

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 2, 1966/
Kartika 11, 1888 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wage Board for Journalists

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- *31. Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Warler:
Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 66 on the 27th July, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for the Working and Non-working Journalists has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof and Government's decision thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Wage Board for Working Journalists has published its proposals of wage structure with a view to invite comments. The Wage Board for Non-journalists is continuing its deliberations. The Wage Boards

have to deal with complex issues requiring detailed investigations and have also to take into account the view points of various interests.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: Inasmuch as the Government was pleased to say in the last meeting on the 27th July that the progress of the work of the Committee is satisfactory and that the report will come very shortly, may I know the reasons for the inordinate delay?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Wage Board for Working Journalists was appointed on 12th November, 1963 and for Non-journalists on 25th February, 1964. As I have stated in my reply, a very large number of newspaper establishments, and unions running into something like over 9,000 had to be consulted. Because the previous decision of the Wage Board was upset by the decision of the Supreme Court, a set procedure had to be followed. They are trying to expedite it as much as possible. It is ready and we hope the final decision will be announced by the end of next month.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: May I know whether any interim report has been given by the Wage Board? If not, may I know whether Government would request them to give an interim report in view of the importance and urgency of fixation of minimum wages to journalists?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Interim relief was given. It is not proposed to request them to issue an interim report. As I said, the final report is expected to be ready by the end of next month.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Pending the final recommendation of the Wage Board, may I know whether Government has taken any steps to settle the dispute between the workers and management of the Statesman?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is entirely a separate question. When a dispute is raised the normal machinery for conciliation and arbitration will come into play.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that there is serious discontent among the Working Journalists regarding the Wage Board Award and the Non-working Journalists are also equally agitated over the non-publication of the recommendations. I would also like to know whether the award is likely to be discussed with the Working Journalists before its final implementation takes place.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The draft of the Award is ready. It has been circulated for comments. They will certainly be given an opportunity to place their point of view before a decision is taken for implementation.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that pending the implementation of the report exploitation of the Working Journalists is going on everywhere and employees are even being dismissed by private newspapers without any rhyme or reason?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Mention *Statesman*.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether any action has been taken to give them some protection until the Report is finally implemented?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Whenever a dispute arises or whenever any worker feels aggrieved, there is a certain machinery for settling those disputes and that machinery can be taken advantage of.

Shri Warior: May I know whether the Government has considered the possibility of plugging the loophole in the previous Wage Board's decision which the Supreme Court had come down upon? If the legal lacuna is removed, the implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations

can be expedited. Why is that at least not done?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Wage Board will certainly take notice of the decision of the Supreme Court.

श्री बिश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों तथा गैर-श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों संबंधी मजूरी बोर्ड ने अपनी अन्तिम सिफारिशें नहीं प्रस्तुत की हैं और उप के संबंध में देश के अन्दर कई जगहों पर हड़तालें इत्यादि चलती रहती हैं तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस की कोशिश कर रही है कि अन्तरिम रिपोर्ट वह इन को दे दे और उस के अनुसार सरकार कोई कार्यवाही करे ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : मैं अर्ज कर चुका हूँ कि अन्तरिम रिपोर्ट देने का कोई सवाल नहीं है ।

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Apart from the material benefits that might accrue to the journalists after this Wage Board report is published, may I know whether the question of workload for journalists in a particular job is also being gone into by this Wage Board or by another board that the Government has set up?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The question of workload, remuneration and all these aspects were discussed before the Wage Board and the representatives of unions were given full opportunity to place their points of view before the Wage Board.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: What is the difficulty for Government to take steps to see that such wage boards are not made use of as dilatory devices for justice being done to the employees who are suffering under the spiralling prices? Why can a deadline not be fixed by which the report should be submitted

Shri Shah Nawas Khan: This wage board for working journalists is a statutory body and they have to follow a set procedure like the law courts. We from our Ministry go on reminding them that it should be expedited and a decision should be taken as early as possible. That is all that we can do.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know....

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua is not in his seat.

Shri Hem Barua: I have been pulled from there by Shri Tyagi.

Mr. Speaker: During Question Hour this should not be done. Even Shri Tyagi is not in his seat.

Shri Hem Barua: Shri Tyagi has pulled me from there to this place and he will not allow me to go there.

Shri Tyagi: Shri Samanta having gone on to the other side I have brought him here.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर गया है कि जर्नलिस्ट्स के वेज बोर्ड ने जो अंतिम सिफारिशों की हैं अब तक उन सिफारिशों को अनेक समाचार-पत्रों ने कार्यान्वित नहीं किया है यदि ऐसी बात हो तो उन सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या मशीनरी बनाई है और जो अंतिम सिफारिशें होंगी उन्हें सभी समाचारपत्र ठीक-ठीक कार्यान्वित कर सकें इस के लिए सरकार क्या मशीनरी बनाने जा रही है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जहां तक वकिंग जर्नलिस्ट्स वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों का ताल्लुक है वह करीबन इम्प्लीमेंट हो चुकी है ।

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : नहीं हुई है ।

श्री शाहनवाज खां : करीबन इम्प्लीमेंट हो चुकी है । बहुत तसल्लीबख्श उन का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन है । दूसरा बोर्ड जो है उस का लगभग 75 फीसदी इम्प्लीमेंटेशन हुआ है,

हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि जो बाकी है वह भी इम्प्लीमेंट हो जाय ।

मद्य निषेध

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*32. श्री हुकूम खन्द कछवाय :

श्री बड़े :

श्री हरि विरगु कामत :

श्री हेम बरुआ :

श्री सुरेन्द्रनाथ त्रिबेदी :

श्री मधु सिन्घे :

श्री किशन पटनायक :

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :

श्री प्र० रं० चक्रवर्ती :

श्री हु० चा० लिंग रेड्डी :

श्रीमती सावित्री निरम :

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय :

श्री बागडूी :

श्री यशपाल सिंह :

डा० लक्ष्मीमल्ल सिधबी :

श्री सुरेन्द्रपाल सिंह :

श्री विभूति मिश्र :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री 3 अगस्त तथा 7 सितम्बर, 1966 के क्रमशः तारकित प्रश्न संख्या 232 तथा 840 के उत्तरों के संबंध में यह बताने की वृत्ता करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मद्य निषेध मर्मित की सिफारिशों के संबंध में राज्य सरकारों की प्रतिक्रियाओं पर सरकार ने विचार कर लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उमके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में सितम्बर, 1966 के मध्य में राज्यों के मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन हुआ था ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उम में क्या निर्णय किये गये थे ?