

TEXTILES COMMITTEE

451. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Textiles Committee recently; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of the said Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes.

(b) The functions of the Committee are set out in Section 4 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963.

§स्माल स्केल सेक्टर के लिये आरक्षित
किए गए उद्योग

१२३. श्री राम सहाय : क्या उद्योग तथा संभरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार का विचार ५४ उद्योगों को स्माल स्केल सेक्टर के लिये आरक्षित करने का है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस दिशा में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

†[INDUSTRIES RESERVED FOR SMALL-SCALE SECTOR

123. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reserve 54 industries for small-scale sector; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made so far in this direction?

उद्योग तथा संभरण मंत्रालय में उपमंत्रि (श्री बिबुधेन्द्र मिश्र) : (क) और (ख) चौथी योजना के लघु उद्योग संबंधी उप-वर्ग ने

अपनी अन्तर्गम रिपोर्ट में ५४ उद्योगों की एक सूची दी है। ये उद्योग पूर्णतया स्माल स्केल सेक्टर में आरक्षित किये जाने के उपयुक्त हैं, इस पर विचार करने की दृष्टि से उप-वर्ग ने इनका विस्तृत अध्ययन करने की सिफारिश की है। इस उप-वर्ग ने अभी अपनी अन्तिम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत नहीं की है।

यह सूची पूर्णतया उदाहरण स्वरूप है और उस पर अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं किया गया है। उपवर्ग की अन्तिम रिपोर्ट मिल जाने के बाद ही इस सबध में और आगे अध्ययन किया जायेगा और उस पर चर्चा की जायेगी।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA):

(a) and (b) The Sub-Group on Small Scale Industries for the Fourth Plan has recommended in its Interim Report a list of 54 industries to be studied in detail with a view to considering their suitability for complete reservation for the small scale sector. The Sub-Group has not yet submitted its final report.

The list is purely illustrative and no decision has yet been taken on the same. The matter is to be studied and discussed further, after the final report of the Sub-Group has been received.]

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ARRESTS OF P.W.D. EMPLOYEES AND
TRADE UNION WORKERS IN THE
ANDAMAN ISLANDS

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the large scale arrests of P.W.D. employees and trade union workers in the Andaman Islands.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): Sir, the statement covers about three pages. I shall not read the statement but lay it on the Table.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): He can give a gist.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He can briefly summarise it now.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: In Andamans we have casual labour. During the monsoon, that is, from May to October work cannot be executed because of cyclones, rains, etc. These casual labourers have therefore to be retrenched during this period. Accordingly they were retrenched but they demanded that work should be given to them. They being casual labour, it was not possible for the Administration to give them work but they were told that with the beginning of the working season they will be given work. Out of about 600 three hundred people took to other work, agricultural and all that but the rest who were backed by the two Unions, one the Communist Union and the other the D.M.K. Union, started agitation. They went to the houses of the Chief Engineer and other Government officials and disturbed and picketed and therefore it was that some of them had to be detained. Subsequently they also tried that the other permanent workers also should go on a strike in sympathy with them. Some went on strike. Ultimately 24 of the retrenched workers apologised and they were released and another nineteen workers have resumed work. The Administration has given them an offer that they can if they like work on piece wage system; that they do not want. They want that all of them should be taken back immediately. Actually as soon as the working season starts, that is from October, work will be resumed and these people will again be taken back. This is a usual annual feature there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Last night I received this telegram in which I am informed that arrests are still continu-

ing and the strike is on and some of these arrested people are being sent to the Jhalawar jungle. They are being arrested under the Defence of India Rules. But the position I would like to know from the Government is whether it is not a fact that the number of people who have been retrenched is 411, that but for very bad planning and arrangements it would have been possible to retain them in employment and that they were given an assurance that they would be allowed to continue in service; in fact many of them had been taken with that assurance. Now why is it not possible for the Government to continue them in service or till the work season starts can't they be given a living wage so that these people can remain there? As it is they have no other alternative. In the Island it is not like any other part of the country; it is not like the mainland. They cannot get any employment there. They are completely stranded. From the various memoranda and documents that have been sent it is quite clear that it was possible for the Government to keep them. And the number is not small. Therefore I would suggest, in view of all this, the Government should intervene in this matter in order to find a solution and they should stop using the Defence of India Rules. If they are not in a position to take them back at once, they should at least see that they get a living wage till the work is started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Gupta, you may ask for clarification of the statement instead of giving your suggestions.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is the only thing that I can ask by way of clarification because he has not told us what they are going to do with regard to these people except that they have to wait. Mr. Chairman, how can they wait there? There all the employment is in the hands of the Government and if the Government do not provide them with employment they will have to starve as indeed they are starving now. The Govern-

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

ment line seems to be one of using the Defence of India Rules. He should not have brought in the question of apology and all that. They are doing all kinds of things to divide the workers but I am not going into all that. I am now only concerned with the plight of these people.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): There is a telegram we have received from them saying that the picketeers after arrest . . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Is it the same telegram which Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has received?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I do not know; I can place a copy of the telegram on the Table. It says that the arrested picketeers are released after they are being made to write letters of regret at gun point. I want to know whether it is true or not.

Secondly, the information given by the hon. Minister, in the light of the information that we have got, is wide of the mark. It is not true. The fact is that during the very monsoon season they imported labour from Calcutta instead of giving work to these people and they made an offer of giving them work on a co-operative basis. How could they do that if there was no work? Then they made another offer of giving them work on piece wage basis. So the whole Government case that they are seasonal labour and that there is no work during the off season is completely wide of the mark according to the facts at our disposal. He should give clarification on these two points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the clarification you have given.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No. I want clarification from him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here it is said that the Chief Commissioner has threatened to fire.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN (Andhra Pradesh): I want to know, apart from the policy of big stick which the Government have used against these labourers, whether they have taken any measures to negotiate with them and come to an understanding regarding the solution of this problem.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: The Government can negotiate and come to an understanding when the agitation is called off. Even so the Chief Commissioner did offer them work if they are prepared to take work on piece wage system—a particular quantity of work they may do and they will be paid when the work is completed—but they did not accept that; and . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He is threatening to shoot them according to this telegram.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: . . . as I said by October 1st the work will start and when it starts work will be given to them. Today it is not possible to give them work. And this is not a thing of this year only; it is a normal routine business all these years. It is not something new. Only perhaps the workers have got affiliated to some Unions.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND METALS)

NOTIFICATIONS

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(a) A copy of the Ministry of Steel and Mines (Department of Mines and Metals) Notification G.S.R. No. 1123, dated the 29th July, 1964. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3072/64]

(b) A copy of the Ministry of Steel and Mines (Department of Mines and Metals) Notifi-