

drills and platforms and allied machinery for offshore drilling, and to what extent the Russians were prepared to enter into financial collaboration on rupee payment basis?

Shri Iqbal Singh: As I said earlier, there are three ways of drilling offshore. One is the fixed platform method or the Russian method; this can be practical only upto 50—60 feet. The second is the floating platform method; this is a method the Americans have specialised in. It can drill upto 600 feet. The third is the mobile method which can go from 50 to 200 feet.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: The question which has been put must be answered, to what extent the Russians were prepared to finance it.

Mr. Speaker: If that method was not suitable, where is the question of Financing it?

Shri Daji: In view of our own and Pakistan's sad experience that these American and English companies went on drilling but failed to produce any oil, has any time limit been placed for possible drilling operations, or has any limit been placed on the marketing of the produce if the produce is manufactured?

Shri Alagesan: As far as marketing goes, we will take the entire oil that is to be found, because of our deficit. Our imports of crude oil are very large at present.

Shri Daji: Who will market it in India, the Government or the company?

Shri Alagesan: It will be sold to us. We will own 51 per cent of it; we will take the other 59 per cent at a fixed price.

Shri Namblar: What about the time-limit?

Shri Alagesan: The time limit will be 20 years.

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know whether there is a time limit for the possibility of exploration, for finding out whether actually the oil is there or not, not the whole term of lease that will be entered into.

Shri Alagesan: If we start exploration now, it may take about three years for us to know whether there is oil or not. We will be able to produce oil only after three years.

Workers in Rayon Factories

*365. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people working in Rayon Factories generally suffer from the occupational diseases due to fume;

(b) if so, the steps taken to compel the employers to get all the workers insured at their cost; and

(c) the nature of other amenities to be provided for workers in these factories?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Workers working in Viscose Rayon Factories are likely to suffer from effects of vapour of Carbon disulphide, sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide if proper hygienic measures are not adopted.

(b) The question of compelling employers to insure their workers at their cost does not arise as these factories are covered under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the workers are provided medical treatment, sickness and disability benefits under the Act.

(c) The provision of amenities is governed by the Factories Act, 1948 and the State Inspectors of Factories are empowered to see that these are provided.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The answer is most unfortunate. My question was whether it is a fact that the people

working in rayon factories generally suffer from the occupational diseases due to fume, and the hon. Minister has said that in the viscose department certain workers do suffer, but at the same time he has replied that because they are governed by the ESI scheme, if they are sick, they will be given proper treatment. My question is whether it is a fact that the employers have refused to give them either additional pay for the hazards of this skilled job involving occupational diseases or to give proper protection against the fume in the viscose, and if so, whether Government have issued any directions to the rayon industry to give this protection or increase their salary.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: A survey was carried out in a number of rayon factories, and the Director-General of Factory Advice Service made certain recommendations, and those recommendations aimed at ensuring safety of workers working in such factories, and those recommendations have been carried out in most cases.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that the employees' unions or the workers' unions of all the rayon factories in Bombay, Kanpur and other places have unanimously demanded the appointment of a wage board to consider not only their service conditions but their working conditions, and if so, what is the reaction of the Government, whether the wage board would be formed?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Wage board is quite a different thing. The Director-General of Factory Advice Service has formulated a plan whether he is going to carry out a very detailed survey of the working of these viscose plants and actually he has instructed the director in charge of the Nagda plant to get in touch with the administration and start the detailed surveys. As a result of these surveys necessary action will be taken.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question was specific: whether the employees of these factories have unanimously demanded the appointment of a wage board for two purposes for the betterment of their service conditions and wages and also to consider the hazardous work that they are doing. I want a specific reply.

Mr. Speaker: The wage board must be dealing with the remuneration that has to be given they may take into consideration the working conditions also, the risks involved, and all these things. He says that that is a different thing and therefore he is not answering that. About the wage board, he has answered that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: If he cannot answer now, let him ask for notice.

Shri A. P. Sharma: The hon. Deputy Minister just now said that a survey was conducted in the rayon factories. What is the result of the survey? Does it indicate how many workers suffer from occupational diseases and how much compensation was paid to them?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The survey did revealed that there were some instances of disease and poisoning cases.

Mr. Speaker: He wants figures. Can he give them?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: So far, officially under section 89 of the Factories Act, no case of poisoning had been reported to us.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह जो रेयन कारखानों के बारे में इनकवायरी आज से दस-बारह साल पहले हुई थी उसमें कारखानों के इन्स्पेक्टर जनरल ने एक रिपोर्ट दी थी कि इन कारखानों में जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं वे पांच घंटे प्रतिदिन से अधिक काम न करें और पांच साल से अधिक की सर्विस न लेवें, इस प्रकार की जो उन्होंने रिपोर्ट दी थी उस पर कुछ अमल किया गया है यदि नहीं तो उसका क्या कारण है और यह जो उन्होंने

सिफारिशों की थी उन्हें कई कारखानों के द्वारा बिलकुल माना नहीं जा रहा है तो उसके लिए सरकार क्या करने जा रही है ?

श्री शहनवाज खां : यह सिफारिश ज्यादातर लोगों ने मान ली है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं इनके न माने जाने का उदाहरण दे सकता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने कहा है कि मान ली हैं अब मैं क्या करूँ ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : बिलकुल नहीं मानी जा रही हैं लोग बड़े परेशान हो रहे हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप पटिकुलर इस्टासेज मंत्री जी के पास लिख कर भेज दीजिये ।

श्री शहनवाज खां : मैंने कहा ज्यादा तादाद में मान ली गई हैं ।

Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Have any preventive measures been thought out so that they may not fall prey to such diseases. If so, what are they?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The steps taken are given in the Factories Act and in the schedule. The factory inspectorate is responsible to ensure that workers are not made to work under conditions which are detrimental to their health.

Shri Oza: Because of the technological and industrial progress, it is sufficiently known in which industries workers suffer from occupational diseases and it is not necessary to have fresh surveys. Before licences are issued, should not the Government insist upon the employers to make provision for the safety of the workers so that they may not get these diseases?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is done.

Shri Priya Gupta: Under the Factories and other Compensation Acts, because of lacunae in the provisions, for which reasonable amendments are to be brought forward by the govern-

ment, especially by Mr. Jagjivan Ram who is our Labour Minister, payment of compensation for the trade disease or other diseases could not be given. Will the Government consider amending the Factories Act and the Schedule under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): It is general question. If he points out specific provisions of the Factories Act where there are the lacunae, certainly we would consider that.

Shri Daji: The House will be shocked to know that the report of the expert committee says that 20 per cent of the workers suffer from vomiting, 15 per cent from insomnia and five per cent from impotency. Two important steps recommended by the expert committee appointed by the Government of India were (1) a five-hour working day and (2) complete air conditioning in the gas department. Will the Government tell the House whether any one of these recommendations has been carried out in any one of these factories in the country?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I stated before, there are at present 10 such factories and in most of them it has been carried out.

Shri Daji: What about the five-hour week? (*Interruption*). Does the Minister know what he is talking about?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं इसका प्रमाण दे सकता हूँ । नागदा में जा कर देख लें । वहाँ बड़ी गड़बड़ी है । यह मेरे क्षेत्र की बात है ।

Mr. Speaker: There is a great difference of opinion about that. The Minister might look into it. The hon. Member has mentioned two things: five-hour work per day in the factories and air-conditioning. This might

be looked into and then a statement might be made by the Minister.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will look into it and place the information on the Table of the House.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह मेरे क्षेत्र की बात है। नागदा मेरे क्षेत्र में . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह से तो मैं बोलने नहीं दे सकता हूँ। मैंने कह तो दिया है कि मिनिस्टर साहब स्टेटमेंट करें। वह स्टेटमेंट दे देंगे।

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Let him write to me; I will take action.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is the Government aware that licences for rayon factories have been given at the cost of the handloom factories on the one hand, and the monopolists have been managing to get more factories on the other hand? The factory at Nagda is the kimpin of all these factories. I want to know whether the monopolists pressurise the State Governments and make all the labour provisions useless and liquidate them. In what way does the Government of India step into these poison cases where the labour is sweated and where the labour is affected to a very much higher degree than in any other factories? I want to know whether we should write letters to him or whether the Government themselves would interfere in it and improve the conditions.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: He has put the question as well as all the details about the implementation of labour legislation and the administration of the department. The hon. Member is aware that the enforcement of the Factories Act is the responsibility of the State Governments. Let us hope that the State Governments will establish the machinery to enforce them.

श्री बड़े : नागदा के स्टेशन पर बड़ी बदबू आती है। वहाँ आप बैठ भी नहीं सकते हैं। वहाँ पर जितने मजदूर काम करते हैं

वे कितने बीमार पड़ते हैं यह आपके वहाँ जो डाक्टर हैं उनसे आप पता लगा सकते हैं। इस्पैक्टर जाता है। उसको मुगालते में डाल कर वापिस भेज दिया जाता है। उसको एयर कंडिशनड कर दिया गया है ऐसी रिपोर्ट आपको किस ने दी है? बदबू नहीं आती है इसके बारे में आपको रिपोर्ट किसने दी है? पांच घंटे से ज्यादा वर्कर काम नहीं करते हैं ऐसी सूचना आपको कहां से मिली है?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Who has said that it has been air-conditioned? I do not think anybody has said that it is air-conditioned.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उपमंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि सबकी सबको मान लिया गया है। नागदा भी उसमें आ जाता है।

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have no information whether that has been air-conditioned or not. I am not in a position to say that. Whatever measures have been recommended, I will bring them to the notice of the State authorities.

Shri Hem Barua: Why should India have rayon factories only for a few fashionable people?

Mr. Speaker: Because India has to cater to the needs of Shri Hem Barua as well!

Shri Hem Barua: They are for me?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Ever since the rayon industry has been established in this country, may I know if any survey or surveys have been conducted in order to find out to what extent the workers working in some sections of this industry are prone to occupational diseases and, if so, what are the results of those survey reports?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is a report called the Survey of carbon disulphide, hydrogen sulphide and sulphur dioxide hazards of viscose rayon industry factories in India, and I would advise the hon. Member to read it.