

पद्धति और कार्यक्रम क्या है और देश के लघु उद्योग को वह किस तरह से प्रोत्साहन दे रही है यह जानकारी देने की क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा करेंगे ?

प्रो० मधु दण्डवते : आपने शायद यह पढ़ा होगा कि बजट के बाद हम लोगों ने एलान किया है कि इस देश में ज्यादातर फारेन एक्सचेंज का रिजर्व हम कर सकें इस के लिए हम लोगों की कोशिश यह होगी कि आज तक जिन एजेंसीस के जरिए रेलवेज का इक्विपमेंट हम खरीदते थे उन को तो कांट्रैक्ट दिए जायेंगे लेकिन अगर स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री के जरिए कोई हमारे इक्विपमेंट बनाने की कोशिश करता है तो हम लोगों की जनरल पालिसी यह रहेगी क्योंकि हम गांधियन फ्रेम वर्क में यह पालिसी आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं कि अगर स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री से कोई आर्डर आयेगा तो हम उस को प्रेफरेंस देंगे। यह बात मैं स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूँ।

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRA-BARTI: Will the hon. Minister throw some light on the question of purchase of wheel axles from the Durgapur Steel Plant? I understand that the Railways are not buying any wheel axles from the Wheel Axles Plant of DSP and that plant is closed. So, I would like to know whether that policy would be changed and whether instead of importing from abroad, the orders would be placed on the D.S.P. or not.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, during the Railway Budget discussion, this point was raised by the hon. Member. Though he was not there in the House. I had made it clear that as far as wheels and axles are concerned, we are utilizing the full capacity that is available and that this would be the general policy of the Government.

Railway strike in May, 1974

*52. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:†

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanat Kumar Raha.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to take back all the Railway employees who were dismissed or removed from service for participation in the railway strike which took place in May, 1974;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this direction;

(c) whether new appointments were made to fill up the vacancies caused by the removal/dismissal of some employees; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and in what manner Government propose to absorb the excess staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) and (b) Instructions have been issued that all railway employees, who were dismissed or removed from service in the context of May 1974 strike on Railways and have not so far been put back to duty, should be reinstated forthwith. Railways are taking action to implement these instructions.

(c) Yes.

(d) The dismissed/removed, employees will be mostly absorbed against available vacancies. Where absolutely inescapable, additional posts will be created so that no one is rendered surplus because of the reinstatement. Such additional posts will be set off against future vacancies.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of the victims of the strike who have not yet been taken back in service. Secondly, I would also like to know the number of employees who have gone to the court for redressal of their grievances. This should be considered in view of the fact that Government is looking into the question of the service conditions of the re-

trenched persons so that there would be no break in service, promotion and upgradation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Sir, you would recall that during the Budget discussion, in my reply, I had clarified all these points. I would like to repeat them. As far as the May 1974 strike is concerned, the number of permanent staff who were removed from service was 16,898. Due to the intervention by the various trade union organisations, the number of employees taken back was 16,271. The number yet to be taken back is 627. I had already announced, while presenting the Budget, that all these employees would be reinstated within a period of six weeks. In reality, we will not take six weeks at all. Within four weeks, the entire process would be completed.

The number of employees who have gone to the court is 310. We expect that most of them would withdraw their cases and that, even in those cases, reinstatement would take place. The number of staff still under suspension is 53. This is also being looked into. The number of casual labour discharged from service during the railway strike was 24,570. Due to the intervention by the trade union organisations, all of them have been taken back except 5,161. We have given the assurance that even these 5,161 casual labour would be reinstated within a period of six weeks.

There is one more point which I would like to mention here, though that specific question has not been put, but this is related to the main question. In addition to these cases of reinstatement, about five lakhs of workers were involved in various types of punishments in which increments were stopped, seniority was disturbed and break in service was caused. We have issued detailed instructions to all the General Managers that wherever the increments have been stopped, their pay should be re-fixed from 1st April 1977 that

wherever seniority was lost by the victimised employees, the seniority should be restored and that wherever break in service had taken place, the break in service should be completely condoned.

12.00 Noon

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
After three years these people are going to be reinstated. Will the Minister also consider paying them arrears which are due to these people?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Sir, I have made it very clear during the budget discussions that looking to the economy we will make only those commitments which we can respect. We do not want to make any other commitment at this stage which will bring the economy—the railway economy and the general economy—in the doldrums.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
Firstly, I would like to ask the Minister whether he will consider this matter in the light of the total situation of the economy. Secondly, will the Minister look into the cases of those who were victims during the loco-running staff strike of 1973, so that they will also get the benefit of this new policy?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
If we take the responsibility of the misdeeds that were committed by the Government right from 1947....

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
Only from....

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is not possible. As far as the resources are concerned, they are to be taken into account. As I specifically stated, the resources that have been mobilised are not to be utilised only for the wage bill to the emp-

loyees, but they are also to be utilised for providing amenities and facilities for the travelling public. And, therefore, I do not wish to make any commitment at this stage. But at a later stage all the problems that have been put forward by the hon. Members and the respective unions will be considered in depth.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Extension of railway line from Dharmanagar to Kumarghat in Tripura

*53. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made so far in the construction work for extension of railway line from Dharmanagar to Kumarghat in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): The work for the construction of Dharmanagar-Kumarghat new Metre Gauge line was proposed to be taken up in the Railway Budget for 1974-75 at the cost of the North Eastern Council, but it could not be taken up as the North Eastern Council did not agree to bear the cost of the line.

*54. [Transferred to the 6th April, 1976].

Oil exploration along the Kerala Coast

*55. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for oil

exploration along the Kerala Coast; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND PETROLEUM (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala suggested oil exploration off the Kerala coast in order to determine the prospects there. The surveys conducted so far in the Continental Shelf off the Kerala coast have not indicated good sedimentary deposits except towards the deeper portions of the Shelf. The ONGC has plans to conduct further seismic surveys in this area.

Performance of the M.R.T.P. Commission

*56. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the performance of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission with a view to making it more effective; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b) The Government propose to go into the working of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act as well as the work done by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission to consider whether any and if so what changes are required.

Fertilizer factory at Paradeep

*57. SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI: Will the Minister of