

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, many newspapers have not implemented even the recommendations of the last Wage Board Report for working journalists and non-working journalists. Now, the Minister has assured that the Government will implement it after getting the Supreme Court's clearance. I want to know from the Minister what action the Government proposes to take against those who are not even implementing the last Wage Board Report also. What action is the Government proposing to take against them? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, this matter pertains to Justice Majithia Wage Board. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute please.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: As far as this report is concerned, I can give the answer, but not for the previous recommendations.

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है उसमें इतना ही कहा जा सकता है कि — वायदा तेरा वायदा, वायदे पर तेरे मारा गया पत्रकार यह सीधा-साधा। तो यह कहेंगे कि वेज बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट आ गई है, रिकमंडेशन हो गया है तथा विभाग उसकी जानकारी कर रहा है। यहां स्पेसिफिक सवाल पूछा गया कि यह सरकार इस दिशा में कब तक कार्रवाई करेगी? एक चीज। आज 90 प्रतिशत पत्रकार गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं और मालिक अमीरी रेखा के ऊपर हैं। तो यह देखना होगा कि गरीबी रेखा के नीचे ये बेचारे पत्रकारों के जीवन-यापन पर मालिकों को पूछने का अधिकार नहीं है। हमारे मित्र कई मालिक यहां बैठे हुए हैं। इसलिए वे मालिक अमीरी रेखा के ऊपर हैं और पत्रकार गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। इसलिए माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा निवेदन है कि वे स्पेसिफिकली बताएं कि वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों को कब तक और कब किसी समय लागू कर रहे हैं? थैंक्यू।

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे:** सर, सरकार की नीयत तो अच्छी है और इस रिपोर्ट को इम्प्लीमेंट करना चाहती है। जब यह सुप्रीम कोर्ट में पेंडिंग है तो मैं यह नहीं कह सकता कि आज ही यह इम्प्लीमेंट कर सकता हूं। जितना जल्दी हो सके उतनी जल्दी इम्प्लीमेंट करने की कोशिश करूंगा, जब यह निर्देश सुप्रीम कोर्ट से आए।

#### **खुदरा क्षेत्र में विदेशी निवेश की अनुमति के बारे में अंशधारकों की सहमति**

\*44. **श्री रविशंकर प्रसाद :** क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में खुदरा बाजार में और अधिक विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश की अनुमति देने से पूर्व सरकार इस क्षेत्र के सभी अंशधारकों की सहमति लेने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस संबंध में किन-किन को अंशधारकों के रूप में चिन्हित किया है और इन चिन्हित अंशधारकों में से किस-किस अंशधारक की सहमति सरकार को प्राप्त हो चुकी है?

**वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री (श्री आनन्द शर्मा):** (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

#### ***विवरण***

(क) मौजूदा नीति विनिर्दिष्ट शर्तों के अधीन केवल एकल ब्रांड खुदरा व्यापार में 51 प्रतिशत विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश की अनुमति देती है। सरकार को मल्टी ब्रांड खुदरा क्षेत्र में एफडीआई की अनुमति के संबंध में संघों/व्यापार निकायों से सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं। इसके लिए, सरकार ने इस विषय पर जानकारी युक्त चर्चा और विभिन्न अंशधारकों के विचार और टिप्पणियां प्राप्त करने के उद्देश्य से "मल्टी ब्रांड खुदरा व्यापार में विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश" नामक एक चर्चा पत्र जारी किया था। व्यापार/उद्योग/खुदरा व्यापार संघों, किसान संघों; प्रतिष्ठित खुदरा व्यापारियों, उपभोक्ता, लघु उद्योगों आदि सहित कई अंशधारकों से टिप्पणियां प्राप्त हुई थीं।

(ख) और (ग) "मल्टी ब्रांड खुदरा व्यापार में विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश" विषय पर चर्चा पत्र के जवाब में अंशधारकों से प्राप्त विचार जनता के लिए उपलब्ध हैं और इन्हें औद्योगिक नीति एवं संवर्धन विभाग की वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकता है।

#### **Approval of shareholders to allow in retail sector**

†\*44.SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to obtain the approval of all the share-holders related to the retail market before allowing further Foreign Direct Investment in the retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the shareholders who have been identified by Government in this regard and also those, out of them, who have given their consent to Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) The existing policy allows for 51 % Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), only in single brand retail trade, subject to specified conditions. Government has received suggestions from

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

associations/trade bodies for allowing FDI in multi brand retail. Towards this end, the Government had released a Discussion Paper on "Foreign Direct Investment in Multi-Brand Retail Trading", with the aim of generating informed discussion on the subject and obtaining the views and comments of various stakeholders. Comments were received from a number of stakeholders, including trade/industry/retailers' associations; farmers associations; prominent retailers; consumers; small industries etc.

(b) and (c) The views received from stakeholders in response to the Discussion Paper on the subject of "Foreign Direct Investment in Multi-Brand Retail Trading" are available in the public domain and can be accessed on the website of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, this is a sensitive question relating to FDI in retail sector.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence Please.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: As far as I understand — hon. Minister would correct me if I am wrong — the total retail business in India is to the tune of approximately Rs.16,00,000 crores. It is a huge pie. I don't know the exact number of the people who are dependent for employment on this sector; we would like to know that from you. You have seen the Mexico's experience, hon. Minister. It was opened in 1986. Walmart started its international operations in 1991, and by 2003, Walmart became the biggest employer and controller of retail trade in Mexico. You have talked about a concept paper and a consultation paper. The question I am asking is: Do you propose to permit FDI in retail in the light of the consultation process which is going on? We would like to have a very upfront reply from you.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, hon. Member is right that the retail sector is a very large employer. Almost 35 million people are employed in the retail sector. It embraces both, agricultural and non-agricultural products. In India, organized retail, which was permitted for the corporate houses to invest in, is only four per cent, whereas 96 per cent of retail trade in India is in the unorganized sector. There have been various studies about the projected growth of organized retail, which was to reach 16 per cent by 2011-12, but that growth has not taken place, and the unorganized

retail sector remains as strong as it was. One-third of the unorganized retail is in the rural sector. Regarding the policy, what Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has asked, I would say that policy formulation, as the hon. Member knows, is a continuous process. The Government had received a number of suggestions in the past. The previous Government had taken a decision in 2000 to allow single brand retail and also 100 per cent FDI in the cash and carry trade. The Government had come out with a discussion paper on the 6th of July last year to generate a debate in the country to involve the stakeholders. Very valuable inputs have been received from farmers' associations, retailers' associations, Chambers of Commerce and the Chambers of Industry.

The Committee of Secretaries had met and given a report in December, 2010 which has been again examined by a Group of Secretaries; and the last such meeting was chaired by the Cabinet Secretary of India in which all Secretaries were present. They have made the recommendations but the minutes have yet to reach the Government. The Government will take a considered view in the national interest on this subject.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Minister, you may recall part (c) of my question. In this whole process of consultation, I have also asked them to identify them. And, who are those who are approving the proposal to liberalise it? Your very tame reply is, go and look to the Website. I will be grateful if you kindly share with this House who are the important stakeholders who are supporting the cause of further opening of this sector, and does opening of the retail sector would lead to control of inflation, an argument always set out? I would like to have your view on that as well.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, there are two parts of this supplementary. First is about who have supported it and who have opposed it.

Sir, the House will appreciate that whenever a policy initiated is discussed and all the stakeholders are involved, the intention of the Government is to make the process inclusive, transparent and democratic. There have been mixed responses. Many organizations, associations, individuals have come out strongly in support and some have definitely opposed it. Those who have supported are FICCI, CII, Retailers Association of India, Shopping Centres Association, Birla Institute of Management and Technology, Indian Venture Capital Association among many others, because

175 responses have been there. ...*(Interruptions)*... Well, as regards the Farmers' Association and the Retailers' Association, I will leave it to the wisdom of the Member how to define them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Who have opposed? Who have opposed?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, some of the retailers' associations have opposed. I have all the details. We have also consulted the civil society; we have consulted institutions and they have been ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Which civil society?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Well, not the one which you are referring to. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Which civil society? Which civil society? ...*(Interruptions)*... We are not optimist. Mr. Minister, we are not on civil society. You need to know it. We are also 'civil'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I request the Minister to consult the 'uncivil' society also. He is talking to the civil society. Please consult us also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I am completely understanding what my dear friends, Sitaram Yechuryji and Ravi Shankar Prasadji, have said. Surely, I am not subscribing to that perception or definition to which you are referring to. Sir, I would like to inform the House that after India allowed this Policy of FDI in single brand retail which is very clearly defined, and in the wholesale, particularly, cash-and-carry, it has generated both employment and created a value addition. The concerns which have been conveyed to the Government through this consultative process are: India is the second largest producer of foodgrains in the world; second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world; our post-harvest losses are unacceptably high, close to 35 per cent; it could be 40 per cent also for the perishable fruits and vegetables.

The purpose of this exercise has been to find a way forward to create a value chain, build infrastructure, cold storage facilities, agro processing and food processing facilities and the entire value chain for which, first and foremost, the back-end chain is important in which 100 per cent FDI is permitted. Unless and until India addresses that, the problem of consumers and the problems of

farmers will remain unaddressed. The House will appreciate that a farmer today is not getting the remunerative price for the produce.

Let me give you an illustration. Farmers may be getting, for a vegetable, ten rupees a kilo, but when you buy it in the market in Delhi, Mumbai or Bhopal, you may be paying 70-80 rupees a kilo. So, these are larger issues which the country will have to address. Once, the recommendations come before the Government, the decision which would be taken would be in supreme national interest, protecting not only the interests of farmers and consumers, but also the interests of small traders. There are various suggestions which have been made by the Committee of Secretaries. Many of them are very useful, particularly the recommendations pertaining to a minimum of 50 per cent of the investment in rural India, 50 per cent of job creation in rural India, sourcing from MSMEs, sourcing within the country, etc. And I would like to assure Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad that whatever decision the Government takes through this exercise which, as I have said, is transparent, democratic and inclusive, it will be for the benefit of the country and it will protect all sectors.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: In this entire thing, according to me, the most important single point is that, firstly, the 8.5 per cent growth is not sufficiently reflected in employment generation. Secondly, 90 per cent of the total employment is in the unorganized sector, of which unorganized retail is the most important single segment. Thirdly, opening up of private retail brand for foreign direct investment will definitely have negative implications on employment generation in retail trade.

In view of these, has the Government given enough serious thought to implications on employment of the opening up of private retail trade to foreign direct investment?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, that is a very important aspect. As I have said, when the country builds infrastructure, particularly the back-end infrastructure — what we call 'from the farm to the cash-and-carry point from where, as of now, the extant policy allows sales to wholesale consumers including institutions and registered retailers' — and when India is able to address the issue of post-harvest losses and build the value chain including cold storage, agro-processing and food processing, our understanding is, and the studies indicate, that it would generate millions of jobs

across the country; it will not take away employment. There were these fears which were expressed, Mr. Chairman Sir, when FDI was allowed particularly in the single brand or the organized retail. But the fact is that job losses have not taken place. Unorganized retail closure on an average is only 1.7 per cent. Unorganised retail has become more competitive once these policies have been permitted. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that a large number of countries, including developing countries like Malaysia, Thailand, China, Indonesia and so on have all opened up and I don't think that there have been these issues. Apprehension is one thing but reality is another. As I have said earlier, policy formulation is a very careful and calibrated exercise.

DR. ASHOK GANGULY: Mr. Chairman, we must be very clear that, as far as production and distribution of fruits, vegetables and grains is concerned, there are two kinds of sectors in India. We always talk about vested interests. But there are also the suffering interests. We do not talk about the suffering interests. If the hon. Minister were to get actual on-the-ground data from countries like China, Indonesia and Japan etc. that data will point to the fact that not only has the organized sector and the traditional sector prospered as a result of opening up of large direct investment, foreign or local, but that there has also been growth in employment, there has been a reduction in prices and there has been reduction in spoilage. We will keep on discussing this till the cows come home! How long will it take for us to have a policy and move on and not to be in the grip of vested interests...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

DR. ASHOK GANGULY: How long will it take, Sir? How long will we go on debating? How long will we go on questioning, without generating employment and reducing prices?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I am grateful to Gangulyji for sharing his knowledge on the subject with the House and it is very educative. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a fact that there have been positive impact in the countries which took timely decisions leading to job generation, benefiting farmers, benefiting consumers and that was the consideration and the strong demand from many sectors including the farmers that the Government had come out with the Discussion Paper and it would be appreciated that in less than one-and-a-half years, or one year to be very precise, we have

completed the stakeholders' consultation. The recommendations and the suggestions have been collated; the Committee of Secretaries, as I said earlier, gave the report. The last meeting of the Secretaries, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, was on the 22nd of July; today is the 3rd of August. Once the recommendations formally reach my table, the Government, which is already seriously engaged on this issue, we will take an appropriate decision and I have no doubt in my mind what we will do will be welcomed and will be serving India's interest.

**श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर:** सभापति जी, पहली बात तो यह है कि सारा देश यह जान चुका है कि सेक्रेटरीज की मीटिंग में क्या हुआ, लेकिन सरकार को पता नहीं है। इनके पास मिनिट्स नहीं पहुंचे हैं, अब क्या करें? जो रिपोर्ट्स हमने पढ़ी हैं, उनके आधार पर और आपने जो जवाब दिया है, उसी आधार पर मेरा सवाल है। आप यह कहना चाहते हैं कि पच्चीस, तीस फीसदी, जो बहुत बड़ा नुकसान हो रहा है, वेस्टेज हो रहा है, फूड का, perishable goods का, वह सब इससे भर जाएगा। सभापति जी, पिछले दस साल से FDI in back-end chain हंड्रेड परसेंट अलार्ड है। कितना हुआ है, नहीं हुआ है, बताइए? मेरे सवाल के यही दो हिस्से हैं कि पिछले दस साल में back-end चेन में हंड्रेड परसेंट एफ.डी.आई. होने के बावजूद भी कितना हुआ, क्यों नहीं हुआ, उसके आधार पर आप क्या बताना चाहते हैं? How are you going to really achieve this because in your proposed plan there is no compulsion on FDI multi-brand retails to invest in the back-end chain?

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** Sir, first of all, I would like to say to Javadekarji that I never said that the Government is unaware of the deliberations. The Government can formally move, if the hon. Member is aware how the Government functions, once the recommendations and minutes reach the Minister. Before that, based on what has been reported or communicated, final view cannot be taken. Secondly, when it comes to investments, there are large investments which have come in the back-end. It was the policy and we have continued with the policy which was made in the year 2000. I am sure that the then Prime Minister and the then Government had given careful thought and recognized the need to build the infrastructure and it has been a very useful contribution. The question that is put to me that how it will address is very clear. More investments will come in once the front linkages are established. Back-end linkages or back-end infrastructure is being built in the country. But, at the same time, the recommendation of the Committee of Secretaries is very specific that there has to be a defined percentage which will go only in the building of the infrastructure. As I



said, the minimum investment, as has been recommended, should not be less than 100 million dollars; 50 per cent of the job generation, as I said earlier, I am sure you were listening, must be in the rural sector.

Thirty per cent-plus sourcing must be from the MSMEs. And, the Government will consider and, as I said earlier, I am repeating, we will take an early, appropriate and correct policy decision.

#### **बोडो समझौते के अंतर्गत पूरे न किए गए वायदे**

†\*45. श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 10 फरवरी, 2003 को भारत सरकार की ओर से गृह मंत्रालय और असम सरकार तथा बोडो लिबरेशन टाइगर्स (बी.एल.टी.) के मध्य हस्ताक्षरित बोडो समझौते के अंतर्गत किए गए वायदों को अभी भी पूरा नहीं किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस स्थिति के लिए कौन सा अधिकारी जवाबदेह है और क्या किये गये वायदों को गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा पूरा किया जायेगा; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या उक्त समझौता एक छलावा भर था?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुल्लापल्ली रामचन्द्रन): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

#### **विवरण**

(क) से (ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार, असम सरकार और बोडो लिबरेशन टाइगर (बी एल टी) के बीच दिनांक 10-02-2003 को एक समझौता ज्ञापन हस्ताक्षरित किया गया था। इस समझौता ज्ञापन के मुख्य खण्डों में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ भारत के संविधान की छठी अनुसूची के अंतर्गत असम राज्य में बोडोलैंड भू-भागीय परिषद स्थापित करना, संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में बोडो भाषा को शामिल करना, असम राज्य के लिए अनुसूची जनजाति की सूची में तब्दीली करना, केन्द्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान स्थापित करना, असम राज्य को सामान्य योजना सहायता के अतिरिक्त 5 वर्षों के लिए प्रतिवर्ष 100 करोड़ रुपए का अतिरिक्त विकास पैकेज, बी एल टी काडरों का पुनर्वास आदि शामिल हैं। इस समझौता ज्ञापन को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए निम्नलिखित अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई की जा रही है:

- (i) बोडोलैंड भू-भागीय परिषद का सृजन करने के लिए भारत के संविधान की छठी अनुसूची को संशोधित किया गया।
- (ii) इस परिषद के आम चुनाव 13.05.2005 को आयोजित किए गए तथा बोडोलैंड भू-भागीय परिषद ने कार्यभार संभाल लिया।

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.