

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: What is the position of the Government vis-a-vis the Board of Directors? Even if somebody has resigned, can he escape the provisions of law, if, as a result of the follow-up action, he is found guilty?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: No, Sir. Whether he has resigned or not, whether he is under suspension or not, no incumbent can avoid the provisions of the law.

व्यापारिक सौदों के सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकारों द्वारा विदेशों के साथ सीधी बातचीत

* 242. श्री श्यामलाल यादव :

श्री रामानन्द यादव :†

क्या विदेश मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल में पश्चिमी बंगाल के उद्योग मन्त्री व्यापारिक सौदों के सम्बन्ध में सीधी बातचीत करने के लिए विदेश गए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार की अनुमति प्राप्त की गई थी ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार अन्य राज्य सरकारों को भी व्यापारिक सौदों के सम्बन्ध में सीधी बातचीत करने की अनुमति देने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ?

†[State Governments' direct talks with foreign countries for trade deals

*242. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV :

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : !

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Industry of West Bengal

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bamanand Yadav.

†[] English translation.

has recently gone abroad for holding direct negotiations for trade deals;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government's permission was obtained in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to permit other State Governments also to have direct talks abroad for trade deals?]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) No, Sir. However, the West Bengal Minister of Commerce and Industry did visit some foreign countries to ascertain the possibilities of foreign collaboration for the proposed petro-chemical complex at Haldia, for which the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation had earlier received a Letter of Intent from the Government of India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

†[विदेश मन्त्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी):

(क) जी, नहीं। लेकिन पश्चिम बंगाल के वाणिज्य और उद्योग मन्त्री ने हल्दिया में प्रस्तावित पेट्रो-रसायन कम्प्लेक्स के लिए विदेशी सहयोग की सम्भावनाओं का पता लगाने के उद्देश्य से कुछ देशों की यात्रा की थी, जिसके लिए पश्चिम बंगाल औद्योगिक विकास निगम को भारत सरकार से पहले ही आशय पत्र प्राप्त हो चुका था।

(ख) जी, हाँ।

(ग) जी, नहीं।]

श्री रामानन्द यादव : यह पहला मौका था जब कि पश्चिम बंगाल की सरकार के व्यापार मन्त्री सीधे विदेशों में या किसी दूसरे मुक्त के साथ व्यापार बातचीत करने के

लिए गये। भूत काल में भारत की किसी भी प्रान्तीय सरकार ने इस तरह का अलग से बाहर के किसी दूसरे देश से व्यापारिक समझौता करने का प्रयास नहीं किया था। यह व्यापार बाहर के देशों के साथ एक मैत्रीपूर्ण समझौते का भी बहुत बड़ा साधन हो सकता है लेकिन इसके अलावा विदेश-व्यापार के माध्यम से एक दूसरे देश के आन्तरिक मामले में हस्तक्षेप भी होती है। केन्द्र सरकार की विदेश व्यापार नीति सारे देश के हित में होती है जबकि एक प्रान्तीय सरकार का जो मन्त्री होगा जब वह बाहर व्यापार के सम्बन्ध में बात करने जायेगा तो वह अपने प्रान्त के इन्टरेस्ट को ध्यान को भी सोचिगा। सम्भव है कि जिन चीजों की आवश्यकता देश की रक्षा के हित में हो उसके लिए वह प्रान्त के हाथ में अच्छा समझकर रुपये अर्जन के लिए बाहर के मुल्क से समझौता कर ले। हमारे समझौते वाइलैटरल होते हैं जैसे कामनवेल्थ कण्ट्रीज के साथ भारत के व्यापारिक समझौते हैं। जो यूरोपियन माला बाजार की कण्ट्रीज हैं उनके साथ भी है तो यह वाइलैटरल है, गवर्नमेंट टु गवर्नमेंट है। इस प्रकार के समझौते इस चीज के खिलाफ जायेंगे अतः मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि प्रान्तीय सरकार द्वारा दूसरे देश के साथ व्यापार वार्ता करना या समझौता करना क्या देश की सुचारु रूप से चल रही विदेश नीति के खिलाफ नहीं है? क्या फॉरेन ट्रेड एक्ट का उल्लंघन नहीं है? देश में यह समझौता जो होने वाला है या होगा अथवा जिसके प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं क्या यह देश में प्रथकतावादी आन्दोलन को बढ़ावा देने वाला नहीं है? योजनाबद्ध प्लान जिसमें देश का विकास हो रहा है क्या उसमें बाधक नहीं होगा? इससे देश की रक्षा के मामले में एक बहुत बड़ी बाधा का सामना करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि जब यह व्यापार होगा तो बाहर के मुल्कों को व्यापार के माध्यम से हमारे देश के राजनीतिक और आर्थिक जीवन में प्रवेश करने का मौका मिलेगा क्या सरकार

?H Sftfff.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made it such a big thing unnecessarily.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: I asked the supplementaries one by one.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आपको एक एक करके जवाब दे रहा हूँ, नहीं, नहीं, नहीं।

समाप्ति सहृदय, मैं स्थिति स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा। यह स्वाभाविक है कि जो समाचारपत्रों में छपा है उससे कुछ मार्चनर सदस्यों का चिन्ता पैदा हुई हो। लेकिन चिन्ता करने का कोई कारण नहीं है। हरियाणा में एक बहुत बड़ा वेमिबल काम्प्लेक्स लग रहा है उसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने लेटर आफ इण्टेंट दिया हुआ है। यह प्रदेश का प्रोजेक्ट है अब उस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए बिना तह की टेक्नालाजी लायी जाये, कौन सी टेक्नालाजी उपयुक्त होगी इसके बारे में अगर पश्चिम बंगाल कोई प्रारम्भिक बातें करना चाहता है तो उसमें हम बाधक नहीं बनेंगे। लेकिन यह बात जरूर है कि किसी देश के साथ अन्तिम समझौता केन्द्र सरकार से होगा प्रदेश सरकार से नहीं। इसीलिए इस प्रश्न पर हमने पश्चिमी बंगाल के मुख्य मन्त्री महोदय से बातचीत की, वे स्वयं यहाँ आए; उन्होंने मुझे आश्वासन दिया कि हम कोई समझौता वार्ता करने या समझौते को अन्तिम रूप देने नहीं जा रहे हैं। प्रतिनिधि मण्डल अनेक देशों की यात्रा कर रहा है, इसी से यह बात स्पष्ट है कि वह पता लगाना चाहते हैं कि वहाँ सबसे अधिक उपयुक्त शर्तें हमें मिल सकती हैं। उन की रिपोर्ट केन्द्र के पास आएगी, केन्द्र उस के बारे में अन्तिम निर्णय करेगा। प्रतिनिधि मण्डल जहाँ जहाँ गया वहाँ हमारे दूतावास के अधिकारी उनके साथ थे। तो भाव्य जी जो अपने मन में इतनी शंकाएं पाल रहे हैं उन का कोई आधार नहीं है....

श्री रामानन्द यादव : यह आपको शंका है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your supplementary.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You go on talking about so many things and time will be lost. Be brief.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं आपकी बात मानूंगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारतवर्ष की किसी प्रांतीय सरकार ने इस तरह की, बाहर के मुक्तों में जाकर व्यापारिक समझौते के लिए सर्वेक्षण करने की परमिशन आप से मांगी थी और आपने उसे परमिशन दिया या नहीं?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अश्वमेध, वह व्यापारिक बात नहीं है। जिस तरह का काम अभी हुआ है वह पहले भी हो चुका है...

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सर्वेक्षण।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : प्रादेशिक सरकारों के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल सर्वेक्षण करते रहे हैं... (Interruption)... श्री बीजू पटनायक कहते हैं ये पहले कर चुके हैं। तब तो हमारी सरकार नहीं थी...

श्री रामानन्द यादव : तो क्या प्रांतीय सरकार को केन्द्रीय सरकार से परमिशन लेकर जाना पड़ता था या बिना परमिशन के जाना पड़ता था?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह प्रतिनिधि मण्डल भी बिना अनुमति के नहीं गया। कोई भारतीय बिना हमारी अनुमति के भारत के बाहर नहीं जा सकता है।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : उसी अधिकार को हम चाहते हैं आप बनाए रहें।

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that it

is for search of technical know-how for a project which has been allotted to the State Government that this has been done. Now, Sir, there are a number of States in this country who may be allotted certain projects. We have got our embassies which are well equipped with technical, economic and other personnel to look into all the interests of the country. Sir, is it a good practice, I want to know, to allow the Ministers of various States to go directly and negotiate with certain agencies? I specially want to ask ----- (Interruptions) Let me make my point. Sir, the Finance Minister of Punjab, who is under a cloud and about whom there was a commitment in the House by the Minister of State for Finance that a thorough investigation will be made, because certain charges have been brought about foreign currency deals and about other things, has now gone to negotiate with the World Bank a loan for sewerage in the cities of Punjab. Now, I only want to ask the hon. Minister of External Affairs whether it is a good practice to allow everybody on every occasion to go out and start negotiations. How do you allow a Minister of the Punjab Government, about whom a thorough probe has been promised in this very House, to go out without anything being settled when you do not allow any such person who is under investigation to go out?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, every request is discussed and decided on merit. In the case of West Bengal, a correct decision was taken after a clear and categorical assurance from the Chief Minister of West Bengal. My friend, Mr. Anand, has asked a question about Punjab. Sir, though both West Bengal and Punjab are parts of India, I do not have the required information in my possession at the moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Zakaria.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Does he encourage this practice when

we have got all people with technical knowledge in our embassies...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered clearly. There is nothing to explain. (Interruptions) He has already said that after discussion when the final deal is to be dealt with, the Government of India will come into the picture. Dr. Zakaria.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Sir, as a representative of my State, I must congratulate the Minister of External Affairs on the correct attitude that he has taken in this regard. Sir, we have a mixed economy and if persons belonging to the private enterprise can go and negotiate abroad, I do not see any reason why the representatives of the State Governments should not be allowed to do so. The only question that I would like to ask the honourable External Affairs Minister is whether, when the State Governments are also establishing corporations and companies, any more restrictions are put as far as their going abroad and negotiating with foreign concerns, foreign foundations and foreign establishments, is concerned, or whether they are the same restrictions that are put on the private parties. If the answer is 'no', then I would like to know, when the External Affairs Minister stated that the final clearance has got to be given by the Government of India, whether this final clearance is more restrictive and more rigid than in the case of similar agreements arrived at by private parties.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There cannot be any distinction between private parties going abroad and State Government representatives going abroad to explore the possibility of some sort of assistance or collaboration. I entirely agree with the honourable Member that if private parties can do it, why not others...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Provided you go for a good purpose.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Even public sector projects are doing

that. But everybody is expected to do it very discreetly and keeping in mind the overall national interests. There is no proposal to impose any extra restrictions on State Governments.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: In the course of his reply the honourable Minister said that a categorical assurance was received from the Government of West Bengal. I would like to know from the honourable Minister what assurance he took from the Government of West Bengal in the instant case.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I have already stated that the assurance was that any agreement in regard to Haldia project will be finalised in consultation with the Central Government.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Signed by whom? Who will sign the agreement? The Central Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very clear. You have not understood the question.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Who will sign the agreement?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The appropriate Government.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Since the State Governments are the custodians of the people and are more concerned with the welfare of the State, and are more knowledgeable about the industrial potentiality of the State, will the Central Government give permission to the State Governments to hold direct negotiations with the outside institutions? I would also like to know the States which have so far applied for permission and the result of such applications.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Under the Constitution there is a division of power. So far as foreign trade is concerned, it is the Central Government which is to conduct the

negotiations and to regulate them keeping in mind the overall interests of the country. If we get requests from the State Governments, they are decided on merits. I am not in a position to say at the moment how many requests we have received and from which Governments.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: There are a number of experts attach--ed to our various Embassies and High •Commissions. If Ministers from various States start going abroad to explore the possibilities of collaboration, then what will these experts do in our Embassies and High Commissions? Therefore, will the Government decide to withdraw these technical experts since most of the Ministers would like to go themselves?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: They will assist them.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We do have experts in our Embassies abroad, and if a delegation goes there, the services of those experts are available to that delegation. There is no proposal to withdraw such experts.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The honourable Minister could have just as well said that he has been following in this matter the practice under the previous regime when various State Governments had sent their representatives to Japan and other countries also. Perhaps our friends there have forgotten that having come to the Opposition Benches. The West Bengal Government should be congratulated on having taken the initiative in the preliminary stage to have negotiations for the development of this project. It is even done sometimes at private level by various States. Very rightly my friend there has pointed out that if the Birlas can do it, why not the States? Birlas are not certainly more important than a State of the Indian Union. Therefore, I would like to liave a very clear policy. Certainly.

the Government Of India did the correct thing. The| initiative of the States for good causes, specially for the development of such projects as Haldia, should be encouraged by the Government of India. And it is good he has done it. It is also division of labour. Shri Vajpayee is busy. He will be the observer in Haryana on the 8th of May. To some extent, he is relieved of his job.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He did not put any question.

MR. CHAIRMAN;; He suggested something to you.

AN HON. MEMBER: He congratulated the Minister.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The policy of the Central Government is to encourage initiative.

SHRI PILOO MODY: His assignment in Haryana is a foreign assignment.

Issue of Passports

*243. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH:

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:f

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to issue diplomatic passports to public men keeping in view their present status and part background; and

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

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudev Gupta.