

"अमरीकन एम०एन सीज़ रेडिङ्ग टु टेक ऑन स्वदेशी" शीर्षक से समाचार

2770. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 9 अगस्त, 1996 के दैनिक "टेलीग्राफ" में "अमरीकन एम०एन सीज़ रेडिङ्ग टु टेक ऑन स्वदेशी" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय उद्योगों द्वारा अपने हितों के संरक्षण हेतु सरकार को सचेत रखने हेतु किए जाने वाले प्रयासों का मुक़ाबला करने के लिए अमरीकी बहुराष्ट्रिक कंपनियों ने अमरीकी व्यावसायिक संस्थाओं के हितों की रक्षा के लिए दिल्ली में एक संगठन की स्थापना की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या यह सच है कि भारत में विदेशी संस्थाओं के हित सुरक्षित नहीं हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो देश में इस प्रकार के संगठन की स्थापना किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन): (क) जी हां।

(ख) से (घ) समाचार पत्र की रिपोर्ट को पढ़ने से पता चलेगा कि यह एक आम व्यापार उन्नयन प्रक्रिया है तथा सरकार का ऐसी रिपोर्टों से कुछ लेना देना नहीं है जबतक कि ये राष्ट्रीय हित के विरुद्ध न हों। चल रही उद्घाटन प्रक्रियाओं के एक भाग के रूप में सरकार विश्व के सभी क्षेत्रों से विदेशी निवेशकों को प्रोत्साहित करने का प्रयास करती है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में विदेशी निवेश के बढ़ते हुये प्रवाह से पता चलता है कि भारत निवेश के लिए एक आकर्षक गंतव्य है तथा यह आश्चर्य नहीं है कि विदेशी निवेशकों का हित सुरक्षित नहीं है।

#### Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers in Maharashtra

2771. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the State Governments particularly Government of Maharashtra to fix minimum wages for the agricultural workers in the States to prevent their exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to fix uniform minimum wages for the agricultural workers in the State and Union Territories; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and in what manner Government propose to protect the interests of agricultural workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) All State Government except the Government of Sikkim, all Union Territory Administrations and the Central Government have already fixed the Minimum rates of wages in respect of employment in Agriculture as per provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As per information available, the minimum rates of wages for the Unskilled Category of agricultural workers in Maharashtra range between Rs. 20.00 per day to Rs. 29.00 per day.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The National Commission on Rural Labour (1991) had, *inter alia*, recommended that the wages of rural workers should not be fixed below Rs. 20/- per day at the prices prevailing in 1990. This recommendation was communicated to all the State Governments/ Union Territory administrations, who are the appropriate government for almost all such workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for implementation. The Central Government has already fixed minimum wages for agricultural workers in their jurisdiction on 12.8.92 and these rates vary from Rs. 55.53 to Rs. 62.53 per day.

#### Setting up of Coal Washeries by the Cement Industry

2772. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement industry proposes to set up some coal washeries in the country;

(b) if so, the number and the location of these coal washeries;

(c) the steps taken by the Cement industry to set up these coal washeries; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) A techno-economic study of coal washeries for cement industry conducted by the Ministry of Industry through the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI) has recommended setting up of five coal washeries at Sasti (Western Coalfields Ltd.) Dipika (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.), Bina (Northern Coalfields Ltd.) Urimiri (Central Coalfields Ltd.) and Bhubaneswari (Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.) The Cement Manufacturers' Association is negotiating with a Build-own-operate (BOO) Contractor to set up a washery at Dipika for meeting the coal requirement of cement plants in Bilaspur cluster of Madhya Pradesh. Western Coalfields Ltd./Coal India Ltd. are proposing to set up another Coal Washery at Sasti, Maharashtra on BOO basis. At present there is no concrete proposal from cement industry to set up the remaining three coal washeries.

#### **Chrome Mines in Sukhinda**

2773. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement the decision of the Supreme Court of India on Chrome mines at Sukhinda (Orissa); and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble High Court of Orissa disposed of writ petitions OJC No. 7729/93 and OJC No. 4701/94 filed by TISCO against orders of the Central Govt. conveying approval of 2nd renewal of mining lease for chromite over the reduced area in Sukhinda Valley of Oris-

sa and a series of other writ petitions filed by other parties vide its common judgement dated 4.4.1995 and other related orders and remanded the matter back to the Central Government with directions containing detailed guidelines for fresh consideration of the entire matter after duly giving an opportunity of hearing to TISCO and other parties in the writ petitions. In pursuance of this direction, the Ministry of Mines constituted a Committee with experts for hearing TISCO and other parties in accordance with the directions given by the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa. The Committee after hearing all the parties at length submitted a comprehensive Report to the Central Government. The Central Government after taking into consideration the Report of the Committee and other relevant factors, passed speaking orders dated 17.8.1995. M/s TISCO and some others had filed several Special Leave Petitions before Hon'ble Supreme Court against the judgement dated 4.4.1995 etc. of the Orissa High Court and the order dated 17.8.1995 of the Central Government. After hearing the parties, Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed judgement on 23.7.1996. Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement referred to above have held *inter-alia* as follows:

"We are, therefore, of the view that the Central Government was justified in issuing its order dated August 17, 1995.

For the foregoing reasons, we are of the view that the High Court and the Committee were justified in the view they took. Consequently the appeals filed by TISCO stand dismissed. IDCOL has filed the appeals on much the same grounds as TISCO while additionally claiming that the Committee should have heard its claim too while hearing the other parties. Since we have heard them at length, the grievance does not survive. Hence, IDCOL's