

Exploitation of Children in carpet factories in Mirzapur

*4.S.HRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT
BHANDARE: SHRI SHANKERJI
LAXMANJI VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the exploitation of children as bonded labour in carpet factories in the Mirzapur area; and

(b) if so, what is the action taken by Government to remove these children out of such bondage?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) Government have taken note of the reports which have appeared in the press recently about the exploitation of children hailing from Bihar and who are being made to work as bonded labourers in the carpet factories in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. Immediately on receipt of these reports, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were requested to get the matter investigated into and take necessary action for releasing these children and restoring them to their parents. The gist of the report received from the District Magistrate, Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) is as under:—

On 13-4-1984, four police parties along with Magistrates were sent to nine villages in Mirzapur District for investigating the matter and releasing the children employed in the carpet weaving units. On these dates, 5 children from Village Belwaria could be released from the carpet factory of Shri Panna Lal.

Earlier, on a F.I.R. lodged under Section 368 Indian Penal Code on 27-8-1984 in Police Station Patan in

Palamau District, the Bihar Police came to Mirzapur and with the help of the police station Chilh Mirzapur they released and took away 27 children with them to Palamau on 1-4-1984.

Subsequently, as a result of extensive raids conducted by the Magistrates of Mirzapur and by the Inspectors of Labour Department with the help of Police in Village Balua, Purjagir and Belwaria, 114 children ranging between ages 8 to 22 were collected from 22 carpet weavers on 16-4-1984. Nine out of the 114 children so released on 16-4-1984 were more than 18 years of age and 14 of them were above 14 years of age. This leaves 91 children of and below 14 years of age. It was found that all except one child were from the District of Palamau in Bihar and the one exception was from district Mirzapur. After due medical examination and after recording of the statements of these children, both by the Magistrates as well as the officers of the Labour Department they have been sent back to District Palamau.

From the Statements recorded, instances of violation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Employment of Children Act, 1938, Children Act, 1960, Factories Act, 1948 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, and certain provisions of I.P.C. like Sections 341 and 374 have come to notice. 70 cases could, however, be made of these children being treated as bonded labourers as per the definition given in the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

The District Magistrate, Mirzapur has further reported that a team of officers comprising of one Executive Magistrate and Area Police Officer was deputed to Palamau on 13-4-1984 for an on-the-spot investigation into the follow-up action taken by the District Administration of Palamau. Consequent on the repatriation of 27 child labourers from Mirzapur on 1-4-84. The Executive Magistrate of

Mirzapur, who took the statements of 19 children and 5 parents in Palamau has reported on his return that 32 children from Chhi-ehhori village of Patan of District Palamau were taken to Shri Panna Lal. Carpet Weaver of village Belwaria on 4 occasions by Shri Siva Kumar Thakur and Shri Sudama Thakur of the same Police Station. Most of the children were taken to J-Hwaria against their wishes on some pretext or other. From the statements of the children recorded by the Executive Magistrate, it appears that the children were forced to hard and incessant labour under inhuman conditions for 16 to 18 hours a day. From these statements, the District Magistrate of Mirzapur is of the view that this may be construed to be a case of forced confinement but not a case of bondage, as according to him, there was no element of loan/debt/advance given by the employer to the children or their parents against which the children were required to render their labour/service. Necessary legal and penal action has been initiated against the offenders.

15. [Transferred to the 4th May, 1984].

**Grants to News-agencies due to de-merge*
Samachar**

*6 SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO
DHABE: SHRI SURESH
KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to pay to the managements of Press Trust of India, United News of India, Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharti, grants in aid due to the de-merger of Samachar to cover the differential of salary of the employees based on the difference between the emoluments given by Samachar and by respective agencies;

(b) if so, for what period the grant is to be paid and how much amount is yet to be paid to these agencies;

(c) whether any conditions have been laid down by the Ministry for this grant-in-aid to the above four agencies; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. However, consequent upon the implementation of Palekar Award by the news agencies, it was decided that the differentials for the fourth, fifth and sixth years for which grant-in-aid is to be paid by the Government would be calculated on the basis of salary differential payable during the period from 1.4.80 to 30.9.80.

(b) The grant-in-aid on account of salary differential was to be paid to the four news agencies for a period of 8 years w.e.f. 14.4.78 subject to the stipulation that 100 per cent differential would be paid by the Government during the first three years to be followed by an annual reduction at the rate of 25 per cent during the succeeding 3 years. Salary differential upto 31.3.84 has been paid to all the four news agencies on the basis of information available with Government. The amount of grant-in-aid yet to be paid to the news agencies will be determined by the Utilisation Certificates they are required to furnish in respect of the previous instalments of Grant-in-aid released to them.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The grant-in-aid has been made subject to the provisions of rules 148 to 151 of the General Financial Rules, 1963 including the Government of India decisions thereunder.