

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, he should not cast any aspersion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, this is not fair. A Member of the House should not cast aspersions on others.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not casting any aspersion. I did not say it was his job.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Next question.

REPORT OF THE WAGE BOARD FOR  
WORKING JOURNALISTS

\*242. SHRI D. THENGARI:†

SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

SHRI RAM CHANDER:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to the recommendations of the Wage Board for working journalists;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) to (c) Do not arise, as the Government have not as yet received the recommendations of the Wage Board

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, this Wage Board has the distinction of functioning for the longest period. May I know if the dilatory tactics on the part of proprietors are responsible for this inordinate delay and what steps have Government taken to ensure that there would be no delay because of such tactics on the part of proprietors? Secondly, may I know when this report

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri D. Thengari.

is likely to be submitted and once it is submitted, will Government give an assurance that it will be implemented without any modifications except in consultation with and with the prior consent of the Working Journalists Federation?

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to draw your attention to the question as it is printed here—"Whether Government have taken 'my' decision in regard to the recommendations . . ." Has Mr. Thengari given any decision to the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It should be "any". It is a mistake and a correction has been issued.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: In the first place, the hon. Member's presumption that this is the Wage Board which has taken the longest time is not quite correct . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Textile Wage Board has taken the longest time.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: I have a list of a number of Wage Boards which have taken five years or so. So this is not the Wage Board which has taken the longest period.

AN HON. MEMBER: The distinction goes to some other Wage Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a matter for congratulation.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: So the question of dilatory tactics does not arise. The report is expected by the end of June.

SHRI D. THENGARI: My third question was, after the report is submitted whether the Government, would implement it without any modifications except in consultation with or with the prior consent of the Working Journalists Federation.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI That can only be said after I see the recommendations. Before that I cannot say.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA May I know if it is a fact that the report has been delayed because of the representatives of the employers in the Wage Board, because it is well known that in this particular case of working journalists in the newspaper industry, the Wage Board has to follow a peculiar procedure. It first makes the proposals, gets reactions and then makes recommendations. The proposals were made by the Wage Board sometime back and it was then that the employers' representatives began to adopt dilatory tactics and the Wage Board's meetings could not be held in April at Indore because of these dilatory tactics on the part of the employers whose representative resigned after the proposals were made.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI The hon. Member's one information is correct. At the last meeting on the 17th April 1966, there did happen certain incidents between the members and the Chairman. That is a fact. But no time was lost because the independent members tried to mediate between the Chairman and the employers' representatives and ultimately things were settled. Now the Wage Board is working and we shall expect the report by the end of June.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA The Minister said that this Wage Board does not have the record period of existence and that in the matter of delay, the Second Textile Wage Board

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI That was the reply given by himself. He said that I did not say that.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA The Second Textile Wage Board holds the record and may I know if the Government is taking some steps to shake up the Second Wage Board from its slumber? Or is the delay deliberate and with the consent of the Government? The fact is that the decision to appoint the

Second Wage Board was announced by Mr. Nanda in 1961 just before the Third General Elections. Soon afterwards, the Second Textile Wage Board was appointed. Now the Fourth General Elections have taken place. Six years have elapsed and it has not submitted its report. Either the Government has asked it not to submit its report or there is something seriously wrong with that Wage Board.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI In the first place, with a view to correcting the record, I may mention that I did not say that the Textile Wage Board has the longest period on its record. I said there were many other . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA Which has the longest period?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI Let me finish. It was the hon. Member himself who said that the Cotton Textile Wage Board has the longest period of existence. That is what he said. I did not know then that it was the introduction of another question on the Second Cotton Textile Wage Board. But one thing is certain that the procedure followed in this Wage Board is a bit long one. I admit that. But there are reasons for it also. These wage boards are not statutory wage boards. So it is a question of the employers, the workers, the independent members and the Government representatives, who will act as Chairman, coming together and trying to narrow down the differences and come to a settlement which would be agreed to by all the parties. In such cases, when it is a question of negotiations, meeting of both points of view and trying to bring them together, naturally delays occur. But to say that it is with the consent of the Government that delays occur is not correct.

MR CHAIRMAN The Question House is over.