

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : These matters have been discussed, and as the hon. Member is aware during the last two years our development programme has been at a standstill and it is because of that that there has been no demand on various industries which we have set up both in the public sector and also which are functioning in the private sector. I have certainly expressed the opinion that unless and until for the purpose of production, for the purpose of development, we are prepared to invest more resulting in deficit financing, it will not be possible for us to meet the entire situation which has been created on account of the lack of demand, on account of which the recession exists. That is the opinion expressed by me. I said that along with other steps it is also necessary for us to consider to what extent we can increase expenditure on development activities which will help us to place demands for various things on our public industries as well as on our private industries.

श्री ब्रजकिशोर प्रसाद सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार की नीति और देशहित के विरुद्ध जो ये आयात हो रहे हैं विदेशों से, यह क्या कुछ मजदूरियों की वजह से हैं और क्या वह मजदूरियां जो हमारे विदेशों के साथ वाणिज्य समझौते हैं उनमें पायी जाती हैं ? अगर वाणिज्य समझौते की वजह से कुछ मजदूरियां हैं जिससे आयात करना जरूरी होता है, बावजूद इसके कि वह देशहित और सरकार की नीति के विरुद्ध है, तो क्या सरकार से आशा की जाय कि जो वाणिज्य समझौते हैं उनको कुछ सुधारने की कोशिश की जायेगी ?

श्री फ़ख़रुद्दीन अली अहमद : जी हां, कोशिश की जायेगी ।

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: Four hon. Members have given one side of the picture. I am inclined to agree that in some engineering industries there is recession. I am also inclined to agree a little that the liberalised import licence scheme might have affected them. In spite of the talk about the liberalised import licence system, I must say that in some . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : The Question Hour is over, please.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH . . . industries, in the chemical industry, in the pharmaceutical industry and in the dye-stuffs industry, import licences are not coming to the aid of the industries. May I know from the hon. Minister if he will not think in terms of removing this liberalised import licence system and allowing the other industries which are not priority industries and which require reclassification on this account to import?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

12 NOON

RAJHARA MINES OF BHILAI STEEL PLANT

6. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : t

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:

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

(a) whether wage rates recommended by the Iron Ore Wage Board have been implemented at the Rajhara Mines of the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons for serving retrenchment notice on 8,000 workers at Rajhara; and

(c) the reasons for calling large contingent of police at Rajhara.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) In accordance with a settlement arrived at on 23-6-1967 between the Bhilai Management and the representatives of the three unions functioning in the Mines of Bhilai, the wage structure contained in the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Iron and Steel Industry have been made applicable to the employees of the Mines with effect from 1-1-1967.

(b) The Bhilai Management is not aware of any notice having been served on 8,000 workers at Rajhara.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. K. Kumaran.

(c) Except for the normal police force stationed at Rajhara to look after the law and order problem, no large contingent of police force has been called by the Management.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : May I know, Sir, whether there was a decision taken on 10-11-67 in the presence of Mr. Bahaduri, Assistant Superintendent of Mines and the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) that the wage rates recommended by the Iron Ore Wage Board will be implemented by the contractors for the contract labour working there ?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : In fact, Sir, the Iron Ore Wage Board recommendations should have been implemented in this case. But in view of the agreement reached in the conciliation proceedings, the agreement has been reached to implement these Iron and Steel Wage Board recommendations.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : There was that agreement in which the management of the BSP agreed to see that the contractors implemented the wage rates recommended by the Iron Ore Wage Board. The other thing is a previous agreement. But this has been superseded by the latest agreement. It is also agreed that the working conditions applicable to the direct employees of the BSP will be applicable to the contract labour also ; also the BSP management will see that the Standing Orders as applicable to the direct employees will be applicable to the contract labour also. In spite of all that, the contractors, I am told, in connivance with a section of the management of the BSP, has served notice on the contract labour that they will be stopped from their jobs, thus indirectly introducing a cut in their service so that they are denied of the benefits which normally they would have got.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : As I stated earlier, the agreement for implementing the Iron and Steel Wage Board recommendations was arrived at on 23rd June, 1967. Subsequent to that, that any other agreement was reached as was referred to by the hon. Member, is not a fact and has not been brought

to the notice of the Ministry and the question of changing the agreement or doing anything else will not be there. And in case there is anything of that type that has happened subsequently, that will certainly be looked into.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : Will the Government at least see that the subsequent agreement and its terms are implemented so that this retrenchment is avoided ?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : Sir, the position is this. The June 23 agreement is there. On two points there was some difference of opinion, as to the date of implementation, whether it should be from 1-1-1967 or from May, 1965, and the question of giving them mining allowances. This is a matter on which agreement could not be reached and that has been referred to adjudication.

श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेंगड़ी : सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने कहा कि कुछ लोगों की छंटनी होने की सम्भावना है, लेकिन वास्तव में बात यह है कि बहुत ज्यादा लोगों की छंटनी घमकी दी जा रही है क्योंकि ठेकेदार लोग वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों को अमल करना नहीं चाहते हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार के सामने इस तरह की बात आई है और अगर आई है तो क्या वह ठेकेदारों को स्पष्ट करेगी और यह निर्देश देगी कि अगर वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों से बचने के लिए इस तरह से छंटनी को घमकी दी जाती है तो फिर ठेकेदारी की प्रथा को हमेशा के लिए समाप्त कर दिया जायेगा ताकि आगे के लिए मजदूरों की छंटनी न हो सकेगी।

डा० एम० चन्ना रेड्डी : मजदूरों की छंटनी अगर सिर्फ वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों से बचने के लिए ही की जाती है, तो मैं बराबर आश्वासन देने के लिए तैयार हूँ। अगर किसी और बजह से होती है या उनकी सविश कंडिशन काछ अलग है, तो मैं इसके बारे में कोई अपनी ओपीनियन नहीं दे सकता हूँ।

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, is it not a fact that the All-India Trade Union Congress affiliated union there is attacking the workers with crow bars and other weapons and is snatching away the wages which are paid to the workers who are not in that union—that union has a very small membership—and also is obstructing other workers who are trying to increase production, that the officials of this particular All-India Trade Union Congress are forcibly trying to recover membership dues from workers and that those who refuse to pay are being attacked? Will the Government take action to ensure the full implementation of the decision of the Wage Board about payment and particularly will they implement the conciliation settlement which was effected on June 23?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : Sir, regarding the violent acts indulged in by certain office-bearers of the trade union as referred to by the hon. Member, it happened some time back, in May. I am not aware of any latest incident that might have happened. If there is anything of that sort, certainly the details will be looked into and necessary action will be taken in this regard.

Regarding the question of implementing the agreement, in fact, as I have stated, this agreement has been reached even beyond the scope of the recommendation because the recommendation was for only implementing the Iron Ore Wage Board recommendations. With a view to generally creating a good atmosphere, the Wage Board recommendations for the iron and steel workers have also been implemented, subject to the two points that have been referred to adjudication. The rest of the points that have been agreed to will certainly be implemented.

SHRI ABID ALI : Only I wanted to mention the date of the telegram. It is 4th December. About the violence that I have mentioned, it is referred to in a telegram, which is received on the 4th December, from this particular area.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : I shall take note of it.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that there is a feeling in

the country that the working class always complains that the Government of India is not interested, although it appoints Wage Boards and Arbitration Boards, in enforcing the awards Or the decisions of those Boards in time?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : I am afraid this is a wrong impression of the hon. Member. It has been the attempt on the part of the various Ministries in the Government and the public sector organisations to implement the recommendations.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. This is not the answer. The hon. Member did not say, "This is my impression". The hon. Member said, "Is the hon. Minister aware that there is an impression among the working class etc. etc." Therefore he should answer to that point, whether he is aware of any impression on the part of the worker etc.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : I am afraid this hon. Member also has a wrong impression because what I said was that the impression of the hon. Member about the impression of the workers is not correct.

SHRI A. D. MANI : The hon. Minister has been giving ambiguous answers to the questions addressed to him. He spoke about the earlier agreement and about the subsequent agreement and about the conciliation proceedings. In view of the fact that many public sector undertakings are not observing even normal labour laws and are not implementing the recommendations of Wage Boards, would the Government give an assurance to the House that whatever recommendations have been made by the Wage Boards will be loyally and sincerely implemented by the Bilaspur mines.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY : Sir, in this case I have already mentioned that the public sector unit in the particular case has exceeded the limits and also implemented the recommendations for the iron and steel workers in spite of difficulties to create a very good atmosphere and mutual industrial relationship. Therefore, the question of ignoring these things or of not implementing these things has not arisen at all.