

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 26th July, 1974/the 4th
Shravana, 1896 (*Saka*).

The House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Committee on wage policy

*121. **SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA**:†

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Wage Policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations contained therein; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) to (c) A Committee headed by Prof. S. Chakravarty, Member of the Planning Commission has made an interim report on wage policy. This was a preliminary exercise towards the evolution of a wage policy. In pursuance thereof, a wage cell has been set up in the Ministry of Labour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, **Shrimati Margaret Alva**.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: Sir, What has happened to the Chairman?

SHRI OM MEHTA: He is all right.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by **Shrimati Margaret Alva**.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, **Minister**, you may answer the question.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, over 35 per cent of industrial disputes in the country are said to be directly linked with the question of wages. The question of a national wage policy at this stage is of prime importance to the country, especially a wage policy which will balance wages, incomes and prices. Unfortunately, the Government seems to be satisfied with periodic appointments of some cells, getting interim reports and postponing the final decision. I would therefore, like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he has any plans for the setting up of a national wage commission in the near future to work out a rational wage policy for the country.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, I deeply appreciate the suggestion made. In pursuance of the anxiety of the Government itself to evolve a national wage policy, as I submitted, a Committee had been appointed under the distinguished chairmanship of Prof. S. Chakravarty. As I said, a preliminary report towards the evolution of a wage policy has been submitted. This is a very complicated matter. At an appropriate stage, I hope, the Government would be in a position to elaborate it further.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government is thinking of a near uniformity in the pay structures of employees and workers at least in the organised sector of industry. I would also like to know whether the question of introducing uniform hours of work at least in Government and public sector offices in the country is under the Government's consideration.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, it would be the endeavour of the Government to bring in, as early as possible, some kind of uniformity and to reduce the gaps that exist between various sectors of income groups.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Sir, I see that Government have now appointed a cell to go into this question. But, I would like to know how many commis-

sions were previously appointed by the Government to study this problem specially to bring in a uniform wage structure linked with prices and incomes

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY:

Sir, some Committees at the national level and some other commissions made some references to the wage policy. But, the Committee headed by Prof. S. Chakravarty is the first Committee of its kind to go into depth in the question of a wage policy in relation to incomes and profits for the purpose of evolution of a national wage and incomes policy. Various cells have been appointed in pursuance of the recommendations made by this Committee and they are retained in the Ministry of Labour for the purpose of collecting information, analysing it and seeing whether some kind of a study can be made out of this for the purpose of evolving some principles.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Why the Government is not determining a national wage policy? Has the Government any proposals before it to equalise the wages of men and women doing the same type of work. Is the Government aware that the Industrial Tribunal set up to standardise remuneration has suggested that women need not get equal wages as they have fewer responsibilities and as they have always had lower wages?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY:

Sir, it would, of course, be the endeavour of the Government to evolve a policy wherever it is possible and feasible to introduce the principle of equality of wage for men and women.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Sir, in this democracy appointment of a committee or a matter being referred to a Council means delay in implementation. Mr. Minister, don't you realise that the working classes are the backbone for the progress or destruction of any country? The Opposition parties have realised this fact and in the month of May they played a part of theirs to destroy the economy of the country. Yet you as a Labour Minister have not taken any speedy action to solve this problem of disparity in wage structure for

one and the same skill, same type of job, which differs from Department to Department, industry to industry. Can you not solve this problem of equal pay for the same kind of work anywhere in this country? It is necessary that it should be referred to a Committee or Council? Are you not aware that during Mr. Nehru's period, in 1957 the wage policy was enumerated and that report is sleeping in the files of the hon. Minister?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must put a question.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: You are a responsible Minister of the labour portfolio. Are you waiting for an advice from the Government? If you are displeased with the conclusion, I think you must set an example as Mr. V. V. Giri set in 1954 by resigning.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY:

Sir, the hon. Member is a very knowledgeable man. Perhaps the hon. Member is aware very deeply of the various problems of wage structure, the evolution of wage structure in various industries and various departments of life. He would also agree with me. I have no doubt, that the evolution of the wage structure has its own history and it is not easily possible to work out a systematic policy in the sense in which the hon. Member would like to have. That is the reason why it is taking time and with that intention, the Government had appointed this Committee. The Committee had submitted, of course, a report of their own views and a further study is being undertaken.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he theoretically thinks that there can be a national wage policy without a national price policy because the prices are rising by one point every week? The whole question of appointing the Chakravarty Committee or creation of a cell is completely a hypothetical, fruitless approach. May I know whether he is devising any new method of the wage policy in the face of the rising prices? Even the Fifth Plan is not being finalised because of the rising prices. May I know what attempt he has made to really solve this problem of wages in the present condition?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The question raised by hon. Shri Krishan Kant is no doubt of a theoretical consideration. No doubt, the rising prices have certainly their own effect on the demand that would be raised by the workers and that is why the rise in wages is always linked with the payment of dearness allowance. This is given to compensate the rising cost index and this compensation is paid...

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: But it is rising one point a week. What are you going to do about that?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The question that he has asked, if I have understood him correctly, is: that without any price policy how can there be any wage policy and what would be the relationship between the two? If you permit me, I may seek your indulgence, it is something like this that unless a man gets married the madness cannot be cured or unless the madness is cured the man cannot get married.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Who is mad in this? Prices or the wages? Let him say who is mad.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: There is a divorce between the wage policy and the price policy.

SHRI D. THENGARI: May I know what are the terms of reference of the Committee, particularly whether the Committee has also been asked to prescribe a ratio between the minimum and the maximum wages and also the criterion for the need-based wage and the wage differential. I want to know the terms of reference in detail.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The report of the Committee is still a secret document....

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: Point of order. मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोई टर्म्स आफ रीफरेंस

वेज पालिसी तय करने के लिए सीक्रेट हो सकती है?

श्री राजनारायण : मैं श्री रबी राय के पॉइंट आफ ऑर्डर के विरोध में खड़ा हुआ हूँ। वह टर्म्स आफ रीफरेंस सीक्रेट जरूर रहेगी जिसके कारण बैंक मनी रूलिंग पार्टी के पास आती है।

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, apart from Mr. Rajnarain, what Shri Rabi Ray has raised is a very valid point. I can understand...

SHRI RAJNARAIN: If that is valid, you ask your Government to answer.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: How can a Committee which is considering the national wage policy have secret terms of reference? I do not understand why that report should be kept secret because the national wage policy is going to be decided after due deliberations with the labour, the employer and everybody concerned in the country. I cannot understand it. May I know the reasons from the Government because this type of secret information if they divulge to the House, creates a very wrong impression about the functioning of such committees and also about the attitude of the Government? So I shall like to know the reasons and would like this matter to be clarified.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister, why you consider it secret?

SHRI D. THENGARI: I want to know specifically whether the terms of reference are secret.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They want to know why you want to keep it secret.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: There is nothing like terms of reference to the Committee in terms of studying 1, 2, 3 or 4 or 5 that these are the terms which are to be looked into by the Committee. The purpose of the Committee's

appointment was that a need was realised that the national wages policy will have to be worked out so that distortions that exist in the wage structure or in the incomes, could be removed. It has been proposed from plan to plan. In pursuance of that and in order to realise this objective, this Committee has been appointed to look into the entire spectrum.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So that means now it is very clear. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Whether guide lines are there?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Niren Ghosh, it is now very clear that the terms of reference that the Minister has now specified are very wide and it ranges from evaluation of the wage policy from plan to plan. That is the term of reference. So I do not see anything secret in that.

श्री लाल आडवाणी : श्रीमन्, अभी अभी आपने जब कहा कि यह कमेटी की रिपोर्ट सीक्रेट है तो the Chair asked the Minister as to why the Report was being kept secret. The report cannot be secret. Apart from the terms of reference even the Report is kept secret.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Sir, This is something. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Kurian, Mr. Advani has the floor; he is speaking.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, my question has arisen from your own question. You have pointedly asked the Minister why the Report has been kept secret.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not the Report but terms of reference.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: The question was in reference to the terms of reference and in reply instead of answering that the terms of reference are wide, the Minister answered that the Report is secret. This was the answer.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I want to make a submission. I can understand if the Government for its own administrative purposes appoints a group of people to discuss something and prepare a report. Then they should not bring that report before the House, before the public and say that they have done something spectacular to evolve a national wage policy. If it is done to evolve a national wage policy then there is every justification that all sections of the people in the country should be consulted about the national wage policy. I do not understand, Mr. Deputy Chairman, why such a report should be kept secret. It means that there is something fishy about the whole matter. The Government should be able to explain; everything cannot be secret unless it is a departmental report. If it is a departmental noting we have nothing to say. Then the Minister should not have come up and said that they have done something for the national wage policy. They should have clearly said that they have done nothing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me get a clarification from the Minister. I would like to know whether there is anything like a report or it is just proceedings.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, there is what is called an Interim Report. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, We expect the Chair. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him first explain.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: There is what is called an Interim Report submitted to the Government and as you are fully aware it is the duty of the Government to first study the Report, understand the implications of it, consider it, come to certain conclusions before it could be considered whether it must be made public or not. It is nothing very unusual. In respect of various Reports this is what . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, on a point of order. Sir, you were very right.

On one rare occasion I saw a very intelligent question being put by the Chair to the Minister. I congratulate you on that. Sir, we thought that the terms of reference were secret but now we are not pursuing it. The question now is whether there is a Report. You seemed to be under the impression or you had a feeling that if it were a Report then it should normally be shared with the House. That was the essence of your question. Now we know that there is an Interim Report. It is none the less a Report and Mr. Chandra Shekhar has very rightly pointed out that there can be no special secret involved in this matter. This is a matter relating to the evaluation of what you call a national wage policy. Why can't this Interim Report like other Interim Reports be shared with the House? Does the Government claim any particular protection for it? If they want to claim any protection I would ask the hon. Minister to tell us the rule under which they want protection. Otherwise I do maintain on a matter of public policy of this type which touches a large number of working people and which is very much in the public mind, this Interim Report, none the less a Report, should be shared with the House so that the House can apply its mind also concurrently and make its views known as to what should be the direction of the policy to be formulated.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, I have already submitted with great respect it is an Interim Report under study by the Government and in pursuance of the study of the Government certain investigations may have to be taken up. Therefore at this stage it will not be appropriate to consider whether it should be made public or not.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: On a point of order. The point of order is this. The report before the Government involves the entire working people. After considering it you will confront the working class and the House with a *fait accompli*. Is it not unjust? When the trade unions and the working class are there, they should be consulted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are now giving your opinion.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Regarding my question I find the Minister is playing on words. He said that the terms of reference were not given, but the objectives from Plan to Plan have been specified. Now, we want to know, whether these are objectives or terms of reference, what were the directions given by the Government to the Committee.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I have made it already clear. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You have not.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: In view of the concern of the Government, this matter will have to be studied because it is a matter of great anxiety. We have to consider it from Plan to Plan in order to see that some sort of a national wage policy is there. With that in mind this Committee has been asked to look into it. There are no terms of reference which we have prescribed as terms of reference.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: I would like to know whether the Government has reconsidered the question of a need-based minimum wage which was recommended by the National Labour Conference. On the basis of Dr. Aykroyd's calculation of a minimum calorie-content and so on, what is the need-based minimum wage today? May I know whether the Government will ensure a need-based minimum wage not only in the public sector industries, but also in the private sector industries? What is the policy of the Government? May I know whether the Government has rejected the recommendation for a need-based minimum wage by the Tripartite Conference in 1957 and, if so, why?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Though I need a separate question, I may tell you that it is the endeavour of Government to advance towards a need-based minimum wage.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: On a point of order. . .

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: My question relating to the need-based mi-

minimum wage has not been answered. What is the Government's policy? Have they rejected it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is on a point of order. Mr. Rajnarain.

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, मेरा पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है और यह मैंने पहले भी उठाया है। इसलिए जो पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर पहले उठाया हुआ है, संसदीय प्रथा के अनुसार उस पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर का निपटारा पहले होना चाहिए। यह पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर यह उठाया हुआ है कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह कहा कि टर्म्स आफ रेफरेन्स सीकेट है। अब वह कहते हैं कि टर्म्स आफ रेफरेन्स प्लान टू प्लान है जैसे कि चिड़िया एक डाल से दूसरी डाल पर उड़ती जा रही हो। मैं बिल्कुल सफाई के साथ यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह इंटेरिम रिपोर्ट क्या है और क्या इंटेरिम रिपोर्ट के लिए एक टर्म्स आफ रेफरेन्स और फाइनल के लिए दूसरी टर्म्स आफ रेफरेन्स है? जो इंटेरिम रिपोर्ट आई है वह किन-किन त्रिप्यों के बारे में आई है और सरकार उसके बारे में क्या स्टेडी कर रही है, इसका सफाई के साथ उत्तर मिलना चाहिए।

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: If my hon. friend is...

SHRI RAJNARAIN: What is this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is replying. He said 'if I may reply to the hon. Member'. You did not hear him.

(Interruptions)

श्री चन्द्रशेखर: अंग्रेजी नहीं आती है।

श्री राजनारायण: हमको अंग्रेजी नहीं आती है। हम भारतीय भाषाएं पढ़े हुए हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने बोल दिया कि

गांधी जी हिन्दुस्तानी चाहते थे तो पं० कमलापति त्रिपाठी चुप हो गये। श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी को फौरन जवाब देना चाहिए था कि श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी भाषा के बारे में क्या जानती है

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Let him answer it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, with your permission I may state, with great respect, if the expression 'terms of reference' can give them some satisfaction, I can borrow that expression and say--though I do not agree that it can be described as terms of reference--that the terms of reference are to fix the criteria for the evolution of a wage structure and a national wage policy. These are the terms of reference. I think though the expression 'terms of reference' has been used, it would be rather awkward on my part to use it, because terms of reference would mean, *inter alia*, so many things. Since the broad object has been mentioned, I desist from the temptation of using the expression 'terms of reference' to describe this.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: On a point of order. I asked a specific question whether the Government still accept the policy of national need-based minimum wage which was proposed by the Indian Labour Conference in 1957. If they have rejected it, why? And if they have accepted it, why are not they implementing it? Let him answer it.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, the hon. Minister said at first that there were no terms of reference. He has misguided the House. Now, he has said, terms of reference.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He still maintains that...

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: How can he say that? He said, there are no terms of reference. It is a question of privilege.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No question of privilege.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: As far as the question is concerned, I again respectfully submit that while we have got good respect for the various recommendations made by various Committees, it is the endeavour within the given framework of the economic condition of the country, and we will have to advance slowly in that direction. Therefore, we have got respect for the recommendations made by the Committee.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Apart from the Chakrabarti Committee which is an old story, may I know whether it is a fact that the Cabinet itself has appointed a Sub-Committee to consider a national wage policy for all types of employees right from the unorganised sector to the organised sector, to evolve a policy and fix up the difference between the lowest paid employee in this country and the highest paid employee at 1:10 or whatever it is? I want to specifically know when it is going to give its report because it was appointed after the railway strike collapsed and there was a great hue and cry in the country about protecting the interests of the labour. What has happened to the consensus in the Cabinet about evolving such a national wage policy, and has any decision been taken? As Mr. Krishna Kant says, who are the members of the Committee?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The Labour Ministry itself initiated a paper on this subject. This is before the Cabinet.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What is there?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It is still to be discussed by the Cabinet. Therefore, I am not in a position to say anything.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: The hon. Minister has said that the Government has received only an interim report. That means that the Government is also awaiting the final report. If the final report is going to come from that Committee, when is it expected and what is the time that it requires to submit that final report? And I would like to know also whether the State Government employees and the Cen-

tral Government employees also are covered by that.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It is, as I said, an interim report. The Committee is still alive, and it will have to go into several questions. I cannot immediately answer the question raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I wanted to know whether the State Government and Central Government employees are covered because there is so much of disparity in the pay-scales between them.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It deals with the general wage structure as such.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Does it include State and Central Government employees also? That is the specific question.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It is considering the general wage situation in the country.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: This is contempt of the House. Repeatedly the query made from this side was this, and even you transliterated it and put it to him specifically. What is it? He eludes the question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He says it covers all.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Does it cover the State employees? That is the specific question.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: On a point of order. I put a specific question. The hon. Minister was responsible to constitute that Committee, and he says that he knew what the terms of reference were. When he knew them, is it difficult for him to disclose the information? Am I to take it that he deliberately withholds the information?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has said...

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, पाइन्ड आफ आर्डर । आपसे विनम्रता से

निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ, इस सदन का खयाल रखा जाए क्योंकि कल ही डा० जेड०ए० अहमद ने एक वाक्य का प्रयोग किया था कार्ल मार्क्स वाला—

This is not a talking shop. This is an august House. This is contempt of the House. And every contempt of the House is a breach of privilege.

इसलिए मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप मंत्री जी से स्पष्ट कहें कि यह टाकिंग शोप नहीं है, यह आदरणीय सदन है और सदन में इस तरह की बात छिपाना, यह सदन का अपमान है। मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह कंटैम्प्ट आफ दि हाउस है और इस चीज को प्रिविलेज कमेटी में भेजा जाय। जब मंत्री जी ने सारी रिपोर्ट को पढ़ लिया है तो इसका मतलब यह है कि रिपोर्ट में जब कुछ लिखा है तब ही उन्होंने पढ़ा होगा। तो हमारा और माननीय सदस्य का यह स्पष्ट सवाल है कि उनमें स्टेट तथा केन्द्र के कर्मचारी भी शामिल किये गये हैं या नहीं। मंत्री जी का इस बारे में कोई जवाब नहीं आया है और यह सदन का अपमान है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants a categorical answer, whether the report will include the State Government employees or not.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I have made a very respectful submission. This report deals with the general problems of the wage structure. The Committee may consider the question of the organised sector and the unorganised sector like the agricultural sector. Perhaps they may include State Government employees. I cannot definitely say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said it is a general report which will deal with the various sectors of employees which might include also the State Government employees.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Is it not a fact that according to the statistics

available with the Government and to the Committee the share of wages in the value added has declined from 53 per cent. in 1952 to 35 per cent and the index or real earnings of labour compared to 1960-61 is today lower than what it was on that date?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I am not sure of statistics but the conclusion is correct.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE: May I have a specific reply from the hon'ble Minister to my question? There are lakhs rather crores of workers who are small wage earners and who are not protected by any statutory wage. I can understand that the wage policy presents a very complicated problem. May I know whether the Government have thought of giving relief to these small wage earners who are not protected by any statutory wage policy and whether the Government would consider the question of a national minimum wage without loss of time to give relief to those who are hard hit by rising prices?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: As I submitted, we are trying to evolve a policy towards the national minimum wage.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, he should resign. We demand a half-an-hour discussion on the entire question. He is thoroughly incompetent and is unable to answer a specific question.

श्री रबी राय : मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्हें मालूम है कि ब्राजील में प्राइस और वेज के बीच संतुलन रखने के लिए एक फार्मूला निकाला है जिससे वहाँ कि आर्थिक स्थिति ठीक हो गई है। वह फार्मूला इस प्रकार से है। मान लीजिए, मूल्यों में वृद्धि होती है, तो उसके साथ ही साथ वेजों में भी वृद्धि हो जाती है। अगर प्राइस घट जाती है तो उसके साथ ही साथ वेज भी घट जाते हैं। इस तरह का समाधान वहाँ निकाला गया है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कमेटी भी ब्राजील में जो फार्मूला अख्तियार किया

गया है, उसको अपनायेगी या उस पर विचार करेगी ?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, if I have understood him correctly, this matter refers to wages. . .

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether you would apply the same policy that Brazil has applied in controlling the price structure.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It is very difficult for me to comment on or answer any question that would arise in relation to the policies followed by the Brazilian Government in relation to their economy. To the extent I could understand his question, I will respectfully submit that I am not one of those who are inspired by that.

*122. [Transferred to the 1st August, 1974.]

Expansion of Soviet Aided Steel Plants

*123. **SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:**

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR:

SHRI J. S. TILAK:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:†

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to remedy the defects expressed by the Economic Consular of Soviet Embassy in Delhi as regards non-cooperation from certain Government quarters in implementing expansion of the Soviet aided steel manufacturing programmes in the country; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expansion programme has been delayed due to non-receipt of drawings and designs

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

from USSR and if so, how the Government proposes to co-ordinate the indigenous and the USSR technical agencies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) There has been no complaint of non-cooperation from Government quarters in this regard. As the Minister of Steel and Mines has already explained in his statement in this House on 3-5-74, there has been no deliberate attempt by anyone to thwart, or in any manner delay, the expansion of Bokaro.

(b) Reports received from the Steel Authority of India Ltd., indicate that there has been some delay in the receipt of drawings and technical project reports. Every effort however is made to see that the slippages in the overall schedule are kept down to the minimum.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, the Minister had given a statement last time and an explanation has been given today. The point arises that the *Economic Times* report that day categorically gave the statement given by the Economic Counsellor of the Soviet Union. It also gave the statement given by the representative of the Steel Authority of India. The statements were contradictory and at variance with each other. Now, the Government confirms that the Steel Authority of India has stated that there is some delay in receiving the drawings, etc. So, I want to know whether it was proper for the Counsellor to express his opinion in the press. Would it not have been proper for him to contact the Steel Minister? If he had not, has the Steel Minister expressed his feelings to the Economic Counsellor? That is number one. Secondly, I would like to know whether he has sorted out the differences between the Steel Authority and the Soviet suppliers as regards drawings or whatever it is.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, the Economic Counsellor of the USSR met me subsequently after this question was put in this House and some discussions took place on this, and we understood each other's viewpoint. There was not much difference. As the answer indicates, there has been some delay in the receipt of