

Sir, the second part is regarding the shortage of water. I would not say that the shortage of water depends on the expectations and the needs and so on. While I would certainly admit that the water supply in the NDMC area and the water supply in the whole of Delhi as compared to its requirement and judged from the criteria laid down is not adequate, but the NDMC is at present certainly getting water supply from the Delhi Municipal Corporation, and its per-capita consumption is more than that of the Delhi Municipal Corporation. But the NDMC has asked for 4 million gallons of water more for the NDMC area, which the Delhi Municipal Corporation has agreed. But the point at present under consideration is at what point that water should be given. The Corporation suggests that it should be given at a point near Nizamuddin where the main lines can be laid easily while the NDMC wants it to be given somewhere in another part of New Delhi where there would be some problem in laying the water mains because it is a congested area. That point is under consideration between the two bodies. Government is quite keen that the problems of the water supply in New Delhi and Old Delhi are removed, and some steps are taken.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: May I know whether the Government is aware that water gets contaminated during the course of its transit from the source of supply, that is the supply centre, to the consumer and due to loose joints, broken pipes, seepages etc.? Is there any provision for random testing of the water at the consumer ends?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: One cannot completely rule out the possibility sometimes, because of loose joints etc. of something getting into the water. Certainly I would pass on the suggestion that apart from the tests at the main point of supply, some samples should be taken from the consumer houses for checking.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I am aware of the fact that there are certain measures for cleaning of the water, just as using bleaching powder for chlorination. In part (b) of the ques-

tion it has been asked by the hon. Member;

"Whether Government are considering any proposal to adopt modern techniques to make water fit for human consumption?"

So I would like to ask; What should be the rate of contamination even after cleaning of the water beyond a certain point? Is there any modern technique to make more water clear? If so, the detail thereof?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I have already answered this question to a great extent. However, I would repeat it for the information of the hon. Member that the Government considered the present technique as quite effective and practical. Yet I have asked the authorities to see that some more modern techniques possible or not. They are examining.

Introduction of automation by Newspaper Managements

343. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what steps Government are taking to ensure that indiscriminate introduction of automation by newspaper management does not result in unemployment and constriction of Job potential; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to ensure that automation does not lead to reduction in total working hours or work force or redundancy or any risk to health and safety of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Of late Government have not received any reports or communications regarding indiscriminate introduction of automation by the newspapers managements. Under

the provisions of the I.D. Act, no employer who proposes to effect any change in the conditions of service applicable to any workman arising out of rationalisation, standardization or improvement of plant or technique which is likely to lead to retrenchment shall effect such change without giving adequate notice to the workmen likely to be affected. In the event of violation of the provision of the Act, the matter can be raised as a dispute by the workmen. No such dispute raised by the workmen in the newspaper industry has been brought to the notice of the Government. In order, however, to protect the interests of the workers in commercial and industrial undertakings including the newspaper industry, the Ministry of Labour had issued instructions to all States/Union Territories in June, 1984 that before permission is given for the import of computers by the Department of Electronics, it will have to be ensured that the managements concerned would have to give the following undertakings:—

- (1) there would be no retrenchment as a result of computerisation and any worker rendered surplus would be absorbed;
- (2) there would be no loss of earnings or wages of the existing workers;
- (3) there would be no adverse effect on the conditions of work, promotion prospects, etc. of the workers; and
- (4) there would be adequate safeguards to protect the workers' interests including the method of sharing possible benefits¹.

It will thus be appreciated that the Government have been vigilant to protect the interests of the workers.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I am not opposed to modernisation and automation, if workers' interests are not affected, the Minister's statement says that the Government has not received any complaint or report about the retrenchment. But the All India Newspaper Employees Federation says it has sent a complaint to the Labour Minister as well as to the Prime Minister about 'Rastradoot' in Jaipur where 24 workers have been retrenched. In

fact, the police was called in to prevent the workers from entering the newspaper premises, which is very bad. For retrenchment no permission of the State Government was obtained.

There have been problems about 'Rajasthan Patrika' also. Further, the 'Ind Express' in Bombay which is well known for violation of laws, has sought the permission of the Maharashtra Government for terminating the services of 62 workers. Will the Government advise the Maharashtra Government to refuse permission to the 'Indian Express' for retrenchment and also look into the 'Rastradoot' case to ensure that all the employees who have been thrown out are reinstated?

SHRI T. ANJIAH: As per section 9A of the Industrial Disputes Act, the unions were informed, if there is any standardisation of implements which caused retrenchment, those disputes may be referred. Section 25N of the Industrial Disputes Act relating to retrenchment will also apply to such employees which requires to give notice before change of service of workers.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Please intervene and solve the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says in one particular newspaper this has not been done. There has been police. Have you any information on that?

SHRI T. ANJIAH: Regarding 'Rastradoot' they have brought it to our notice and we will call the report from the State Government.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I did not hear the last sentence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said because he has not got the report, he will call for it.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: They have

given the representation to the Labour Minister three months back and to the Prime Minister also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second Supplementary.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: As the problem is bound to be acute in future, in order to solve it and to prevent any further complications, will the Government call a tripartite conference of workers, employers and labour department to ensure that the problem is immediately solved so that there is no retrenchment and heart-burning when the modernisation and automation takes place?

SHRI T. ANJIAH: For this purpose, I will call for a joint meeting

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dhabe.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, this is a very serious problem which the journalists, and non-Journalists are facing. If modern techniques are allowed to be used more employees and the journalists will be thrown out of employment. Therefore, a large number of workers are very apprehensive in this regard. I feel two conditions are necessary if automation is resorted to: (I) Proper Revision of wages to the workers, because automation will have more profits as it will supplement the work, (ii) Imparting training to the Journalists and non-Journalists to use these modern machines so that they are not thrown out of employment. Sir, I wanted to know whether the Government would issue any instructions to the concerned newspapers in the light of above two points?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that he would call a Joint Committee meeting.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: That is not my question. Whether he would issue instructions to the newspapers for a wage revision in view of automation? Whether he would also issue instructions for imparting training to the Journalists and non-Journalists to use these modern machines?

SHRI T. ANJIAH: I have already given instructions. Again I will call the Joint Committee meeting.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, I come rather Minister's reply both written and verbal and I would like to draw his attention to the recent study made by ILO on the

impact of computerisation and automation in various countries—Europe, America, and other developed countries. They have made a study about the socio-economic impact of new technology. I am just reading a few lines from the notes prepared by ILO. Then I will come to the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. What is the question? Everybody knows about the effects of automation. Please put your question.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Here is the ILO study which says:

"that career structure change and the scope for advancement decreases causing frustration and computerisation and automation are having adverse counter effects on the workers in various factories and industries".

In view of this ILO study based on the experience of Europe, America and other developed countries of the adverse effect of automation and computerisation, whether our Government is given second thought to the indiscriminate use of automation and computerisation particularly in the Banking, LIC and some other industries so that it does not cause frustration among the workers and it does not lead to displacement of labour in those industries?

SHRI T. ANJIAH: Sir, I have already given instructions. Nothing is going to happen. There is no question of retrenchment. We will take strong action.

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN: Sir, is the Government aware that the violation of the Industrial Disputes Act does not attract cognizable offence resulting into frequent violation by the employer in private and public sector? Will the Government consider to make it a cognizable offence.

श्री टी० अन्जिया : जरूरत पड़ी तो हम इसमें सोचेंगे । जरूरत पड़ी तो हम एम्बेन्डमेंट लाने की कोशिश करेंगे ।

श्री जगतपाल सिंह ठाकुर : श्रीमन्, जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि

कम्प्यूटर के लिये आपने कहा है कि अगर रिटैन्वमेंट नहीं होगा तो कम्प्यूटर एलाऊ किया जाएगा, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि फोटो कम्पोजिंग के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री टी० अन्जय्या : यह सब होगा या नहीं होगा, मैं साफ़ कह रहा हूँ कि हम रिटैन्वमेंट को रोकेंगे। हमने पहले इस बारे में इन्स्ट्रक्शन्स दिये हैं और जो यह एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट करने का मामला है, इसको इन्फार्मेशन मिनिस्टर देखते हैं। लायसेंसिंग अथारिटी वे लोग हैं। हमलोग लायसेंसिंग अथारिटी नहीं हैं। उनसे भी हम रिवेस्ट करेंगे कि कोई चीज अगर मोडर्नाइजेशन की होगी तो वर्क्स को नहीं निकाला जाएगा।

श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज : मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के शुरू में कहा है कि किसी ऐसे परिवर्तन को किसी भी कर्मकार की सेवा शर्तों पर लागू करने का प्रस्ताव करता है जिससे छंटनी होने की संभावना होती है। ऐसे परिवर्तन को उससे प्रभावित होने वाले कर्मकार को पर्याप्त नोटिस दिए बगैर लागू नहीं करेगा। यानी नोटिस देकर लागू किया जा सकता है। दूसरी बात यह कही गई है कि श्रम मंत्रालय ने जून, 1984 में सभी राज्यों, संघ राज्यक्षेत्रों को नोटिस दिया है कि इलेक्ट्रानिक विभाग द्वारा कम्प्यूटरों के आयात के लिए अनुमति देने से पूर्व यह सुनिश्चित किया जाना चाहिए कि संबंधित प्रबन्धक को निम्नलिखित आश्वासन देने होंगे। कम्प्यूटर लगाने के परिणामस्वरूप कोई छंटनी नहीं होगी और उसके कारण किसी भी फालतू श्रमिक को खपा लिया जायेगा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि छंटनी होगी और उसका पहले नोटिस दिया जाएगा या छंटनी नहीं होगी? दोनों में से क्या होगा?

श्री टी० अन्जय्या : दोनों हैं।

*344 [The questioner (Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu) was absent. For answer, vide cols, 43-44 infra.]

*345. [The questioners (Shri Shanker Singh Vaghela and Shri Lai K. Advani) were absent. For answer, vide col. 40-41 infra.]

*346. [The questioners (Shri V. Gopal-samy and Shri L. Ganesan) were absent. For answer vide col. 41—43 infra.]

¹347. [The questioner (Siirl Jagdambi Prasad Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 43-44 infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 348. Dr. Mohapatra. He is present,

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: It seems Members who have given questions which, I have to answer are present. But I don't regret it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I suppose it is welcome to the Minister.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Yes, it is welcome.

Allotment of Land to Group Housing Societies

*348. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: (SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of group housing societies registered in Delhi & pre-sent;

(b) what is the number of societies who were allotted land by the DDA;

(c) what is the number of such societies who were allotted land three years ago, but have not yet started construction;

(J) whether the DDA will cancel the allotment of land to such societies;

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

*j-The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra.