

SHRI MOITUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY: With regard to the price rise I am not in a position to make any commitment at the moment in view of the fact that the matter is sub judice before the Supreme Court, and we expect a report in the course of the next forty-eight hours. So far as the personnel management is concerned, yes, it is the report of the Committee that there had been a lot of mismanagement and they had not sufficient personnel rather sufficiently equipped personnel.

DR. BHAI VIAHAVIR: This is a very evasive answer. I have asked whether the factory did not have competent and qualified personnel manager. He did not say yes or no. Secondly, the contradiction has not been resolved.*

SETTING UP of SCHEDULED CASTES AND BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION

*3. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion made by Shri B. R. Bhagat, former Minister of Steel and Heavy Engineering for setting up of another Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Commission comprising of men with integrated approach to go into their special problems and suggest ways to tackle them as I reported in the Hindustan Times of December 20, 1970; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

My answer to (b) is that the matter is under the consideration of the government. To that extent I have slightly modified the answer tabled.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the special problems now confronting the Scheduled Castes, Sched-

uled Tribes and the tribal people? They are unemployment, alienation of land from the tribals, shortfall in the recruitment in the reserved posts on the ground of incapacities, special disabilities suffered at the hands of the caste Hindus and large-scale atrocities perpetrated on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. What special measures he has taken or he is contemplating to take in regard to tackling these special problems as identified by me?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: This question does not arise from the original question. But I have already said that the appointment of a Commission is under the consideration of the government and all matters would be taken into account if and when such a Commission is appointed. With regard to the other question put, I would request the hon. Member to put a specific question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: My question is whether the proposed Commission will also consider the special problems I have mentioned.

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: The suggestion of the hon. Member will be kept in mind when the government considers the question of appointment of the Commission.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Is he aware of the fact that many State governments cannot even spend the amount of money earmarked or allotted for the purpose of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward communities? What steps the government proposes to take with regard to these failures of the State governments in this respect in terms of the Constitutional provisions?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: Such a question does not arise from this. The hon. Member is referring to the failures of the State governments, etc. Let my hon. friend put in a specific question and I will then deal with it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: How is it that this does not arise? He says that this is not covered by the question. The question was about the special problems of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward communities. One of the special problems is the inability of the State governments to spend the funds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that this will be kept in mind.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: He does not say that.

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: What I said was this: The question was very general. It was:

"Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion made by Shri B. R. Bhagat, former Minister of Steel and Heavy Engineering for setting up of another Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Commission comprising of men with integrated approach to go into their special problems and suggest ways to tackle them as reported in the Hindustan Times of December 20, 1970;

To that I have said that we are considering the matter. The supplementary question was that certain State governments—their names are not given—are supposed to have failed in carrying out various schemes for lack of money, etc. I have not been told which are these States. I want notice for that.

"SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: During the pendency of the previous Lok Sabha, a joint committee of both the Houses was constituted to revise the lists of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

The Joint Committee made certain recommendations, and according to their recommendations the Government also introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, for reasons known to the Government, the Bill was withdrawn. I want to know whether there is any proposal pending before the Govern-

ment to re-introduce that Bill. If so, when ?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: The matter is under the active consideration of the Government.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: May I know when the Bill is likely to be introduced?

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister in charge of Social Welfare let us know whether it is lack of a recommendation from a Commission that the Government has not taken appropriate action to ameliorate the distress of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, or the malady lies somewhere else? As very weak Ministers are accepted in the Cabinet to function as the Tribal Welfare Ministers, the State Governments lack energy to do something for the tribals. Will the Minister consider setting up an implementation committee either in the Planning Commission or ask the Chief Minister to be in charge of this portfolio?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: While I have great respect for the hon. Member, I must say that this question is wholly unconnected with the main question. . .

(Interruption)

/-SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: What is connected with this question ? I would like to know.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Is the Minister competent to say whether a question is relevant ? Or is it the function of the chairman ? . . .

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Subramania Menon.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: I am surprised to hear the reply of the hon. Minister. Innumerable commissions in the past have reported on the problems of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. There has been the Dlebar Committee. There was the Asoki Mehta Committee. There was the Perumal Committee. Then there was the Rural Credit Survey of the Reserve Bank. There was the Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee. And then there is a permanent Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They have been making report occasionally about the measures. There is also the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. All these have indicated certain measures. Has the Government taken these measures recommended by these. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: And, therefore, Sir, what is the use of appointing another Commission now? The Government has not implemented the recommendations of these innumerable committees in the past.

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: I am glad the hon. Member has asked this question. It is because of this very reason viz that there had been previous nine Commissions or Committees which have made reports and have made recommendations, that the Ministry is now considering the recommendations as made and ascertaining which of the recommendations have actually been accepted and implemented. It is for this reason and I am grateful to the hon. Member—that the Government is considering whether another Commission is at all required, and, therefore, my answer was. . . .

(In interruption)

Therefore, my answer was that the Government is considering the question

of appointing a Commission. The matter mentioned by the hon. Member will certainly be taken into account by the Government in coming to a decision. I am grateful to him.

SHRI D. THENGARI: May I know whether the proposed Commission will consider the case of the nomadic and semi-nomadic criminal tribes also, because their plight has been ignored so far?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: I would not call this a proposed Commission, because no Commission has been proposed as yet. But if such a Commission is at all appointed, the hon. Member's suggestion will certainly be kept in view.

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SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the Government—as hon. Minister has said that the matter is under consideration—how long the matter will remain under consideration?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY: By the next Session, I will be able to give you a decision.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that all these reservations and commitments are being fulfilled not in an honest and honourable way but just to deceive the whole public? And if it is not a fact, whether there will be only one Minister of the Cabinet rank here and no Minister of State at all and only one Minister in the Deputy Ministers' cadre? Is it socialism? Further, Sir, is he not aware of the fact that in all the senior categories throughout the country, not even one per cent or two per cent is being provided and whether he will take it on his head and assure this House that within the course of the next financial year, 16% of the total jobs in every cadre, including the Governorship and Foreign Services, will be filled up? Will the Government come forward and implement it?

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY:
The hon. Member has been pleased to ask me about five supplementary questions in one bunch. All that I can say, Sir, is this. In so far as this Government is concerned, it will try its utmost for the uplift of the educationally and socially backward classes.

RATE OF GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

4. **SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP**

SINHA:

SHRI ARJUN ARORA:† VDR.

SALIG RAM: V **SHRI KRISHAN KANT:**

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of growth of industrial development;

(b) whether there is shortfall in the rate as envisaged in the Fourth Plan; and

(c) how Government propose to meet the shortfall during the remaining period of the Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

The rate of growth of industrial production during 1970 on the basis of the existing production indices is expected to be of the order of 6 per cent. The growth rate envisaged in the Fourth Plan was 8 to 10% annually. The shortfall in the growth rate as indicated by the official index of industrial production has taken place for a variety of reasons. One major con-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.

tributory factor has been the substantial decline in the expected output of steel which has affected a large number of steel-using industries very adversely. Labour-management problems in certain industrial units has led to stagnation and even decline in their output, such as in electric fans, radio receivers and the like. In certain other industrial sectors such as railway wagons, stationery diesel engines and power-driven pumps, production was also affected due to inadequacy of demand.

2. It needs to be stressed that, apart from the fact that production trends in certain industrial sectors have not been as satisfactory as was expected earlier, the growth rate indices also pose a statistical problem in that the index of industrial production, which has a base of 1960, does not fully reflect the growth of production in the newer and more rapidly developing industries such as aluminium, nitrogenous fertilizers, and machinery manufacture. For example, textiles have a weight of 27 per cent in the official index, based on their importance in the national economy in 1960. As is generally known, the pace of growth in the textile industry is much slower than many industrial sectors, but the preponderant weightage attached to this sector tends to depress the overall index. Apart from this, the index of industrial production does not also reflect the growth of output in the small-scale sector which is increasing at a more rapid pace than production of large scale industries taken as a whole. According to an estimate made by the Reserve Bank of India (as published in the Annual Report on the working of the Reserve Bank), the output of the small scale sector increased by 11.2 per cent in 1969-70, against a growth rate of less than 7% for large and medium scale industries as reflected in the index of industrial production.

3. The entire policy of Government is geared to the need for accelerating the rate of industrial growth, consistently with the achievement of broader socio-economic objectives. The principal