

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: But we have not to get 'some' answer only. My second supplementary is, is it true the* agreement with the Chief Minister was that for every acre of land in place there will be one person employed? Is it also true that despite that agreement in 1982 the present policy, as decided by the Minister, is not against every one acre one employment but against three acres one employment is to be provided? What has been the actual ratio with regard to this employment? And are you trying to adhere to the norms arrived at in the agreement with the Chief Minister to violate it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the original agreement was in 1980. It was reiterated in 1982. I will read out the concluding portion which is very short. The agreement says: There was thus broad consensus on the following points: (1) All efforts should be made to open the new mines immediately; (2) while recruiting workers for such purposes at least 30 per cent should be filled from among local unemployed youths and women dependants. The remaining 70 per cent may be filled up by absorption of surplus ECL labourers. The break-up between the local unemployed and women dependants within that 30 per cent may be worked out from time to time depending on local conditions. Then, there will be Recruitment Board in which two trade union representatives will be there. Then, apart from the new mines, even in five existing mines the ECL will try to fill up the percentage of vacancies keeping in view the guidelines, etc. etc. This was the agreement. This agrees has been reiterated again in 1982.

As for the question whether per acre one person should be taken or there should be any other criteria, we want to evolve a uniform policy throughout the country. We cannot have different criteria even if an agreement is arrived at mutually between the Chief Minister and some mine man. If we have one type of formula at one place and some other formula at another place, there will be friction in the country. Therefore, a com-

mon formula has to be evolved and we are trying to evolve that formula,

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: That means, you are violating that agreement. You admit that that agreement was there.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are violating anything.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is a coalmine in Bagrahat in the district of Jalpaiguri, North Bengal, which is owned by a private owner and which has been abandoned some time. Does the Government have any proposal to take it over and reopen the same?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I need notice for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Next Question No. 306. Shri Chaturanan Mishra. Absent. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

Revision of Wages etc. in the public Sector Undertakings

*306. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: t

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of meetings have taken place in the past between the representatives of Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions in public sector undertakings and the Minister of Finance pertaining to the demands for revision of wages and payment of interim relief etc. to the employees in the public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the meetings held along with the list of trade union representatives from various public sector undertakings who participated in these meetings and what is the reaction of Government to their demands?

-j-The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The representatives of the Joint Action Committee of public sector unions met the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 7.5.1985 and 24.6.1985. The representatives of these unions had pressed among other things for payment of interim relief and grant of DA at Central Government rates to the employees of the public enterprises which had been following the Central DA. While the various points made by the Joint Action Committee are being examined by the Government, officers' associations and workers' unions of a number of Public Sector Enterprises have filed writ petitions in High Courts and Supreme Court and the matter is *sub judice*.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: If the matter is *sub judice*, that means I can ask no question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask the question. If it is proper, I will allow it; otherwise I will say "No".

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I would like to know when the present agreement which is in existence is going to expire. What is the time lag before a new agreement can be signed? What are the hurdles in coming to an agreement with the workers? It is important because

MR. CHAIRMAN: No reason is required. You put your question. Your question is in order, I have allowed it.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the exact date of expiry, I will give.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You answer the other point. By that time the staff will give you the information.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: In fact the matter has gone to the Supreme Court and the High Courts where it is pending. The agreement expires on different dates with different unions. - In some cases it is 1986 and 1987.

Sir, the officers want the D.A. on the Central Government pattern, but the

Central Government wants indexical D.A. pattern to be Adopted by those public sector undertakings. But they do not want it and hence in spite of the fact that their demands are being examined, they have gone to the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As the matter is pending in the Supreme Court, we are not in a position to say anything at this stage.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What steps does the Government propose to take to vacate these cases, so that it can begin direct negotiations with the workers and expedite the matter?

Secondly, is it true that Dr. Arjun Sengupta, a leading economist, had submitted a report, on being requested by the Finance Ministry of Government of India, on the question whether there should be a Wage Board instead of having bilateral discussions and agreement? I would like to know specifically from the Government whether it is giving up the method of bilateral discussions and bilateral agreement and reverting back to the system of setting up Wage Boards to decide on the question of wages and bonus. DA and other things.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, it is for the employees of the public sector concerned—i.e. the Officers' Associations—to take steps to have an early decision or to withdraw the cases.

Now coming to the Committee's recommendation about Wage Board and also to what you have referred to. Sir...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I referred to a specific thing.

Whether Dr. Arjun Sengupta has given a report on being requested by you and whether you are changing it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating the question.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, here the Committee has submitted its report. We have not taken any decision.

The debate is going on; views are ascertained from the various sectors including the union leaders of the public sector enterprises.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Whether there is a change of policy or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dhabe.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: May I know from the Minister whether he does not believe in the procedure of arbitration? The Bank Officers' Association has gone on strike all over India simply because the Government does not agree and Government wants to be the sole arbitrator in the dispute and has abandoned the method of Gandhiji for having arbitration. May I know from the Minister whether he will have any thinking on this and, if the Government does not agree with the public sector officers' association and workers, whether it will accept the procedure of arbitration and send it to some independent authority which can find out whether uniform wages can be given and whether parity can be maintained.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJAM: Sir, here, as the hon. Member knows, bank officers don't come under the Industrial Disputes Act.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Arbitration.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJAM: will come to that. In spite of that fact, the IBA had some detailed discussions with the bank officers, and after discussions with them the IBA has submitted its recommendations to the Government and the Government has conveyed its decision. But they are not satisfied with that. They want 16-odd per cent; we have given 13.5 per cent. The increase to officers per year will be 80 crores. they wanted something more than that; they are not satisfied. They are going on strike; I think they might have gone on strike today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ashwani Kumar.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Government's point of view is known. Why should not they go in for arbitration?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is only your suggestion. He cannot reply.

Mr. Ashwani Kumar ----- Absent. Mr. Balaram.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, since the period of agreement has already expired and the prices have gone high, why does not the Government think about payment of interim relief? Are they prepared to pay interim relief?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any proposal to pay interim relief?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJAM: Sir, so far as the factor of interim relief is concerned, the Supreme Court did not pass any order to that effect. There is no intention of paying any interim relief.

Export of Raw Silk

07. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of raw silk exported during 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(b) whether China is replacing India as the premier supplier of silk to Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of House.

Statement

(a) Under the Export Policy export of raw silk is on 'merit' and is therefore, not allowed freely. There has been no export of raw silk from India during the year 1983-84 and 1984-85.

(b) China has been the premier supplier of raw silk to Europe for a long

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Usfaa Malhotra.