श्री गया सिंह : मैडम, मेरे पहले ही सवाल का जवाब अभी तक नहीं दिया है । सेकेण्ड सप्लीमेंटरी, मैडम, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पांच यूनिट में आपने 1994-95 में जब नया पैकेज दस साल का दिया था तो मुजफ्फरपुर और मद्रास को सबसिडरी बनाया था इस एसोरेन्स के साथ कि यह दस साल का पैकेज है, वह सबसिडरीज ऑन बाई आई.पी.एल. पहले ही बंद कर दिया । तो वर्ष 1996 से जो प्रोडक्शन बंद है, नए मिनिस्टर साहब यह कमेटी आफ मिनिस्टर्स निर्णय आने के पहले ही क्या वहां प्रोडक्शन आरंभ करेंगे ? और, मैं यह स्पेसिफिक जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर तीन महीने या चार महीने कमेटी को निर्णय लेने में लगेंगे, तो क्या उन मजदूरों को, कर्मचारियों को तनखाह मिलेगी या नहीं मिलेगी ? इसका एसोरेन्स हाउस में इनको देना चाहिये ।

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, lime and again this subject has been discussed. Earlier under the leadership of the then Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh a 'Group of Ministers' had gone into it. Now, again it has gone to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has decided to refer it to a 'Group of Ministers' Now, this 'Group of Ministers' is going into all aspects of this problem. The employees have given some proposals. We have gone into them also. But the employees have suggested that there should be an assurance from the Central Government for purchase of drugs from the IDPL; and they also wanted a price preference to be given. We have referred this matter to the Ministry of Health. But the Ministry of Health has not agreed to that. Now, we have taken it back to the 'Group of Ministers'.

SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, the biggest hurdle in getting through the revival package proposal is the problem of marketing. The Government being the bulk purchasers of drugs, the employees and

the management of IDPL have been demanding that the Government should come forward and assure them that they will be purchasing drugs from the IDPL because the IDPL has been helping the Government whenever there has been an emergency.

When an epidemic broke out in Surat, only eight days' time was given to the IDPL and they lifted the drugs within three days. Similarly, when malaria broke out in Rajasthan, they helped. Today, because of the open policy, the Government is not placing orders on the IDPL. Will the Government refer this issue to the Group of Ministers and assure us that the drugs produced by the IDPL will be purchased by the Government, if necessary, by amending the policy? The Minister has, just now, said that the salaries for the months of May and June have been released. For July and August, they are still to be paid.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: August has started only today.

SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: They had to be paid for the last three months. The statutory dues of the people who took voluntary retirement in the month of December, 1996, have not been paid so far. They are—more than 150 employees—are starving, literally. So, will the Minister assure us that their dues will also be paid?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the major purchaser is the Health Ministry. A.: I said, we have consulted the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry of Health has expressed the view that the prices of the IDPL products are higher than the market prices and the mandatory purchase of the IDPL products may affect the purchase from other public sector companies and the small-scale sector. Madam, definitely, the Group of Ministers will consider the matter in its entirety before coming to a conclusion.

Regarding the voluntary retirement scheme dues, yes, there are about 120 employees who are yet to get their

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी : यह दो महीने के लिये वेतन देते हैं और फिर तीन महीने के लिये इंतजार करते हैं और इसी बीच में लोग मर जाते हैं। इसलिये हम चाहते हैं कि मंत्री जी कोई सपेसिफिक जवाब सदन को दें।

† شری جلال الدین انصاری : یہ دو مہینے کیلئے ویتن دیتے ہیں پھر تین مہینے کیلئے انتظار کرتے ہیں اور اسی بیچ میں لوگ مر جاتے ہیں اسلئے ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ منتری جی کوئی اسپیسیفک جواب سدن کو دیں۔

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The company which produces medicines itself is sick! What can we talk about?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, it is correct to say that this company was referred to the BIFR in May 1992. The BIFR have declared it sick on 12.8.92. After that, the BIFR has appointed the IDBI as an operating agency and directed the IDBI to seek the help on an experts committee. The IDBI has consulted a company known as Ferguson. They have submitted a report saying that the IDPL is overstaffed. Its plant and equipment required a major replacement. The product-mix requires a drastic change. The high social cost and overheads should be reduced. Marketing should be fully revamped and IDBI have suggested that a sum of Rs. 710.00 crores was required for revamping the entire IDPL. After that it was referred to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has decided to refer it to a Group of Minister. The hon. Members have referred to various points in this respect. I will place these points before the Group of Ministers and well will discuss them.

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Madam, I want an assurance from him. By what time will the revamping of the IDPL be completed?

PROF. RAM KAPSE: Madam, I would like to put a specific through you, to the Minister, regarding the decision of the Group of Ministers which was taken in 1996. The decision which you have referred to in your reply was, "not to

give any more financial assistance to this company." I would like to know whether the new Ministerial body is in a mood to reconsider this issue because if no financial assistance is given to the IDPL, the survival of the IDPL is impossible. What is your view about this matter?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, as the administrative Ministry, we are very particular to revive the industry. But the decision will be the decision of the Group of Ministers.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: You are a part of that Group of Ministers. In 1996, the Group of Ministers had decided not to give any more financial assistance. The original revival plan was for ten years. It was stopped after an year. Now, the proposal of the IDBI has not been accepted by the workers' body. So, what is the position as on today? I would like to know whether the Government wants to close down the industry. The GOM will take a decision of 7th of August. You are not going to tell anything about this matter. (Interruptions) Madam, he is not telling anything specific.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, I am coming to that. The then Group of Ministers had not decided not to give any assistance.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: This is what you have stated in your reply.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: They had decided: "till the operating agencies come forward with some suggestions." That was decision of the earlier group.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Madam, this is a question which has been pending before the Government for the last three years and a Group of Ministers is going to decide the fate of the industry as soon as possible. In fact, everything has been put in the reverse gear. Now, the workers in the industry are to submit a scheme for running the industry. The Government is the owner of the industry. But the Government is neutral. The Government is waiting for a proposal from the workers. At the same time, the

Government is not committing itself that it will give the required financial assistance to run the industry. This is not a industry which is being run for profit. The people of India want medicines at cheaper rates. For that purpose this industry was established. This company was supplying medicines to us at one-fourth the rates. Now, the capitalists are interested in closing down this industry. Therefore, the Government of India does not want to come forward with any financial assistance to run this industry. I want to know one thing from the Minister. If the workers are to run the industry, then what is the role of the Government? What is the policy—frame on which you are acting? This industry is connected with the health of crores of people. Therefore, I would like to know specifically whether the Government has decided to give the required financial assistance for the revival plan which is under consideration. I want a specific reply from the Minister on this point.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the financial assistance which was recommended for revival is Rs. 190.94 crores. The Government is very much interested in reviving it. We have released Rs. 183.62 crores up to last month. It is on loss from its inception except for a short period and that too on canalised drugs and not on manufactured drugs. Therefore, all these aspects are being looked into by a group of Ministers.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Most of the money is spent on ways and means.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: All the aspects are being looked into by a group of Ministers.

शाहगंज-मऊ से दिल्ली, कलकत्ता और मुम्बई के लिये एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियां

*143. **श्री मोहम्मद मसूद खान:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि शाहगंज-मऊ रेल लाईन से, जिसका आमान परिवर्तन किया गया है और जिस पर इस समय स्थानीय रेलगाड़ियां चल रही हैं दिल्ली, कलकत्ता और मुम्बई के लिये एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियां चलाने

कि कोई योजना है, यदि हा, तो ये रेलगाड़ियां किन-किन स्टेशनों पर रुकेंगी?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): एक वितरण पटल पर रख दिया गया है। वितरण 01.08.97 से 4649/4650 दिल्ली-दरभंगा सरयू-यमुना एक्सप्रेस (सप्ताह में तीन दिन) को मऊ-शाहगंज के रास्ते चलाने का प्रस्ताव है, जिससे इस खंड से दिल्ली के लिये सीधी सेवा मुहैया हो जाएगी। यह गाड़ी मऊ-और शाहगंज के बीच निम्नलिखित स्टेशनों पर रुकेगी:-

1. मऊ
2. मुहम्मदाबाद
3. सठियांव
4. आजमगढ़
5. सरायमीर
6. खोरासन रोड़
7. शाहगंज

क्रशाहगंज-मऊ खंड के रास्ते कलकत्ता और मुम्बई के लिए गाड़ियां चलाना संभव नहीं होगा क्योंकि इससे यात्रा में अधिक समय लगा और किराया भी बढ़ जाएगा।

श्री मोहम्मद मसूद खान: मैडम, मंत्री जी के जवाब में एक बात है कि मऊ और आजमगढ़ से बम्बई वगैरह की ट्रेन चलाने में एक्स्ट्रा टाईम लगे। मंत्री जी वहां से पूरे तौर पर वाकिफ हैं। अगर किसी आदमी को बम्बई या कलकत्ता जाना पड़ता है तो उसके लिए बनारस जाता है या गोरखपुर जाता है। जब बनारस जाता है तो उसके कान में तीन आवाज आती है। गार्ड और ड्राइवर तुम्हारा सिगनल लोअर है गाड़ी स्टार्ट करो। दूसरी आवाज आती है कि बम्बई की गाड़ी रद्द कर दी गई है। अब इस कठिनाई को सामने रखकर कि सौ किलोमीटर आदमी के जाने के बाद वह गाड़ी बम्बई और कलकत्ता की रद्द की जाती है तो वह कैसे जाएगा। इस कठिनाई को ध्यान में रखते हुए कोई कलकत्ता और बम्बई की गाड़ी चलाएंगे या जो गाड़ी चल रही है उसमें ऐसा डब्बा जोड़ेगे कि जो शाहगंज और मऊ-जाकर कलकत्ता और मुम्बई की गाड़ियों में वह डब्बा जुड़ जाए।

श्री राम विलास पासवान: उपसभापति महोदया, हम जब वहां गये थे तो उदघाटन के समय भी लोगों ने इस सवाल को रखा था और हम स्वयं चिंतित भी हैं क्योंकि जब नई लाईन खुली है तो हम चाहते हैं कि उस लाईन का अधिक से अधिक उपयोग हो। लेकिन लाईन को जब देखेंगे तो यह त्रिकोण के समान है। अभी फर्स्ट