

MR. CHAIRMAN: No reply is to be given.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, यह सवाल तो इसमें से पैदा नहीं होता। अगर जबरदस्ती करने पर तुले हुए हैं, तो बात अलग है।

DR. V. P. DUTT: I agree with the Hon. Minister that we should not give that much importance to the National Front. But the point I would like to make is that it is not the National Front which has created such a difficult situation of tension. It is the policy statement of Mrs. Thatcher, Leader of the Conservative Party, in the last few months, which has added to the tension. I do not say that it has created the tension; I say that it has added to the tension. There were reports about certain heated exchanges between our Prime Minister and Mrs. Thatcher in London. I would like to ask—whatever Mrs. Thatcher may be saying in the last few months through her policy statements—what was the attitude of Mrs. Thatcher during her talks with Mr. Morarji Desai, and whether the report about heated exchanges was correct and what efforts are being made to change the policy of the Conservative Party about this matter?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It would not be proper for me to disclose what transpired between Prime Minister Mr. Desai and Mrs. Thatcher, but the recent declarations made by Mrs. Thatcher...

DR. V. P. DUTT: Do they supplant those policy statements?

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Obviously their latest statements supersede all the earlier statements made so far, and these are good statements and should be welcome.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mrs. Thatcher is the lady who combines

the attributes of Lady Astor and Sir Winston Churchill.

SHRI PILOO MODY: And Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

Industrial Unrest during 1977-78

"122. SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL
URF PIARE LALL TALIB:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN:^f
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA
MAURYA:
SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a big set-back to industrial output as a result of industrial unrest during 1977-78;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the estimated loss on this account is of the order of Rs. 500/- crores; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to ensure industrial peace?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) There has been a slight set-back to industrial output in the year 1977. Statistics for the first three months of 1978 are not yet available.

(b) No Sir. A statement prepared on the basis of available information for 1976 and 1977 is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Government is making all efforts to improve the industrial climate in the country with the help of the Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States. Whenever necessary, Government is intervening in disputes in the Central sphere with a view to promoting settlements.

^fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.

Statement

Total number of disputes and the value of production lost during the Year 1976 and 1977 (P)

Year	No. of disputes leading to loss of production	Estimated value of production lost (in crores) Rs.
1976 (January to December)	1134	92.31
1977(P) (January to December)	1409	152.04

(P,—Provisional and based on returns/information received in the Labour Bureau till 18th February 1978.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

Sir, I am surprised that the hon. Minister has stated that there is only a slight setback to industrial output and industrial peace in the country. Unfortunately, it appears that the entire industrial sector is completely out of gear and the momentum it had gained over the years has not only completely slowed down, but actually, it has also lost all its thrust of the past years. Now, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the number of man-days lost, disputes, lock-outs and strikes have been unprecedented in 1977 and this has resulted in a national loss in more than one way and more than what has been indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the House, because, the hon. Minister has not taken into consideration the consequential loss and the multiplier effect of the loss.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, I had no intention of surprising the hon. Member. But it was not possible on the basis of the figures that were available to us, to subscribe to his adjective. Therefore, I said, Sir, that there has been a slight setback. The hon. Member asked the question in regard to 1976 only. The year 1976 was an abnormal year since there was an Emergency and I would not like to be the first to remind the hon. Member of that. However, Sir, in

1976, at the peak of the Emergency, the estimated value of the production lost was Rs. 92 crores and, in 1977, it is a fact that according to our information, it has gone up to Rs. 152 crores. But I would like to remind the hon. Member that in 1974, the equivalent figure was Rs. 209.63 crores and in 1975, the year in which there was a partial eclipse of democracy, it was Rs. 177.86 crores. Therefore, Sir, it is right to say that the setback is only slight.

As for the other question about the number of man-days lost, here again I would like to say that according to* our information, the number of man-days lost is not in any way alarmingly higher than before. It is approximately 22 million and it has been around 20-21 million, during the entire decade except in the year of the railway strike, when it went up to 40, and during the Emergency, when it fell to 11 million.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, I am really surprised...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you surprised again?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, should I sit down or should I ask the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put the supplementary.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You can sit down so that you can do both.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I do not need so much space as you need, Sir, some percentages have been given here. In 1977, it is 66 per cent and in 1976, it was 59.73 per cent. Therefore, I would like to say that it is not very wise on the part of the hon. Minister to take refuge in the year 1974 and in the gracious years of 1973, 1972 and 1971. Is it not a fact that this industrial unrest has adversely affected the public sector also and, in fact,, it has dislodged the public sector from its commanding

heights? And this has been done on the plea of encouraging the small-scale industry for the benefit of private sector.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, there is no reason for me to change my earlier answer after listening to the hon. Member. As far as the public sector and the private sector are concerned, here again the figures do not show any set-back of the kind the hon. Member refers to.

श्री बुद्ध प्रिय मोर्य : आदरणीय सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी कुछ ऐसी बातों का सहारा ले कर उत्तर देते हैं जिनका इस प्रश्न के उत्तर से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है और अगर वह उन्हीं बातों का सहारा ले कर उत्तर देते हैं तो उसी आधार पर मैं यह स्पष्टीकरण ला रहा हूँ। सीमेंट का प्रोडक्शन 19.8 मिलियन टन था। इस में से 6 लाख टन हम एक्सपोर्ट करते थे और उस से विदेशी मुद्रा कमाते थे। आप का एक्विवलेन्ट है कि सीमेंट का उत्पादन गिरा है और सीमेंट जो एक पिसा हुआ लाइम स्टोन है और जिसमें कुछ केमिकल मिला कर सीमेंट बनाया जाता है, उस के लिए आप की उल्लेख यह है कि आप उसको इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं और 60 करोड़ रुपये उस पर बर्बाद कर रहे हैं। यह आप का एक्विवलेन्ट है। श्रीमन् मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि सीमेंट, स्टील और दूसरी इंडियन गुड्स आदि का एक्सपोर्ट 20 परसेंट गिर गया है। इंडियन गुड्स का जो एक्सपोर्ट होता था वह बीस परसेंट गिर गया है क्योंकि उनका उत्पादन कम हो गया है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह हमारी कबलियत या कमियों की ओर न जायें, आज हम सत्ता में नहीं हैं, आप सत्ता में हैं, और इसलिए क्या आप बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछले 15 सालों में इन चीजों का उत्पादन बढ़ा है या घटा है? और बढ़ा है तो कितना बढ़ा है और घटा है तो उस के क्या क्या कारण हैं?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, the question relates to the set-back to industrial output as a result of industrial unrest. As Labour Minister I can answer the question about the contribution that industrial unrest might have made to any set-back but since he has raised the general question ...

AN HON. MEMBER: It is the joint responsibility.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It is not possible to answer on behalf of all the Ministries. I am not the Prime Minister.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Only Mr. Biju Patnaik can do that.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Hon. Member Shri Kalyan Roy can provoke Mr. Biju Patnaik. The hon. friend is perhaps off the mark when he says that during the last 15 years there has been a fall in production. As far as the import is concerned. It is not due to decrease in production but increase in demand.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : औद्योगिक अशान्ति के कारण से यहाँ पर बतलाया गया है कि 500 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है, लेकिन आप ने उस को मना किया है। लेकिन यह जो नुकसान हो रहा है वह सीधा उत्पादन से मतलब रखता है। इस के अलावा औद्योगिक अशान्ति से जैसे शिपिंग कारपोरेशन में है करोड़ों रुपये फारेन एक्सचेंज में डेमरेज के तौर पर या वारफेज के तौर पर दे रहे हैं और सब जगह हमारा नुकसान हो रहा है और उत्पादन में कमी हुई है और इन सब में लेबर का सम्बन्ध रहता है। तो क्या श्रम मंत्री जी लेबर लाज में कोई बुनियादी चीज ला रहे हैं जिन के अनुसार उत्पादन में श्रम के रिलेशनस इंडस्ट्री में ठीक रह सकें और यहाँ पर देश में अधिक उत्पादन हो सके।

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, the answer to the question already states that the Government is proposing to bring forward a compre-

hensive Bill which will deal with industrial relations and it is our hope and belief that this Bill will contribute to the creation of harmony in industrial relations and reduction of cases of tension and disputes.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, he has said that the total number of man-days lost was round about 20 to 22 million in 1974-75. Is it not a fact that the number of man-days lost in the private sector because of lock-outs has sharply increased in the last 5 years and it was the highest after the Janata Government took over? Is it also not a fact that the industrial unrest has been further aggravated and intensified because of massive retrenchment which is going on now in the iron ore sector of the Ministry of Steel and Mines which has dismissed about 2000 workers and are going to retrench another 6000 tribal workers? Further, what steps is the Ministry was planning to take to stop retrenchment in the public sector and bring action against lock-outs in the private sector and to bring an Industrial Relations Bill in consultation with the central trade unions?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I would have liked to agree with my hon. friend who is very well informed and whose views and intentions I always respect. But it is not true that the number of man-days lost due to lock-outs has increased after the Janata Government took charge. I am constrained to reply that the percentage of man-days lost due to lock-outs was as high as 79 per cent during the emergency and it has fallen to 58 per cent in the last year.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: But the total number of man-days lost is more today because of lock-outs.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, the total number of man-days lost—I am sorry I would not like to accuse the hon. Member of shifting the ground of his question—remains the same. The question he had asked was about the element contributed by lock-outs, and I have answered that. In respect of man-days lost, I would like

to assure the House that it is only 0.4 per cent of the total man-days scheduled in the country.

Now, on the second question about retrenchment that he referred to, surely he will have an opportunity to go at my distinguished friend sitting to my left, but as far as this Ministry and the Steel Ministry are concerned, there is no proposal for retrenchment. The problem that he has in mind, perhaps is about contract labour, and I can give an answer to that question if he files a separate question on the subject.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What about my last question about the Industrial Relations Bill?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: As far as the Industrial Relations Bill is concerned, it has been formulated on the basis of the report of Tripartite Committee in which all the central trade union organisations were represented.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What has come out of it? It was rejected by the trade unions.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Nothing has come out.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: With the help of the statistics which the Labour Minister has reeled out, he has tried to make a case that the man-hours lost and the consequent loss in industrial output in 1977-78 are very much more alarming as compared to 1976; nonetheless, his performance must be considered reasonable and fair because it is not as bad as it was in 1974-75. Sir, statistics have helped him in that way, I have no doubt in my mind, because someone said that if there are three lies, they are lies, damn lies and statistics. Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether or not, the industrial unrest which we are witnessing in mills after mills is the manifestation of general deterioration of law and order in the coun-

try? Secondly, may I also know whether it is your target to go back to the days of 1974 or 1975, or you want to improve upon that? And if you want to improve upon that, what basic changes in your policy do you want to bring about?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: We have improved upon it.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Please listen to what I have to tell you. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Remove Kalyan Roy and Dhupesh Gupta and there will be law and order.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, they are doing it, they are bound to do that (*Interruptions*) It is the privilege of the Opposition to oppose the Government. Nobody should create any law and order problem. It is only you and you alone who are allowing permissive and liberal democracy where you have lawlessness, violence, loot, arson, political gimmickry as the basis ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY: Even that is better than fascism.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What is fascism? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: You are talking of fascism, This gentleman... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PILOO MODY: i am talking about the way... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: What is the basic approach to this growing lawlessness in the industrial field?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: They Me creating unrest in the House.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: There has been law and order problem in the Treasury Benches.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. We have got the impression that Mr. Biju Patnaik has got an additional portfolio, namely, of being the body guard of other Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can reply, Mr. Minister. And, Biju Patnaik, if you peep at them they will raise some other thing.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, I was just looking up.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir,, I shall try to recall what the hon'ble Member asked. First he took objection to my quoting statistics. It is very difficult. If you quote statistics and give information you are accused of giving information, and if you do not refer to statistics you are told that you are not giving information. He referred to three kinds of lies. There is a fourth malady, Sir. It is a kind of blindness which makes it a part of one's nature to distort. I do not know whether that would be categorised as a lie. In any case it is based on things other than reason or fact.

He asked me whether industrial unrest is not increasing and asked whether we are satisfied by saying that there is only a slight setback. The question was whether there was a big set-back. In answer to that we said that there was a slight setback. Then, Sir, he referred to the grave situation of law and order and political gimmickry and increasing industrial unrest. About political gimmickry, I know that there is a lot to learn from the hon'ble Member and his friends. But we have not given much evidence of this.

On the question of industrial unrest, it is totally untrue to say that industrial unrest is increasing, it is

a fact that in some parts of the country there have been manifestations of industrial unrest, it is equally a fact that there are some people, vested interests of two kinds—political and industrial—who want to make it look as though industrial unrest is increasingly. They would create an atmosphere of panic and try to paralyse industry. I leave it to the hon'ble Member! to choose between the two categories.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, you have your next question. You can put your supplementary at that time. Therefore, I can call Mr. Dhabe.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, the hon. Labour Minister was kind enough to give the figures. I am sure statistically the loss was greater in 1974-75. But he has not given the reason why the loss has increased to Rs. 152 crores. The Finance Minister has issued a circular for wage freeze in the public sector undertakings and no wage negotiations to be held, no problem to be solved. It was taken as a mandate by the offices in the public sector, a blanket order not to solve any question of the labourers. May I know from the hon'ble Minister how many strikes have taken place and industrial unrest has increased in the public sector undertakings including Coal India Ltd., Indian Explosives and other factories because of the non-negotiation attitude and failure of the grievance machinery in the public sector undertakings?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I am afraid the hon'ble Member is totally incorrect when says that there has been a circular about wage freeze in the public sector undertakings. It is totally wrong (Interruptions). The hon'ble Member might have the patience to listen. Sir, in this very House I do not know whether the hon'ble Member was present on that day or not, or whether he was hearing on that day or not, or whether he was taking! Un what was being said at

that time—the hon'ble Finance Minister said in answer to a similar question that the Government had decided that there is no wage freeze and Government had decided that till a policy on incomes-wages is formulated no wage agreement should be finalised by any public sector enterprise without getting the specific approval of the Government. (Interruption).

Sir, I repeat. (Interruptions) what else is it? Everybody can understand. He should have the patience to understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You reply. That is all right.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I will repeat my reply because this is the problem. He asks the same question again and again. You should have the patience to hear the end of the sentence, "...without getting specific approval of the Government." Therefore, there was no ban whatsoever on negotiations. I would also wish to point out to the hon. Member who is a well-known trade unionist and who should, therefore, have known better, that there were sixteen wage negotiations in the public sector undertakings during this period and many of them were settled and signed, including the big negotiations in the Public Sector undertaking* Bangalore of which the hon. Member should know. Therefore, it is a travesty of facts on the basis of which this question was asked. (Interruptions).

श्री टी० अंजैया : श्रीमन्, माननीय महोदय इस बात को जानते हैं कि इस समस्या की जो खास खास माइंड्स हैं वे हैं इन्टर यूनियन राइव्लरी और वजेज आदि। ऐसी हालत में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसा कानून लाएंगे जिससे सीक्रेट बैलट का प्रोविजन हो सके और सब यूनियनों का एक आल इंडिया फडरेशन बन सके ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि

क्या वे इस बारे में कोई कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि बेज का रिक्विजन दो साल में या पांच साल में हो और बोनस आदि का भी ठीक प्रकार से प्रोविजन हो सके ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, my distinguished friend, the hon. Member has himself been a distinguished Labour Minister and therefore I am not surprised that he referred to the various aspects of the problem. These are the aspects of the problem, namely, demands about wages, wage revision, dearness allowance, bonus and recognition of unions. It is quite well known and I am entirely in agreement with my hon. friend who has given evidence of his knowledge and experience of the subject. But, Sir, I would like to say in answer to him that these are the very questions on which the Industrial Relations Bill is expected to place the proposals of the Government before the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kulkarni, you have got the next question. Therefore, I thought you could utilise it and instead of a supplementary now, you might like to put the next question.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, I want to put a very small supplementary. The Minister is giving out certain statistics, etc., but is he aware that in the Thana-Belapur area and Pune-Chinchvad area, factories are closed for the last three months continuously, and the basic malady seems to be that the Janata Party's ghataks have different organisations. They are not having a common strategy and that is why all these ghataks have started fighting, thereby keeping the factories closed. I want to know whether you will control your own ghataks and formulate a policy whereby in the Bombay region at least the production will increase.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, my good friend, Mr. Kulkarni, has raised a question particularly about Maharnuhtra and the Thana-Belapur

belt. It is a fact, Sir, that that has been one of the areas in which trouble has been endemic, and there has been loss of production and stoppage of work. In fact, Sir, out of the Rs. 152 crores that were referred to in my statement, Rs. 35.07 crores were lost in that area. But, Sir, when he goes on to say that this is because of the lack of cohesion and unity in the trade unions that are associated with the Janata Party, perhaps, he was of the mark. I am not here to talk on behalf of those unions...

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: When you are replying to me, be sure I am on facts. I can give you many instances but I do not want to clarify on this point. Ghataks are there and, whatever it is, the ghataks are fighting in between themselves.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, this is a different question. But out of the 24 or so strikes that were going on in the area, nearly 20 were conducted by some people connected with the INTUC. Mr. Datta Samant does not belong to the Janata Party. I do not have to say anything more.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: He is a criminal. You cannot catch him. That is the difficulty. He has to be chased.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I am concerned with his activities as a trade union leader and not as a criminal.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, there has been some understandable strain on industrial relations because a number of problems remained unattended to and unsolved during the period of the emergency when the big business houses had a field day in carrying out lay-offs and retrenchment under the benign protection of our friends there and the CPI here, (Interruptions) Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether they have any scheme in view whereby the employers as

well as the trade unions having any dispute could be asked to submit to compulsory arbitration; and, if at all the dispute has to be fought out, it should be fought out in a way that it does not damage production and the wealth of the nation?

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA: Who has accepted this question?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: You are not the Minister. Let him reply.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, negotiations, collective bargaining, bipartisan negotiations, tripartite discussions, adjudication and arbitration are all well known methods through which the problems in the field of industrial relations are solved and our proposal in this regard will find expression in the Bill that we propose to bring forward.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: I had asked him, whether in fighting out a dispute, it could be done in such a way that it does not hamper production. There are countries where the strikes and lock-out are there but they do not damage the production.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has replied.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, from the figures given by the hon. Minister, it is clear that the industrial unrest and other factors like the Government policy have resulted in a set-back in production. Now, Sir, as you are also aware, the Government had assured the people on assumption of office that within ten years unemployment would be removed. But an agency report was published a few days back clearly stating that the percentage of the persons on the registers of the employment exchange offices has gone up—the number of unemployed persons has increased by 11 per cent, and job growth rate has decelerated by 4 per cent. So unemployment acceleration by 11 per cent and job creation deceleration by 4 per cent have taken place in the last fifteen months. Now

that being the fact, will the hon. Minister confirm it or deny it; and, to be more precise—as he is very fond of, and has in possession, I think, the statistical figures—will he be pleased to state what is the growth rate of employment in the last three years and deceleration or acceleration of job generation in the last three years?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, I do not know whether it will be good or bad to plead not guilty to his charge of being fond of figures. In answer to the question that was asked, I gave information—statistical information—about the amount of money lost, the production lost and the man-hours lost. Sir, his question, especially the last part of his question, is an omnibus question from the Professor on all types of economy.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: What about job generation, the deceleration in the growth rate of employment?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The employment exchange figures, as my distinguished friend knows, only refer to the number of the people registered in the employment exchanges—the number of those on the live registers. It does not, therefore, give comprehensive information about the number of unemployed people. Therefore, it may or may not have increased. But from the statistical information available in the live registers one cannot come to the conclusion that there has been an increase of 11 per cent in unemployment.

On the last two questions that he has asked about the growth rate of employment or the deceleration in the last three years, I do not have figures with me. I want notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.