

(b) if so, the stage at which it stands at present and the estimated expenditure thereof ? THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of India sanctioned grants during the Third Five Year Plan for the acquisition of two dredgers for disilting one each by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu and for the provision of terminal facilities. The dredgers have been acquired and it is understood that removal of silt is being undertaken periodically wherever necessary. The State Governments had also submitted schemes costing Rs. 779 lakhs for the improvement of the Buckingham Canal for providing additional depth and width to facilitate free movement of craft. The Inland Water Transport Committee, set up by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Shri B. Bhagavati, has recommended that further improvement works should be processed in a phased manner after a proper technoeconomic appraisal has been made in consultation with the State Government. The recommendation of the Committee is being examined further in consultation with the State Governments.

t MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD

877. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-YAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have laid down any policy in the matter of distribution of the means of livelihood to a person : and

(b) whether, in view of commitments to a socialistic pattern, Government are contemplating a proposition that one who has got a suitable job for covering his family's standard requirements, shall have no other means of livelihood ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Raising the levels of *percapita* incomes, enlargement of employment opportunities and the attainment of a national minimum of income over a period of time are the accepted objectives of Government policy. These are sought to be realised through the implementation of the Five Year Plans.

(b) No, Sir.

fTransferred from the 26th November, 1970.

12 NOON STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER GIVEN TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1308 ON THE 25TH AUGUST, 1970

ADMISSION IN DELHI COLLEGES

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rao to make the statement.

PROF. V.K.R.V. RAO: Sir, I have to make a statement Sir, the words.

"for admission to the first year class of the 3-year degree course in arts, science and commerce", occurring in lines from 6 to 8 in the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Unstarred Question No. 1.308 asked by Shri Suraj Prasad on the 25th August 1970, may be substituted by the following:—

"for admission to the first year class of the under-graduate course in the Delhi University in arts, science and commerce"— which were there before and now in addition,— "home science, nursing, agricultural engineering and Bachelor of Architecture courses".

Now, this is the correction, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, the Calling Attention Motion. Mr. China Basu.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED STRIKE BY THE JUTE MILL WORKERS IN WEST BENGAL IN SUPPORT OF THEIR DEMANDS

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation to the reported strike by the jute mill workers in West Bengal in support of their demands.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : Sir, I regret to say that the workers in the jute mills in West Bengal have gone on a strike from the 7th December, 1970. As this House is aware, the Industry employs more than 2,25,000 workers and it is one of our major foreign exchange earners. The strike has been sponsored jointly by trade unions affiliated to various Central Organisations. The strike notice contains a

number of demands but the principal issues relate to the payment of bonus, introduction of a gratuity scheme and payment of maintenance allowance to Badli workers when they are not given work.

1. Efforts were made by the officers of the State Labour Department and the Principal Adviser to the Governor of West Bengal to bring the parties together and to evolve a mutually acceptable solution so that there was no work stoppage. Unfortunately, these efforts did not succeed. In response to the suggestions made by the parties, I requested them to come to Delhi so that some agreement might be evolved and the strike averted. Discussions for this purpose were held in Delhi on the 4th and 5th December, 1970. The representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association and workers' unions participated in these discussions. There was a free and frank exchange of views. Differences were narrowed down to some extent. I am, however, sorry to say that a final agreement acceptable to both sides could not be reached.

3. I sincerely believe the parties are fully conscious of the hardships and hazards that a strike in this major industry involves. I hope that they would strive to come to an agreement even at this stage. Government, on its part, would always be willing to assist the parties in settling the dispute. Sir, I may add to the statement that I am informed that last evening the Foreign Trade Ministry have called the representatives. Did they have some discussion this forenoon.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान): मैं यह मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब उन्होंने यह वक्तव्य पढ़ा तो उसमें एक पर्सनल एलिमेंट 'आई' का जोड़ा है। उन्होंने यह दूसरी खबर बतलाई कि श्री एल० एन० मिश्र उनसे बातचीत कर रहे हैं। अगर वे इस समय उपस्थित होते तो परिस्थिति को समझने में ज्यादा आसानी होती और शायद वे पूरा जवाब भी देते। मैं केवल यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि श्री एल० एन० मिश्र जो बातचीत कर रहे हैं उसमें आप फ्रीगर करते हैं या नहीं या वे अलग से बातचीत कर रहे हैं। यह बात भी आप स्पष्ट कर दें। अगर इसके बारे में सारा जवाब मिल जायेगा तो समझने में सुविधा होगी और श्री

एल० एन० मिश्र के ऊपर बात टांजने में समय परिस्थिति स्पष्ट नहीं होगी।

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र (बिहार के नेता) :

यह एक बेसिक क्वेश्चन है कि इस समय सदन में इस सबाल को कौन हैंडल कर रहा है और यह बात साफ़ तौर पर मालूम हो जाननी चाहिए। मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया उसमें उनकी जिम्मेदारी का खतमा हो जाता है या उसके बाद भी उनके ऊपर जिम्मेदारी है या फिर फ़ारेन ट्रेड मिनिस्ट्री इस सारी बात को करने वाली है ताकि हम उनसे सवाल-जवाब कर सकें।

SHRI BHAGWANT JHA AZAD : Sir, normally when a strike or such thing happens, we call, when necessary, the parties in the Labour Ministry where the concerned Ministries are also there. Last time when I called a meeting, the officers of the Ministry of Foreign Trade were there, and I kept the Foreign Trade Minister informed about the progress of the discussion. Yesterday, I think there is nothing wrong if the Foreign Trade Minister took the action and called the party to come to Delhi. They are in Delhi, and I have been informed by the Foreign Trade Minister that this afternoon a discussion is going on. We have sent our officer for that discussion.

SHRICHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, I would refer to certain questions which, I think, the hon. Labour Minister is entitled to answer, because I am working in the Trade Union and I know what are the duties and functions of the Labour Minister. Therefore, I would try to put my question which is really within the domain of the Labour Minister.

I think the hon. Minister is aware of the history of the current strike. Sir, there was a strike of the jute workers in West Bengal in August, 1969. After a united and heroic struggle, the jute workers could force the management, particularly, the IJMA, to come to a settlement on the 11th of August, 1969. Even after the agreement was reached between the workers and the IJMA, the IJMA continued to hesitate to implement the terms of the agreement itself. Only after another spell of struggle and by another threat of strike, the Government of West Bengal agreed to set up a Wage Fixation Committee to process the 1 charter of their demands. Earlier, the jute

[Shri Chitta Basu]

workers continued their struggle on the basis of a charter of demands, of ten points. But the Wage Fixation Committee, which was announced only on the 28th October, included four points of the Charter of Demands, on the basis of which the agitation was launched. Sir, this institution—the Wage Fixation Committee as they are called— included only four demands out of ten, and this was announced only on October 26th.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please ask your question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I won't take a long time. Meanwhile, these employers counted their offensive upon the workers by increasing their workload, which resulted in loss of the earnings of the piece-rated workers. That neutralised Rs. 30. The management also refused to accede to the demand of 8 per cent bonus. Sir, in this background there was a strike.

Sir, there were two conciliation meetings at the State level. But, Sir, it is because of the recalcitrant attitude of the DMA representatives and also because of the subservient attitude of Mr. B. B. Ghosh, Principal Adviser of West Bengal Government, who is correctly called the servant of the jute barons, that the West Bengal Government is in favour of the IJMA.

Instead of supporting the right and legitimate cause of the jute workers, the entire weight of the West Bengal Government was thrown in favour of the IJMA. There was a conciliation at the Central level. My accusation against the Minister is whether he has, as the Minister at the Centre, ever sought to characterise this demand of the workers particularly the demand for the maintenance allowance of the *badli* workers whose number is more than 80,000 out of 2,25,000 as a justified and legitimate demand. May I ask whether he made it quite known to the employers that the Government really accepted certain demands of the workers as just and legitimate and did he seek to impress on the employers that the Government are with the employees and not with the employers and that the Government really accepted the demand of the IJMA employees ? In this background, may I ask whether the Minister considered the demand of the jute mill workers as just and legitimate ? May I know whether the Government would impress on the employers to agree to the determination of the basis of calculating the

quantum and entitlement etc. of the gratuity scheme here and now without referring it to another committee which is a time-consuming process ? May I know if the Government would agree to impress on the employers to agree to pay the retention allowance to the *badli* workers whose number is 80,000 out of a total of 2.5 lakhs ? They are not given any benefit while the other workers are given lay-off benefit. They are neither given work nor lay-off benefit and this tactics has been going on for years now. Thousands of workers are being denied of their legitimate right to work or in the absence of work, to compensation. May I know whether the Minister has considered this very important aspect of the demand about maintenance allowance or retention allowance for the *badli* workers ? Finally may I know if the Government would make it known to the IJMA that if the IJMA does not fall in line with the proposal of the Government, then the Government would withhold the sanction of 493 crores which the Government has agreed to give to the industry for modernisation ? Will the Minister assure the House that he would tell the IJMA representative that unless the IJMA representative agrees to the just and legitimate demand of the workers, the Government would not give Rs. 44 crores from the public exchequer to exploit and loot the downtrodden and sweated labour of the Jute industry which is one of the main industries which earns foreign exchange for our country ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : I am happy you are accusing the left-reactionary Government.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is true, as the Member said, that as a result of the strike in last August that we had an agreement on 8/9th August 1969 under which the Wage Revision Committee was appointed on 26th October 1970. The Member has given all the information that he has asked about the terms of reference of this Committee. As I said, in this negotiation there was a charter of demands which had 8 items in it. Our stand under the law of the country has been that we called both the parties. We tried to persuade them and to bring them to some agreement so that this strike could be averted. Again all the parties have been called, and under the law of the land we are trying to persuade them to see reason and come to some settlement so

that this foreign-exchange-earning industry does not suffer.

SHRI CHITT V BASU : I put a specific question whether the hon. Minister considers that some of the workers' demands are just and legitimate and whether he impressed upon the Indian Jute Mills Association that unless the just and legitimate demands of the workers are conceded Government is not going to give them Rs. 44 crores.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, I have no information of the Government giving Rs. 44 crores to the IJMA. That is not my topic, nor my subject. I have no such information. All I am saying is that under the law of the country, Parliament has made, and shall continue to make effort in future also, to bring the parties to some agreement, so that this industry does not suffer. It is not a question of my giving an opinion as to which side is wrong and which side is right. Under the law of the land I have requested them, I have persuaded them, and I shall go on making efforts to bring the parties together. *(Interruptions)* I am the Minister for Labour. There is no Ministry in the Government of India for the employers.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : Is it not a fact that because of a lack of proper understanding between the Labour Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Trade a last minute settlement could not be brought about, and could he explain why this lack of coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Labour ? Now following from that, my specific question to the hon. Minister of State in the Labour Ministry is this. Can he quote a single instance in the last fifty years when the jute workers got a wage increase without a strike ? Only through strikes the jute workers got a wage increase last year after twenty years. This is number one. Number two ; is it not a fact that in each of the jute mills the number of permanent workers is declining every year ? Number three ; is it not also a fact that the jute workers today get less wages than the textile workers, than the engineering workers, than the steel workers, than the mine workers ? As a matter of fact their wage level today is the lowest in relation to the other industrial workers. So this strike has been the result of the failure of the jute mill owners to bring up the wage level of the jute workers to the level of the wage of other industrial workers. And so, in view of this situation, which is affecting the jute industry and our foreign trade because, as

you know, we get Rs. 200 to 250 crores per year from selling jute abroad—and this is a sizable foreign exchange income in our export quota—would he take the initiative to nationalise the jute industry, without which the workers never had a better deal from the mill-owners and cannot have a better deal so long as it is left in the hands of the speculators ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I would like to clear one point. It has been said by the hon. Member that this has been due to misunderstanding and lack of co-ordination between the Foreign Trade Ministry and the Labour Ministry. This is not correct. I have seen some of the newspapers today giving out this story. The spokesmen of some trade unions have said so. There is no such thing. I called the two parties and made efforts throughout the whole afternoon and night of Friday and the whole day of Saturday. The officers of the Foreign Trade Ministry watched the discussions and had kept the Foreign Trade Minister informed of every detail of the negotiations stage by stage. Had there been necessity he would have come. There is no question of any lack of co-ordination or their being any misunderstanding or anything like that between us. I would request him not to drive a wedge between us. I would request the hon. Member to believe me on this point. The hon. Member asked whether I can quote one instance in the last fifty years where any wage increase or any demand of the workers has been agreed to without a strike. I am sorry I cannot have that much recollection because my age is less than fifty years even now, but I remember one thing. In 1963 the unanimous recommendation of the Jute Wage Board for a wage increase was agreed to without strike. It was a unanimous recommendation of the Jute Wage Board. I also know that last year, in 1969, this was agreed to, after a strike and I also know that this year it would not be unanimous. About the other things, whatever may be the wage structure, I cannot say off hand, how much it is lower than in the other industries, as Kalyan Royji has said. This case has been referred to the wage machinery set up in October last by the West Bengal Government and this point will be taken note of by them. I concede that this is a foreign exchange-earner. I cannot say anything about the nationalisation of the jute industry. It is a very wide question for me to answer. I can

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad] only say about the aspects of labour, strike and all that.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): It appears from the statement of the Minister that he is not playing the role of Labour Minister, but as a conciliator only. Will the Minister assure the House whether the demands put forward by all the central trade unions, including INTUC, are legitimate or not? Secondly, may I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that jute barons are insisting on the Government of India for concessions in terms of excise duty before coming to a settlement on the demands of the employees? If so, will he assure the House that the Government of India will not succumb to the pressure of the jute barons and jute magnates?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I can say one thing that in my Ministry or in the Government of India there is no question of succumbing to any baron, be it of jute or silk or whatever it may be.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Even political barons.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Our stand is that the Government of India should do its best and what is reasonable to persuade both the jute magnates or barons as he says and our friends in the trade unions to come to an agreement. I do not know where the dividing line lies between a Minister and a conciliator. I do not see anything wrong in my being called a conciliator. I will continue to make efforts whether you call me as a Minister or conciliator. There is nothing bad and I do not mind it. It is my duty and I am doing it. I shall try to persuade them to come to an agreement. I cannot do anything more than this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): The Minister has said that the first agreement was signed in August, 1969 and that a committee of experts was appointed in October last to go into the whole wage structure. What was the Government of India doing all these fifteen months? What did it not see that committee was formed after a month or two? You have left it to the State Government and the Government of India has got certain responsibility. May I know how you are discharging it? Secondly, when he is trying to settle the problem, may I know whether his Ministry

is looking into the profitability of the jute industry?

I want to know whether they have looked into the balance sheets of the various jute mills. Is it also not a fact that they are not properly maintained?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: They have got double accounts.

SHRIKRISHAN KANT : Yes. Did the Ministry of Labour at that time examine that the Tariff Commission Report had given some cost structure on the basis of which even the jute mills are making profit? Is it also not a fact that during the negotiations we found that the real interest of the Jute Mills Association was to prolong it so that the strike takes place and they can bargain with the Ministry of Foreign Trade for concessions on excise and export duties? Last year in this very House we asked the then Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Bhagat, that no concession should be given in export duty. But later on the Government did succumb when my friend raised the question again. I want to know whether he had any discussion with the Ministry of Foreign Trade that the real thing is that they want concessions on excise and export duties, secondly if there is some strike for a few days, they can raise the prices of jute products. That is the real thing. Will the Government of India in view of this thing see that no concession is given? And because of all these things will the Ministry of Labour recommend to the Ministry of Foreign Trade that the jute industry should be nationalised?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, there are two parts to the question. With the first part I am concerned, that is, why it took so long for this Committee to be set up. I would say when the agreement was signed on the 8th or 9th of August, 1969 the first term was the question of revision of the wage structure would be referred to a special machinery to be set up with such composition, terms of reference and time limit as may be agreed to by both parties. It was the first condition and therefore the Committee could be set up only when both the parties agreed. The West Bengal Government also tried to persuade and find out things. The Government of India comes in the picture in such matters only when at the State level they do not agree. Last time even after this agreement for a pretty long time there was a Government in West Bengal for many months but

they could not do but—it was not a Congress Government, it was some other Government. I would say about the first part that the moment the two parties agreed the Committee was set up. About the second part which is loaded by the hon. Member's question about profitability, the balance sheets, the excise duty, the export duty and all that, I am not in a position to answer that. That may be addressed to the proper Ministry. So far as nationalisation is concerned, I am too small to recommend this. I think it will be taken note of by the proper Minister who is here in the House or they will take note of it outside.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON (KERALA) : Mr Deputy Chairman, I am surprised that the Minister is taking up an attitude which, to say the least, is a sort of disinterested attitude in this matter, because this question has been dragging on as was pointed out here for the last sixteen months, and the Wage Committee came into existence only on 28th October, 1970, that is, two days after the INTUC had given notice of a strike. Until that time neither the employers nor the West Bengal Government had any intention to have had not agreed even to set up the Wages Committee. Obviously it is clear that they were miscalculating that due to the division among the labour the workers will not be able to be in a striking position. Therefore, they thought that they could carry on the negotiations indefinitely and depend upon the disruption and division among the workers.

Now it is clear that the Government and the IJMA bosses had miscalculated and the workers have overcome the division among their ranks and have now struck work. Even when the strike notice was given, only four items were referred to the Wage Committee, whereas there are so many other items, important items. Especially, the main question relates to the question of gratuity, bonus and the question of the *badli* workers. Sir, in the case of the *badli* workers, it is the most pernicious system, it is the legacy of the imperialist rule over our country. And it is a surprising fact that after 23 years of Congress rule, this Government has not been able to abolish this *badli* system which exists in no other country in the world. Thousand of workers are kept as casual labourers for ten or twelve years.

AN HON. MEMBER: Fifteen years. SHRI LOK. NATH MISRA: The Congress Government needs a *badli*.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu) : May I know from the hon. Member what is the percentage of absenteeism in the jute industry?

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Absenteeism is a different matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Sir, the *badli* workers who have been continuously working for three or four years, they are not confirmed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not prolong your speech. Please put the question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: There is the question of gratuity. What I want to know from the Minister is: Is the Government prepared to force the jute bosses to come to terms with the workers? Or is the Government going to sit helplessly and watch the situation deteriorating? Seventy-one jute mills are on strike about three lakh workers are on strike. It is complete and peaceful and not a single worker is going to work. If the Government is not willing or is not in a position to bring pressure on the jute bosses to come to terms on these vital demands, I am sure that this strike may continue for a long time, and it may create difficulties. I would therefore request the Government to say what specific steps they are proposing to take to bring the IJMA bosses to their senses and make them settle the issues with the workers' representatives.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I have replied to the first part of the question 'Why so late'? As I said, in the agreement of the 8th and 9th August the first condition was that the terms of reference the time and the composition, all would be decided upon as agreed to by the two parties. Even the West Bengal Government which was there for some time could not persuade them, in the few months that they were there. About the second part, my reply would be that only such items would be referred to this Wage Negotiating Committee as can be agreed upon under the terms of agreement, only if they were agreed to.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Agreed to by the employee

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: It was by a two party agreement that could be referred to if the workers did not agree, it could not be done. It should be by mutual agreement. It was the condition of agreement of 8th and 9th August.

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

About the *badii* workers, now it has been referred as to what should be the complement of permanent workers. It was decided at the last agreement, and it has been referred to this Committee. In these negotiations, it was suggested to the workers that possibly, even after deciding the complement of permanent workers there might be some *badii* workers still left. Therefore I tried to persuade the IJMA regarding the *badii* workers who are left out, whether that question would be left to this Committee—in a specific term of reference—and asked on a priority basis to give their report. That was agreed to, but because agreement could not be reached on other points like bonus and gratuity, this question of *badii* workers was not agreed to.

I am prepared to persuade the IJMA and the other friends that they should come to some reasonable terms, agreements, so that no longer the strike could be allowed to go on and hamper the earning of foreign exchange for this country.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह बन्डारी : श्रीमन, यह प्रश्न श्रमिकों के सम्बन्ध का है और श्रम मंत्रालय उनकी जतों को मनवाने में सहायता कर सकता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय इसमें कहाँ से आता है? क्या विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय का सम्बन्ध इसीलिए है कि जूट का एक एक्सपोर्ट मार्केट है, एक्सपोर्ट मार्केट की कुछ मजदूरियाँ हैं और जब तक जूट की एक्सपोर्ट करने योग्य क्षमता नहीं बनी रहती तब तक किसी भी प्रकार का समझौता यहाँ लागू करवाना सारे जूट ट्रेड पर असर करता है। मैं श्रम मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे भी इस नतीजे पर पहुँच गए हैं कि जूट के एक्सपोर्ट मार्केट को बनाए रखने के लिए जब तक विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय कुछ कन्सैशन्स नहीं देता, तब तक श्रमिकों की इन सारी मांगों को मंजूर करने का जो बजन जूट पर पड़ता है उसको भुगतना सम्भव नहीं है? अगर इन दोनों का मेल है तो मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि इस मांग को मनवाने के लिए वे विदेश व्यापार मंत्री को क्या सलाह दे रहे हैं?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : मैंने यह बताया कि मैं अपनी तरफ से इस सम्बन्ध में कोई

निर्णय नहीं दे सकता हूँ कि उनको एक्ससाइज या एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी में क्या मिले। मेरी सीमा और परिधि इतनी है कि अभी जो मांगें श्रमिकों के प्रतिनिधियों ने उठाई हैं उस सम्बन्ध में आई० जे० एम० ए० से बात करूँ। दोनों पार्टियों को बुलाकर हमने यह प्रयत्न किया है और भविष्य में भी ऐसा प्रयत्न करने का इरादा है कि जो 8 मांगें हैं उस सम्बन्ध में कोई उचित समझौता दोनों के बीच हो जाए। जहाँ तक एक्ससाइज और एक्सपोर्ट का सम्बन्ध है उस सम्बन्ध में मैं न किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचा हूँ और न उस सम्बन्ध में अपनी कोई राय दे सकता हूँ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह बन्डारी : श्रीमन, मुझे केवल यह कहना है कि एक्सपोर्ट मार्केटबिलिटी का जो प्रश्न मैंने उठाया है उस सम्बन्ध में आपकी क्या राय है?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : एक्सपोर्ट मार्केटबिलिटी का प्रश्न मेरे मंत्रालय के अन्तर्गत नहीं आता, वह फारेन ट्रेड के मंत्री बता सकते हैं मैं नहीं बता सकता।

(Shri M- V. Bhadram got up in his seat.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We had enough discussion, Mr. Bhadram.

SHRI M.V. BHADRAM (Andhra Pradesh): No, Sir. Just on one or two points he has not cleared. It is reported in the press that the Minister has suggested *ad hoc* increase in wages of Rs. 35. May I know the basis on which it was proposed? Secondly, after the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations the number of *badii* workers has increased, the reason being that the permanent complement was fixed on the basis of a certain loomage in each factory, and subsequent to that to work the new looms which are not within that limit for which the permanent complement was fixed, *htulli* has increased. That is why it has come to twenty to twenty five per cent of the total complement. Will the Government go into this question of unauthorised looms working in each factory which is the basis (or black money and all unfair methods)?

Thirdly, during the discussion on the contract abolition Bill in connection with casual railway labour, this matter was also referred to and the Minister promised to review the issue and regulate service conditions of these *badli* workers. They are not casual labourers they are only substitute workers.

Lastly, may I know whether the IJMA will not agree to a reasonable settlement in the matter? Will the Government follow the same policy which the Prime Minister has reportedly advocated in a recent conference of employers namely change according to the times or else be wiped out? Will the Government adopt the same policy if the IJMA is not reasonable?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I did not suggest from my side that it should be bonus plus Rs. 35.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That appeared in the press.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: In press many things appear. But that was not the authorised version. We should take only the authorised version.

Similarly, in this case I did not suggest anything. The workers wanted bonus plus Rs. 50. That was the stand of the workers. In the process of negotiations and talks, I could see that possibly the employers could be persuaded to pay bonus plus Rs. 35. I did not give any suggestion. Now could I, when the workers are asking for bonus plus Rs. 50 in the process of negotiations, my impression was that possibly the employers could be persuaded to agree to bonus plus Rs. 35.

So far as benefits are concerned, according to our information, their number is about 60,000 or so.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Eighty thousand.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: May be as Mr. Chitta Basu says, the number is 80,000. But whether it is 60,000 or 80,000, the fact remains that *badli* workers are there. It is one of the terms of reference to the Wage Fixation Negotiating Committee as to what should be complement of permanent workers, so that a chunk of these people could be permanently absorbed in the industry. So far as contract labour is concerned, I am sure when the Contract Act comes into force—I think very soon, it will come into force—contract labour in the industry will be taken care of.

SHRI M.V. BHADRAM: They are not covered by it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: About IJMA, if the Prime Minister has said "Change according to the times or you will be wiped out", that is a Government policy which the Prime Minister has announced and the industry should take note of it.

श्री शरद पी० खेतान (बिहार): यह लेबर का मामला है और इस लिए क्या मंत्री जी बतलाने कि जब आप ने नेगोशियेशन्स किये और उस में जो बातें आप को उचित लगीं कि उन के करने से यह स्ट्राइक खत्म हो सकती थी तो उस के लिए आप स्टैप्स क्यों नहीं ले रहे हैं? दूसरे फारेन ट्रेड से तो यह मतलब है कि जूट का जो काम आता है वह ठीक आता है या नहीं और उस के लिए कन्सेशन देना होगा या नहीं और उस के लिए आप उनसे सलाह करते। लेकिन जब आपने नेगोशियेशन्स किये और उसमें आप को यह लगा कि ये मांगें उचित हैं तो उन मांगों को मनाने के लिए आप ने क्या क्या कार्यवाही की? और स्ट्राइक का सम्बंध ज्यादा लेबर से ही होता है और अगर स्ट्राइक होती है तो माल न तैयार हो जाने के कारण माल एक्सपोर्ट नहीं हो पाता और इस प्रकार हमारे फारेन एक्सचेंज का लाना होता है। इस बात को देखते हुए स्थिति में सुधार लाने के लिए आप ने क्या क्या कार्यवाही की इसको बतलाने की कृपा करें।

श्री भागवत शा आजाद: पूरे 45 मिनट से सभा प्रति महोदय मैं यह कहने का प्रयत्न कर रहा हूँ कि मैंने पूरा प्रयत्न किया...

श्री गुन्वर सिंह भण्डारी: 40 मिनट

श्री भागवत शा आजाद: 40 मिनट ही नहीं, और शुक्रवार को जब हाऊस में हमारा विषय आ चुका तो शाम को साढ़े पांच बजे से हम लोगों ने रात साढ़े नौ बजे तक प्रयत्न किया और जब कोई बात तय नहीं हो पाई तो इम्प्लायर और वर्कर्स को कहा कि प्रातः फिर मिलेंगे और दूसरे दिन फिर प्रयत्न किया और कोशिश की कि उनको समझाया जाए। यह उनको बतलाया कि यह हमारा मूल ध्येय है जो हमको विदेशी मुद्रा देता है और

[श्री भागवत झा आजाद]

यह हमारी प्रगति के लिए बहुत आवश्यक है, और नेगोशियेशन्स के दौरान जो मुझे उचित समझ पड़ा वह मैंने दोनों को समझाने का प्रयत्न किया, लेकिन जैसा मैंने कहा, नियमानुसार हम उन पर दबाव जितना डाल सकते हैं वह हम ने किया और जो उचित समझा वह उन को समझाया, और उन को आंकड़े भी दिए, लेकिन इस के बाद भी समझौता नहीं हो सका हमें इन बात का दुःख है।

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**ANNUAL REPORT (1968-69) AND ACCOUNTS OF THE SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT FUND**

COMMITTEE AND RELATED PAPERS THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 16 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Shipping Development Fund Committee for the year 1968-69 together with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4480/70.]

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA AND RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended the 31 st March, 1970 together with the Auditors' Report on the Account under Section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4327/70.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL REFINANCE CORPORATION, BOMBAY

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (in English and Hindi) of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, Bombay, for the year ended the 30th June, 1970 under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4407/70]

DELHI ADMINISTRATION NOTIFICATIONS SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications issued by the Delhi Administration (in English and Hindi) under subsection (4) of section 26 of the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941 as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi—(a) Notification No. 4/160/69-1 in.(G), dated 28th July, 1970, publishing the Delhi Sales Tax (4th Amendment) Rules, 1970.

(b) Notification No. 4(33)/67-f-in.(G) dated the 6th August, 1970, publishing the Delhi Sales Tax (5th Amendment) Rules, 1970

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4411 70 for (a) and (b)].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CUSTOMS ACT, 1962 AND RELATED PAPERS

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table;

(a) A copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) Notification G.S.R. No. 1896, dated the 10th November, 1970 (in English and Hindi), together with and Ex-planatory Memorandum thereon, under section J 59 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. & No. LT-4412/70]

(b) A copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) Notification G.S.R. No. 1926, dated the 21st November, 1970 (in English and Hindi) together with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4648/70]

ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON (Kerala) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Eleventh Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report on the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment), Directorate General of Employment and Training—Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Services