

श्री अशक अली टाक: सर, मेरा सवाल प्रश्न से हटकर है। यह सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न नहीं है, लेकिन मैं कह रहा हूँ कि तीन साल में भी इस सम्मानीय सदन के द्वारा मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब कभी नहीं आता है। आखिर ऐसा क्यों होता है? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; I am not afraid not. This is not a question. Shri Balagopal.

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, in the statement it is stated, 'As per the available information, there are no deaths or serious disease in the last three years.' Sir, this may not be correct. But, my question is this. It is a fact that modern plants are equipped with modern facilities. But the old cement and chemical factories which were started with all kinds of facilities, whether there is any provision to equip them now with modern facilities to control dust and other kinds of dangerous things.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, all the factories have modern facilities. As per the available information received from State Governments and the UTs, no worker in cement and fertilizer factories died due to effect of dust particles, because all the States have ensured safety precautions in factories.

Recommendations of the 43rd Indian Labour Conference

*123. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the 43rd Indian Labour Conference and if so, details of the same;

(b) whether the recommendations are to be implemented by enacting a law; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Agenda of the 43rd Indian Labour Conference comprised of the following three subjects:

1. "Global financial down turn – its impact-job losses -comprehensive package for protection of labour force, etc."
2. "Employment generation and skill development."
3. "Problems of contract labour, social security, wages, etc. and amendments in the contract labour legislation."

The recommendations of the three committees on the above subjects have duly been considered in detail by the Government.

As far as Global financial downturn and its impact on job losses is concerned, Government accepts the recommendations of the Conference that efforts should be made for job-rich growth. Government agrees that there should be strict implementation of all labour laws, broad-based social security depending on national circumstances, access to credit for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, traditional and export-oriented industries, extension of Public Distribution System for greater food security, better skill training, more investment in infrastructure, non-conventional renewable sources of energy, agro-based and labour-intensive industries for greater job creation. In view of the recommendations of the Conference, coverage of social protection schemes like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is continuously being expanded to cover more and more workers under the unorganized sector. Priority is being given to education and health care in rural areas. Regular meetings with the State governments are being conducted to ensure that more and more schemes are implemented for the welfare of construction workers under Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996. Tripartite mechanisms like Indian Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee already exist in India. Government of India is committed to encourage tripartite mechanisms for greater social dialogue at all levels.

As far as employment generation and skill development is concerned, government has accorded top priority to both these areas. Focus is being given to employment generating sectors like agro-based and food processing industries specially in rural areas. The number of days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was increased from 100 days to 150 days for notified drought affected areas last year. This increase has been extended to notified flood affected areas of Uttarakhand this year. More focus is being given on micro and small industries and for facilitating self-employment. Skill development infrastructure in the country both in the formal and

informal sectors is being strengthened by taking all possible steps to increase the employment and employability of workers in rural as well as urban areas.

As far as problems of contract labour are concerned, a proposal for an amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 for giving same wages and social security to contract workers which are at par with regular workers has already been initiated. The labour enforcement machinery is being strengthened through regular monitoring, follow up and capacity building for better implementation of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

In case of some of the recommendations, changes have to be made in law before they are accepted. The proposal for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which *inter-alia* includes the proposal to fix national minimum floor level wages statutorily to cover all employments, has already been approved by the Cabinet. The draft Bill to give effect to the amendment proposals is being finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice. An Amendment has also been proposed in The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 with a view to do away the criteria of 90 days' work experience for registration under the Act.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, my first supplementary is this. The hon. Minister has given a lengthy answer.

Access to credit for micro, medium enterprises and traditional and export-oriented industries is not encouraging. The rate of interest for micro and small industry is very high. And, the WTO Guidelines ruins most of our small-scale and micro industries. We must give some protection for small-scale industries. Because, if you see the power tariff, the interest rate and the raw material costs, they are not able to do any business with the small-scale industries. They are suffering. They are the worst sufferers for the past ten years. I would like to know whether the Minister has got anything to offer more than what he has said. What about the WTO guidelines? I would like to know whether it can be modified.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, his question is entirely different. I will collect the details and give it to him.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: With regard to my second supplementary, the Government of India is committed to encourage tripartite mechanism for a greater social dialogue at all levels. Sir, tripartite committees are also happening only in the public sector.

If you take the private sector, especially the multi-national companies, when they come here, they don't recognize any union. They don't come to the conciliation table. Even if they come to the conciliation table, they say, 'We will not discuss with outsiders.' The outsiders of the multi-national companies are telling our trade union leaders, 'We are not prepared to discuss with the outsiders.' I would like to know whether the Minister has got any reply on this. There must be tripartite dialogue in every area, whether it is multi-national or national or public sector.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the issue of labour is in the Concurrent List. We are always going through the route of tripartite discussion. Wherever there is dispute, we have to sit together— employer side, employees side and management—and take decision.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: No, Sir, I would like to know if the Minister ... (*Interruptions*)... Is the Ministry prepared to call a meeting of all the multi-national companies with the Central trade union leaders and give them proper guidance?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, if our tripartite meeting is necessary, we will do it.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, in the reply the hon. Minister has given, it is said that, as far as problems of contract labourers are concerned, a proposal for amendment is there. My short question is on the violation of non-payment of wages and other safety measures. How many prosecutions have been launched against the defaulting employers?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, as far as contract labourers are concerned, wherever the Contract Labour Act is violated, immediately we have taken steps. If the hon. Members have any specific case, it can be given to us and we will definitely address it.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने यहां असंगठित और संगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों के बारे में चर्चा की है और एक इंटरनेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस का जिक्र किया गया है। महोदय, आज देश की जो आर्थिक स्थिति है, उसमें सकल घरेलू उत्पाद घटकर साढ़े चार फीसदी पर आ गया है, इंडस्ट्रियल प्रॉडक्शन नेगेटिव में है और देश में ऐसे लाखों लोग, जो ब्ल्यू कॉलर्ड हैं, वे नौकरी से बाहर चले गए हैं, जिनकी संख्या सरकार के अपने आँकड़ों के हिसाब से सवा लाख से अधिक है।

हम माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि आपने अपने उत्तर में तमाम प्रावधान दर्शाए हैं, तो क्या आपकी जानकारी में यह है कि आज इस देश में असंगठित क्षेत्र के लगभग डेढ़ लाख

मजदूरों की छँटनी हो गयी है और देश में बेरोजगारी की अवस्था भयावह हो चुकी है? क्या सरकार के अपने प्रतिवेदन में या सरकार की जानकारी में यह विषय है या नहीं?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, as far as the Labour Ministry is concerned, this subject is in the Concurrent List. Every issue is discussed with the State Governments. We have also taken the opinion of the State Governments. After that only we are doing this.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: सर, आप देखिए कि मेरा सवाल क्या था और उत्तर क्या आया है? अगर सरकार को बेरोजगारी जैसा साधारण विषय समझ में न आए और आज देश के आर्थिक हालात में बेरोजगारी की क्या अवस्था है, यदि इसका उत्तर सरकार के पास नहीं है तो इतनी बहस की आवश्यकता नहीं है। मैं इस उत्तर से बिल्कुल असंतुष्ट हूँ, सदन असंतुष्ट है और सरकार को इस पर विस्तार से जवाब देना चाहिए।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the 43rd Indian Labour Conference. But, in the reply he has mentioned that the draft Bill with regard to some amendments is finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. In the amendment it is also being proposed to include building and other construction workers ...*(Interruptions)*... with a view to do away with the criteria of 90 days' work experience. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how they are planning now, when they are going to finalize it and what the time limit is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Financial grants to naxal affected States

*124. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has provided financial grants to the naxal affected States for infrastructure (development like construction of roads and facilities for establishment of police stations in the affected areas;

(b) if so, the details of such grants provided to State Governments including the State of Maharashtra for the last three years;

(c) the year-wise utilisation of the grants by the States; and

(d) whether State Government of Maharashtra has utilised the grants every year