

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: किसानों का जहां तक सवाल है, हर वर्ष जो हमारा गन्ना क्रश होता है, जो कैपैसिटी है, वह 126 लाख टन गन्ना क्रश होता है। यह फिक्स है। इस बार ज्यादा क्रश हुआ। वह तो मिलों पर गन्ने का जब बकाया बाकी था तो कुछ मिलों को इजाजत दे दी गयी कि विलम्ब से किसानों से गन्ने को लेकर आप मिल चलाइए। यह तो किसानों के हित में माननीय सदस्य बात नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसके लिए आप एक अलग सवाल पूछिए कि कितना गन्ना लगाना चाहिए क्योंकि सभी राज्यों में अलग स्थिति है, इसलिए आप अलग सवाल पूछिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 428.

*428. *[The Questioner (Shri Govindrao Adik) was absent. For answer vide Col.....infra]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 429.

Protection of Population Migrated to Urban Centres for Employment

*429. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the population of the country is growing and a number of people are leaving their traditional abode in search of livelihood in the cities;

(b) whether Government are also aware that these people have to depend on the Whims and fancy of their daily employers to get work for the day and the manpower in the cities has become a seller's market as the availability of labour to work ratio has been constantly shooting up in the metropolitan cities;

(c) whether there is any law to take care of the plight of these people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

According to 1991 Census, population of India has grown to 843.9 million in

1991 as against 683.3 million in 1981. The Census figures also reveal that workers from economically backward areas migrate to economically advanced areas for seeking employment, for better employment prospects and higher wages.

Although migrant workers are generally vulnerable to exploitation and face certain difficulties according to the report of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) (1987—91), their incomes are higher than what they might have been without migration. Percentage increase in the number of workers in the urban areas during 1981-91 was 38.16 as against 26.80 in all areas.

The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for protection of workers like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979. In addition, the Government are implementing several poverty alleviation and rural employment programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Self Employment of Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), Nehru Rojgar Yojna (NRY) and Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna (PMRY) etc.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that the percentage increase in the number of workers in the urban areas has gone up from 26.8% to 38.16% during the period 1981—1991. So, I would like to know whether the Government have any exact record of migrants from rural areas to urban areas who are living in the slum areas. What is the average per capita income of the rural migrants to the urban areas and whether the Government have made any survey about it? If so, I would like to know the details of the survey.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, according to the 1981 Census, there were

about 23.4 million rural migrants. Of these, migration for employment accounted for 6.2 millions, representing 26% of the total migration. Of the total migrants, 41.4% are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Sir, I wanted to know the average per capita income of the rural migrants in the urban areas. I am putting my second supplementary also. In the report of the National Commission on Rural Labour, there were many recommendations to check migration of poor rural labourers to the urban areas and to protect them from being exploited by the employers. I would like to know whether you have accepted those recommendations and implemented them in both letter and spirit. Besides that, I want to know the States from where a large number of rural labourers have migrated to the urban areas and the reasons therefor.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, as far as the last part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, a majority of the workers, more than 41%, are migrating from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Coming to the average per capita income, of course, the migrant labourers are getting less than the minimum wages. We are aware of that. The National Commission on Rural Labour has recommended many things. The Government of India is taking a lot of steps to provide employment to the local people in the rural areas, thereby, trying to reduce the number of migrant labourers.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: You have said that from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, rural people are migrating to urban areas in large numbers. What are the reasons for this?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The reasons are well known. One is, there is no work in their places. The second is, they are doing work of a casual nature. Therefore, they are migrating to urban areas for work, better wages and economic status.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is oversimplifying the answer. The Government has to have a policy to see that we don't have this lopsided urban migration as a result of which urban planning is going down the drain. In the rural areas, for example, in Andhra Pradesh, we don't get rural labour for any of the works there. The Government has to come up with a comprehensive plan. We just cannot say that we know that they are migrating and that is it.

श्री अजीत जोगी: सभापति महोदय, जो लोग गांवों से शहरों में आते हैं, उनकी सबसे बड़ी समस्या शहरों में आवास की होती है। वे झुग्गी-झोंपड़ी बनाकर तंग बस्तियों में, छोटी-छोटी झोंपड़ियों में रहते हैं। जहां पर पानी, शौच, बिजली, सड़क और गटर आदि की प्राथमिक सुविधाएं भी उपलब्ध नहीं रहती हैं। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि ये जो माइग्रेट लेबर की सबसे बड़ी आवास की समस्या शहरों में है तो क्या इसका कोई अध्ययन किया गया है? क्या कम से कम इतना किया जायेगा कि जो जहां पर बसा हुआ है उसको उस जमीन का पट्टा दे दिया जाये, उसका टाइटिल दे दिया जाये जिससे वह उस पर अपना अच्छा-सा मकान बना सके। क्योंकि म्युनिसिपल आथरिटी और दूसरी आथरिटी जब चाहें उसकी झुग्गी-झोंपड़ी को तोड़कर, उसको वहां से हटा देती है। यह स्थिति उपस्थित न हो, इसके लिए जो जहां पर बसा हुआ है उसको वहीं पर पट्टा दिया जाए, क्या सरकार कोई कानून बनायेगी?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the National Commission on Rural Labour has recommended provision of housing and community accommodation for the migrant labourers.

Sir, we are taking a lot of steps for facilitating the contract-labourers to work at sites. We have legislations for the unorganised sector.

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: My question is only about housing.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That is what I am saying. The National Commission on Rural Labour has recommended... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: There is no provision for providing them with sites for their houses. They make their hutments and live in them. The municipal authorities are always free to come and demolish them. They live in this perennial fear. So, do you have a policy on this? Are you going to give them the title of the land on which they are squatting in their *jhuggi Jonpadis*?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, that is what I wanted to answer but in the meanwhile you had intervened. We are taking a lot of steps for the unorganised sector. We passed the Building and Construction Workers Act in this House and the other House also passed it. Now, we are thinking of bringing a Bill for the agricultural workers. So, we have to think of these lines. If you have any suggestions about the migrant workers, we will definitely consider them.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, the problem has been created because of disjunction between urbanisation and industrialisation. Earlier whenever people came to cities, they could find jobs. The migration has continued but job opportunities have not been created at the same level. As a consequence, because these people are not getting jobs, they are going into the informal sector. The informal sector actually means selling vegetables, doing casual jobs and all that. According to statistics available with the government in the Planning Commission and other such organisations, the informal sector jobs are now the major area for creation of jobs. It is not the formal sector any more. As a consequence, now certain problems are being created by workers in the informal sector. I do not know whether the hon. Minister has gone through the several reports of the International Labour Organisation on the informal sector, the most important of which is the report of the Kenya Mission of the early '70s. There is another report of the Sri Lanka Mission. There are two or three other reports also by the ILO dealing

extensively with the problem of workers in the informal sector — their exploitation by money-lenders when they borrow money for selling vegetables and other things, their exploitation by employers because they are employed as hired and casual labourers and they do not get the same wages that the regular workers get, their harassment by Police etc. They have suggested a whole range of remedies for taking care of their problems. I will not go into the detail because there is not time for it. There are a few recommendations, for example about their retraining in proper trades allowing certain things which are considered to be illegal and making them legal, etc. So, a whole range of recommendations were made in these ILO reports. There are two or three very good reports. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has gone through these reports and whether he would contemplate bringing in some legislation to safeguard the interests of workers in the informal sector.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, to be honest to my colleague, I have not gone through any of these reports. But we have the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. I have provided for all these things. Sir, the implementing agency has to take care of these things. But if you have suggestion to tighten this process, we are prepared to consider them.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: This is another kind of problem. That is not the problem that was being discussed here. That deals with migration, for example of rural workers from one area to another. But this is a more specific question on migration from villages to cities. There are some problems being faced in cities which are not covered by the legislation that you have mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister do you have anything to say?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, nothing much. I have not gone through the reports. I will go through these and find out whether there is anything that we can take into our consideration.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, people are migrating to urban areas or seeking employment and earning their wages. Many a time, they come with their families and face, as Mr. Jogi pointed out, problems relating to accommodation, ration and so on. Many a time, they leave their families behind in rural areas, making their family members, specially women, more vulnerable. They are vulnerable in urban areas because of lack of accommodation and ration, etc. This makes them poorer. Also the families which are left behind in the rural areas become more vulnerable and poorer. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether the Government has conducted any survey about the women who have been affected by migration of the head of the family in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas; if so, what their numbers and what steps are being taken in this regard. If you have not got any data, then what sort of poverty alleviation programmes do you have and how are you going to help these people through these programmes?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I would like to say that at present I have no data in my hand. If there is anything in the Department, I would collect it and pass it on to the hon. Member. Sir, in order to increase employment opportunities in the rural areas, the Government of India has been implementing many schemes, like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Self-

employment Schemes, etc. So, we have a lot of schemes in this regard.

*430. [The Questioner (Shri Gopal Singh G. Solanki) was absent. For answer vide col.....infra.]

Stockyards of SAIL in West Bengal

*431. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stockyards of Steel Authority of India Ltd. in West Bengal;

(b) the names of contractors/companies that have been given the task of handling stock in these stockyards during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that average rate in SAIL's 45 stockyards is Rs. 50/- whereas it is about Rs. 400/- per tonne in West Bengal;

(d) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints of favouritism being done by SAIL to certain companies/parties in awarding contracts for handling stocks;

(e) if so, the details of complaints; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid malpractices in the grant of contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details regarding stockyards of SAIL in West Bengal are as under:—