

हो रहा है एक तो गाँव के अंदर मजदूर नहीं मिलते, क्योंकि उनको बैठे बिठाए वेतन मिल रहा है, दूसरा भ्रष्टाचार तो है ही। मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप इस समस्या का कोई समाधान निकालेंगे, जो नक्सल प्रभावित इलाके हैं, क्या आप इस योजना को उन इलाकों में युद्ध स्तर पर चलाएंगे और उत्तर प्रदेश के फैजाबाद जिले के अंदर जो बड़ा भारी घोटाला हुआ है, क्या उसकी जाँच कराएंगे?

श्री जयराम रमेश : सभापति जी, मुझे खुशी है कि माननीय सदस्य ने माना है और स्वीकारा है कि मनरेगा के कुछ सकारात्मक असर भी हुए हैं। इसके कारण distress माइग्रेशन कम हुआ है, जो कि एक वास्तविकता है। जहाँ तक करप्शन का मामला है, घोटालों का मामला है, यह राज्य सरकार और ग्राम पंचायतों की प्राथमिक जिम्मेदारी होती है कि मनरेगा सही ढंग से चले।

हम इसमें ज्यादा हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकते। हम इसे राज्य सरकार की जानकारी में जरूर ला सकते हैं, ग्राम पंचायतों की जानकारी में जरूर ला सकते हैं, पर प्रत्यक्ष रूप से हम कुछ कार्रवाई नहीं कर सकते। अगर कार्रवाई करनी है, तो राज्य सरकारों को करनी है। फिर भी, चूँकि माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, तो मैं कहूँगा कि पहली बार हमने सीएजी से निवेदन किया है कि वह परफॉर्मेंस ऑडिट करे। अभी सारे राज्यों में सीएजी का नरेगा का परफॉर्मेंस ऑडिट चल रहा है। नवंबर तक उसकी रिपोर्ट आएगी, जो पार्लियामेंट में पेश होगी और उसके ऊपर बहस भी होगी। इसके अलावा, हम पहली बार यह सोच रहे हैं कि हर ग्राम पंचायत में मनरेगा के खाते में जो पैसा जाता है, हर ग्राम पंचायत को हर साल करीब 18-19 लाख रुपए मिलते हैं, उसका अलग खाता रखने के बाद चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट से खाते का सर्टिफिकेशन होना अनिवार्य होगा। चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट सीएजी की सूची से लिया जाएगा और 10 या 15 प्रतिशत केसेज में प्रत्यक्ष रूप से कागजात की भी जाँच होगी। सीएजी और compulsory certification from Chartered Accountant होने से मैं समझता हूँ कि कुछ दबाव जरूर आएगा, जिससे घोटाले कम होंगे। इसके अलावा, जो कुछ जाँच की रिपोर्ट्स आती हैं, हम जाँच की रिपोर्ट्स भेजते हैं। जहाँ शिकायतें आती हैं, वहाँ जाँच की टीम भेजी जाती है और उस जाँच की टीम की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर हम राज्य सरकारों से निवेदन करते हैं कि वे कार्रवाई करें। कई ऐसे मामलों में कार्रवाई हुई है, पर मैं यह स्वीकार करता हूँ कि कई राज्यों में कार्रवाई करने में थोड़ा विलम्ब जरूर हुआ है। नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों के बारे में जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, खास कर जो 78 नक्सल प्रभावित जिले हैं, उनमें हमने मनरेगा के लिए विशेष प्रावधान किया है। हमने यह पाया था कि भुगतान के विलम्ब के कारण डिमांड घट रही थी। इसलिए हमने नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों में कैश पेमेंट का प्रबन्ध किया है। मुझे खुशी है कि बालाघाट, जो मध्य प्रदेश में है; दंतवाड़ा, नारायणपुर, विजयपुर, कांकेड़, जो छत्तीसगढ़ में हैं, ऐसे जिलों में अभी मजदूरी की माँग बढ़ रही है।

Vacancies in PSUs

*542. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the top level posts in a number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken a decision to fill up all top level vacancies in PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per available information, the posts of Chairman & Managing Director/Managing Director (CMD/MD) are presently vacant in 21 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The details of these 21 CPSEs are as under.

Sl.No.	Post and CPSE
1.	MD (CW), HMT (Chinar Watches) Ltd.
2.	CMD, Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
3.	CMD, NEPA Limited
4.	MD, Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd.
5.	CMD, Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.
6.	CMD, Hindustan Cables Ltd.
7.	MD, RITES Limited
8.	CMD, HSCC (I) Limited
9.	CMD, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.
10.	MD, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
11.	MD, Indian Medicines & Pharmaceuticals Corporation Ltd.
12.	CMD, Pawan Hans Ltd.
13.	CMD, National Fertilizers Ltd.
14.	CMD, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
15.	CMD, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd.
16.	CMD, National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.
17.	CMD, Central Electronics Ltd.
18.	CMD, Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.
19.	MD, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
20.	CMD, Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
21.	CMD, MMTC Limited

(c) and (d) Of the above 21 vacant posts, the recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board are already available in respect of 11 posts and are awaiting vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority. The selection process has already been initiated for filling up remaining 10 posts.

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Sir, the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House reveals that there are 21 vacant posts at the top level of the PSUs. For almost 18 months these top level posts of Chairman or Managing Director or CMD are lying vacant. Other than these 21 vacant posts, the posts of independent Directors numbering about 70 and whole-time Directors numbering 300 are lying vacant for years together. Is the Minister aware as to how it will affect the functioning of the PSUs where lakhs and lakhs of employees are involved and several million crores of rupees have been expended for all these industries to come up? The reason cited for such a delay is the wrangling between the administrative unit of the PSUs and the PESB, the Board which selects the candidates. The files have been tossed between pillar and post. The reason cited for such a delay is holding the post temporarily by someone at the Ministry level. Will the Minister take some initiatives to simplify the procedure in filling up the top level posts in the PSUs?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I would like to submit that the hon. Member's observation that all these top level posts are lying vacant for 18 months or more is not the accurate picture. Filling up the posts is an ongoing process. Barring one or two positions of companies which are not doing particularly well, most of the appointments to the top posts are ongoing process. As per existing procedure, filling up of these positions is notified by the PSUs, at least, a year in advance and the entire process kick-starts. While there may have been some delays due to procedural reasons, usually the PESB, after advertising and short-listing the candidates, conducts the interview, and post-interview, the administrative Ministry sends the names for the CVC clearance.

Sometimes, there are some delays on that account, but that should not be considered as a norm. Sometimes, there are aberrations where some complaints do take longer than normal time to get them cleared and examine. Notwithstanding that, the appointment of Independent Directors is done through the Administrative Ministry and, of course, it goes through the whole procedure. So far as the appointment of whole-time Directors is concerned, like the PESB has a procedure for appointments on top positions, the same process is adopted for appointment of whole-time Directors. So far as the number of vacancies cited by the hon. Member is concerned, I don't have the exact number, but the fact is that this is an ongoing exercise and it goes through the same procedure as is done in the case of appointment of CMDs.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : I am authentic to the fact that there was an RTI application made with regard to this question which says that 15 posts were vacant

for 18 months. If I am wrong, I stand corrected. But this is a report given by the PESB, that is, the Public Enterprises Selection Board. Sir, the Minister has stated on record that because of wrangling and delay in processing the papers and files by the Vigilance Commission, he has a succession plan in which the procedures would be simplified. Would the Minister state as to how the procedures would be simplified? How is the delay going to be reduced? Secondly, recently, the Department of Personnel has issued a Circular saying that there was an undue delay in such appointments at the Ministry's level and the Vigilance Commission's level. They have suggested that two months in advance before the vacancy arises, a proposal must be sent to the Department of Personnel....

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the question?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Even the ACC, that is, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has to go through a long procedure. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these things would be simplified. Would he see to it that the heads are appointed on time?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to correct the hon. Member again. As I said earlier, the process for filling up these vacancies starts exactly one year prior to the superannuation or retirement of a particular head of the PSU. It is not that the procedure does not start well in time. As I said, there are some procedural delays along the way. Of course, the entire process is conducted through the DoPT. But we, as the Department of Public Enterprises, certainly have an interface with them. The fact is, there are some delays on account of CVC clearance which are, of course, beyond the control of the concerned Department or the Ministry. But, at the same time, I do appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. We will, along with the DoPT, try our best to see that these processes are limited to a particular timeframe so that such delays do not occur.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, the Minister has given a list of PSUs where CMD posts are lying vacant. There are companies like the Brahmaputra Valley and the Hooghly Dock in which cases the BRPSE has recommended a revival package and that is in the process of operation. If the head is not there in those companies, then who will lead the whole revival exercise? Even if the package is so sound, how could it be effectively implemented to turn it around? I have got some reply that except in some of the companies not doing well, the heads are there in other companies. I think in the case of those companies which are not doing well, you must give them priority and see to it that the captain remains there to lead the show. Secondly, there is a procedural suggestion. The PESB makes the whole exercise, and after that the things are delayed because of the vigilance clearance. Why not there be the vigilance clearance of the list first and then it goes to the PESB for short-listing and then the Minister puts up the

final stamp? Sir, this point was suggested in the meeting of the Committee on Public Undertakings also. Sir, some of the blue chip public sector companies, where even the PESB has finalized the selection process, are suffering because of this reason and the things are getting unduly delayed.

Therefore, will the Minister consider getting vigilance clearance done for probable candidates first? Then, it should go to the PESB, and the PESB can do the shortlisting.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that delays in obtaining the Vigilance Clearance have been instrumental in some cases, but I am not saying that this is the reason in all cases. And there is a case for trying to look at the suggestion for implementation. But again, we will discuss this with the DoPT and see if this can be done. If that finds agreement at all levels, then, maybe, that could be a good suggestion. The other thing is about the heads of these PSUs. I think the bulk of the lists contain many companies which are not in good health or which are under the purview of the BRPSE. That is why we have been finding some difficulty in appointing the suitable people to head these companies which are not doing well. I do appreciate the sentiment. At the same time, the BRPSE and the Administrative Ministry are also equally responsible to see to it that these companies do function in the best manner possible. But I do agree that it will be much better to have regular CMDs looking after the turnaround and to see that these companies are back on good financial health.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I believe, the hon. Minister is just not the Minister of Heavy Industries but he is also the Minister of Public Enterprises. I am sure he would like to explain what he means by PSEs because even banks are under that. And the LIC does not have a head. There are also a lot of oil companies and others. So, there is a more comprehensive aspect about the public sector undertakings. But that is not my supplementary. My supplementary is very straight and specific. It is about appointments and role of PSEs. If I recall correctly, there is an organization called the NACIL, which is, now, the Air India. That was created in 2007, and it is one of the public sector undertakings. But there have been appointments made in such undertakings by something called the Search Committee. So, when the Government wants someone to come in the public sector enterprises, they create a Search Committee, and this Search Committee is created under the auspices of the Prime Minister who decides to appoint an individual or choose from a group of individuals. Similarly, I would like to tell the hon. Minister, who was heading the Department then, that they create a Search Committee, and thereby, appoint a person who may be manipulatively positioned there. And, when the matter was raised that the Search Committee had appointed someone as Chairman of the Air India who continued to be there for two years, then, the Government, subsequently, withdrew him and sacked him...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your supplementary?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Subsequently, they appoint one more person as the Chairman of the PSE, who is, again, not an appointee of the Public Enterprises Selection Board. For the last seven years, the Government has chosen to appoint people and individuals to head Air India, who have not been appointees of the PESB. I would like to seek an explanation from him that apart from the mess which has come into existence, in what situation, when elections of the country are being held, they create a Search Committee...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your supplementary. Don't give a commentary.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My supplementary is this. When the PESB is existing, why is it that Search Committees are created in a hurry to appoint individuals? What is the background and the basis of that with reference to Air India?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, basically, the thrust of this question is more directly to do with the DoPT, which is the concerned Department dealing with both the PESB and the CVC, and which deals with all other issues involved. But, notwithstanding, I can only say that in some cases, the Government does appoint people through a Search Committee, and it, ultimately, goes for the ACC's approval ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : What is the purpose?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let the Minister finish.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : You discover some person and put him as the head.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I do not want to go into that debate at this moment because Mr. Rudy also, at some relevant time, had gone through the same process in appointing people of the Department he, then, headed. So, I don't want to go into the debate ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is no more Mr. Rudy's question. It is the question of the House. Let the Minister explain the purpose of the Search Committee.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I simply do not want to go into that debate. I am just telling him that what was done in the past was followed by this Government as well in the present.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister's reply is not convincing. In the main question, when Mr. Selvaganapathi was authenticating that the total number of vacancies of whole time Directors and the part time Directors are lying vacant for 18 months, the Minister denied it. I would like to urge upon the Minister, through you, Sir, that the Minister could furnish the House since when these vacancies are existing and how many vacancies are existing. This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my

question is, there are 21 PSEs. The Minister has given a list, out of which, many Public Sector Enterprises are very sick and are at a loss. One of the main reasons is that these organisations do not have a head for a long time. Sir, the Prime Minister is, time and again, insisting on the resilience of the Public Sector Enterprises. The Public Sector Enterprises are facing a very stiff competition with the private sector, and the Minister has to take it up. It is a very serious concern. Sir, I have only one point. The demand of the country in machine tools is Rs. 8000 crores, whereas the domestic production Rs. 2000 crores, out of which the PSE is only Rs. 200 crores. Sir, all these reasons have to be taken seriously when the economic situation indicates that the industrial slow down is one of the main reasons. The responsibility of the Minister for Heavy Industries is much more serious and one of that is, filling up of these vacancies and whole-time Directors. Let me know from the Minister, whether he has any time frame to fill up these things. And I submit to the Chair, kindly permit us to have a Half-an-Hour Discussion on the working of the PSEs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give a notice on that.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have answered bulk of the question which the hon. Member asked about, how do you fill up these vacancies, and I think, I have nothing more to add except the fact that I share your concern, PSUs which are headless for a long time should not go through this state for long. I appreciate that. But, having said that, out of the 21 lists, which have been provided, bulk of them are of companies which are not doing very well. It is not that the process of the PSEs is taking unduly long or major companies of our country...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : The vacancies are not getting filled up. This is one of the main reasons.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : I appreciate, but, that is exactly what I am saying. The question was on the fact that PSUs are lying headless for a long time and of the 21 which have been listed out here, bulk of them are companies which are under BRPSE or companies which are not doing very well. Bulk of the companies which we consider, the so-called our blue chip PSUs or companies which, are doing well, are not facing this kind of a problem which you are trying to highlight here. I appreciate the other issues about machine tool industry and other things. That can be taken up separately. It is not part of this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question. No. 543.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : I asked about the time-frame. When will the vacancies be filled up?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think he has explained the process.