

श्री किरन रिजिजु: सभापति जी, यह बहुत ही अहम और हम लोगों के लिए बहुत जरूरी सवाल है कि हमारी जितनी भी रिक्रूटमेंट्स होती हैं, उनके लिए सरकार का विचार है कि जो पिछड़े वर्गों के लोग हैं, उनको उसमें दर्जा मिलना चाहिए। इसमें महिलाओं का भी मुद्दा है, लेकिन मैं उसका जिक्र नहीं करूंगा। आपने अभी SC/ST और OBC का प्रश्न पूछा है, अभी हमारे पास जितनी भी central forces हैं, मैं आपको अभी उसके पूरे आंकड़े नहीं दे सकता हूँ, क्योंकि यह बहुत लम्बी लिस्ट है, लेकिन किसी भी फोर्स में जितना रिजर्वेशन होना चाहिए था, वह उससे कम नहीं है, बल्कि उससे ज्यादा है। यदि आप सारी फार्स की संख्या को देखें, SC/ST के रिजर्वेशन की संख्या देखें तो ST के लिए 7.5 परसेंट का रिजर्वेशन होता है, इसमें इससे कहीं ज्यादा है, इसी प्रकार से SC के लिए 15 परसेंट का रिजर्वेशन होता है, यह भी सभी फोर्स में ज्यादा ही है। यदि आप महिलाओं के आंकड़े जानना चाहेंगे तो मैं वे आंकड़े भी बाद में दे सकता हूँ। अभी महिलाओं के लिए एक नया निर्णय लिया गया है, जिसको गृह मंत्री जी ने announce भी किया है। सीआईएसफ में पहली बार 33 परसेंट की घोषणा हो गई है। इसके बाद बाकी फोर्स में भी जो border guarding forces हैं, उनमें भी 14 से 15 परसेंट तक रिक्रूटमेंट का प्रोसेस आरम्भ कर दिया गया है।

श्री सतीश चंद्र मिश्रा: सभापति जी, जो प्रश्न पूछा है, उसका आन्सर नहीं आया है। मैंने 33 प्रतिशत वाला प्रश्न पूछा था, आप कह रहे हैं कि उससे ज्यादा मैरिट में आए हैं। यह कहना है कि हम मैरिट में आए हैं, इसलिए ज्यादा हो गया है, वह अलग चीज़ है। आपने महिलाओं के लिए जो 33 प्रतिशत का रिजर्वेशन कर दिया है, क्या आप उसमें रिजर्वेशन फॉलो करेंगे या नहीं? मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि आप महिलाओं के बीच में जो SC/ST/OBC का रिजर्वेशन है, उसको इसमें फॉलो करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे?

श्री किरन रिजिजु: सभापति जी, यह समझने वाली बात है। जब उस पार्टिकुलर कम्युनिटी की percentage है, तो यह विचार, जो आपका दूसरा सवाल है, उसका प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता, क्योंकि जो रिजर्वेशन पॉलिसी है, हमने उसे लागू करके, उससे भी ज्यादा देकर एक कदम आगे बढ़ाया है, इसलिए यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है कि क्या बाकी में होगा या नहीं होगा, वह है।
...(व्यवधान)...

*35. [The questioner (SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD) was absent]

Ranking of States on ease of doing business

*35. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the World Bank to rank States on the Ease of Doing Business for the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the role of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in this exercise will be limited only to facilitate the interactions between States and the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Government has asked the World Bank to evaluate State reforms on Ease of Doing Business for the next three years.

(b) The World Bank Group has been requested to support on three areas:

- Conversion of the reform implementation report into an online, dynamic portal where States can upload the reforms undertaken and after validation by DIPP can monitor changes in implementation status real-time.
- To verify reforms reported by States, through survey and feedback mechanisms; and
- Rank States based on reforms implemented.

(c) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) besides facilitating interaction between States and the World Bank also monitors progress of implementation of the Action Plan.

(d) A State Level Business Reform Action Plan consisting of 340 points has been prepared by DIPP in consultation with the States/Union Territories and shared with all State Governments/UT Administrations for implementation. DIPP has conducted a number of workshops in States with the help of the World Bank Team. An online portal for 'State Level Business Reform Action Plan' developed by DIPP was launched on 8th April, 2016 to track implementation of reforms on real-time basis.

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: आज आपकी यह स्थिति है कि आप बंगलादेश, पाकिस्तान और नेपाल से भी पीछे हैं। मेरा सवाल यह है कि Ease of Doing Business में आपको States चिन्ता है। अपने देश की चिन्ता, जो basic issue है, उस पर आप अपने देश के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं? आपने पिछले दो साल में Ease of Doing Business में क्या किया? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No commentary. Please ask the question.

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: यूपीए-1 और यूपीए-2 के बाद में जो हमारी रैंकिंग गिरती गई, उसका क्या कारण है, आप लोगों का उसमें क्या कंट्रीब्यूशन है?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the answer be given.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Member, through you, that the rank the hon. Member was mentioning, of

[Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman]

India being placed in 142, refers to the period 2013-2014 when this new Government has come into place. Post that, our ranking has improved and we have reached 130. That is on the general ranking of 189 countries in which India had ranked 142 and now the position is improved to 130. We wish it improves even further. That is after this Government came in. That is the first point.

Secondly, ranking of the States is done not because the Centre does not want to do anything. But the action of Ease of Doing Business happens in the States. So, what we have actually done...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Basically, Sir, the Ease of Doing Business...

श्री सभापति: गुप्ता जी, बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Unless the base is strong, the States can't do anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a discussion. Please listen to the answer.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, when countries are ranked, they are ranked on 10 indices which are across the board and are applicable to all the 189 countries. But, when we are now looking at India, we want our States also to join in this Ease of Doing Business. So, in December, 2014, we held a meeting with all the States and identified 98 such criteria on which, if they improved, they would be better ranked among themselves. On the basis of that, a survey was done between January and June of 2015 based on which the States have been ranked. This time, they will be ranked based on what they do on identified and agreed 340 such indices. Therefore, this is not as though the Centre is shifting the blame on the States saying, 'You do your act.' We are also working together with them. But, the criteria of how India is going to be ranked will also depend on how the States are working together with the Centre and the Centre is working together with the States.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Is the Centre...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Your question is over. Give others the chance.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, the ranking by the World Bank, and all that, is a misnomer because, as he rightly said, Nepal is ranked higher than India or other such small countries which are ranked 5, 6, 8, etc., but, if you look at FDI and FII flows into India, it is far higher here than the rank which we have because of the sheer size of India, the opportunities and the market here.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: It is governed by the market. That is why we are getting that.

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Will you please allow him to complete his question?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I hope, I will get more time because of this!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I am asking, लेकिन प्रश्न पूछने के पहले कुछ तो भूमिका बनानी पड़ेगी।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, भूमिका की क्या जरूरत है?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, this is not like typically asking 'give this' or 'give that.' This is a question which has a little wider connotation. The only question I am asking is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: A very senior Member is saying that!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Yes, Sir, I am a senior Member saying the right things. I stand by what I am saying not to disrespect you, Sir, but the fact is that the question can't be framed in a very short manner. The question here is about the ranking of States by the World Bank. I think, ranking of the States by the World Bank should not happen. Who are they to rank our States? Our States are unique. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and some other States have a coastline. They have better infrastructure for many years. Take the case of Maharashtra which is very advanced; in that, Vidarbha is very backward, Marathwada is backward. So, within a State also, you will have backwardness and different parameters. How can you judge Nagaland and Assam on Ease of Doing Business having a comparison with Maharashtra? There are geographical and other reasons.

Now, the question is: What is the Government of India doing to help the States not on the indices laid down by the World Bank? Because, those indices are different. The real question is how to change that State's Ease of Doing Business. That lies only with the Government of India to provide air connectivity, road connectivity, rail connectivity, port connectivity and other things. What is the Government of India doing towards that?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I am glad to know that there is so much interest on this topic because this is where the States and all of us will have to work together. I wish to first of all assure that the World Bank which is ranking States on doing business — it becomes a part of the Doing Business Report of the World Bank — is only giving us technical assistance. They are not going about inspecting States and saying, 'this State is better than that'. It is just a technical consultation together with an independent organisation,...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: But assistance is being given on that Madam.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: ... a consultant who works together with the Government of India and the States. And, in fact, from early April, 2016, there is a portal in which all the information is put on. They are all put on the portal for everybody to see as to what the States are doing; what is that they are lagging behind. And I take this point which the hon. Member, Shri Praful Patel, said about uniqueness of some States, the factors which go into ranking are all built into as to what is being taken as criteria. So it is not as if we are forgetting the uniqueness of the States, the role that the States play and it is not as if it is cut off from that, and the Centre is not distancing itself. Although, of course, the criteria is laid and it is for the States and also the surveyor who is going to assess. It is not as if the Central Government is influencing the ranking. But the fact remains that this is not the first time that this exercise is being done. Even in 2009, the World Bank had ranked States. So I wish to assure the hon. Members that this process is up in the portal for everybody to see. It is a transparent mechanism that we have adopted. In April that portal was launched. Hon. Members are welcome to have a look at it and give us their suggestions.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, my question is different. I agree with the hon. Minister. In this matter, the States and the Centre are involving together leading to — I am pointing to a negative side of it — a tremendous race to bottom phenomena so far as the people and workers are concerned. I think the Government must be aware of it, should be alive on that reality while arranging ease of doing business that for whom the ease of doing business is meant; the majority of the people who create value in the workplace should not be neglected. Now, you have pointed out in part 'D' of your reply that a State-level Business Reform Action Plan consisting of 340 points has been prepared by DIPP in consultation with, etc. My humble request to hon. Minister is to let us know all these 340 points and whether labour reform is focussed on liberating the labour of all protection which is available to them in a civilized society. I want to know whether that also forms a part of your these 340 ease of doing business points. Your Government's Labour Department's programme, the kind of programme of labour reform they have already tabled, is aimed at liberating labour of all protection which should be available in a civilised society.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I wish to assure the hon. Member here that each of the 340 criteria that is being used is available in the portal for the hon. Members to see. That portal was launched in April, 2016. But just because a specific point has been raised and I do not want to use the word 'insinuation' but suggestion or a kind of an indication is being made that this Government would want to relieve the obligations towards labour. No, not at all. We are conscious of our rights and the rights of the labour.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Your colleague is sitting by your side. Kindly go through the proposals. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Labour Ministry's Proposals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: No, no. But I would want to say... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: They will speak.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member that labour interests are being very well taken and only very quickly, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member here that point 170, 171, 172 and 173, 174 of the 340 points that we have mentioned, speak about the renewal of license for contractors under the provision of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. That is one example. But if you go through the 340 points, there are points 157, 158, regarding Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. So every such criteria and due diligence about following them are part of the ranking. So nothing that is related to labour...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. Please listen to the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. Mr. Tapan Sen, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it is of her liking. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. It is not a question of liking or not liking.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Your colleague is sitting by your side. The contractors who take contract labour are required to take license, and that threshold limit has been increased from 20 to 50, thereby liberating 90 per cent of the contractors in the country from their obligation to take licenses.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; thank you.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is at proposal stage. You ask your colleague who is sitting by your side.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am talking about the 340 measures which are important in ranking States, and in them, the existing law on the workers' welfare is not ignored. On the contrary, the compliance of those is very clearly mentioned, and I am quoting the serial number of those which make up for the 340.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I will check up. But your Government is doing the opposite. Your colleague is sitting by your side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interjection, please. Now, Q. No. 36.