

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, April 3, 1959/Chaitra 13, 1881
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Contribution to Employees Provident Fund

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*1641. { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Labour and
Employment be pleased to refer to the
reply given to Starred Question No
11 on the 17th November, 1958 and
state:

(a) whether the proposal to enforce
the decision to enhance the rate of
contribution to the Employees Provi-
dent Fund from 6½ per cent to 8½
per cent has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the industries that would
be covered during the initial phase;
and

(c) the total number of employees
to whom the scheme would be
extended?

The Deputy Minister of Labour
(Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

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(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Rajendra Singh: May I know
the reasons for not finalising this
scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: The first reason is
that we want to cover first those who
do not get provident fund at all, then
the workers who get provident fund
on basic wage and not on dearness
allowance; and then, according to the
scheme, as the hon Members know, if
this scheme is applied, the workers
will be entitled to get provident fund
both on basic wage and on dearness
allowance

Now, the difficulty is that if this
additional burden is imposed on some
of the industries, factories and estab-
lishments which are just working on
marginal lines, there is likelihood of
their being closed, and workers
rendered unemployed and the country
suffering in production. All these
things are to be taken care of, before
this additional burden is put on the
industry

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know
whether it is a fact that the Labour
Minister met the employers' represen-
tatives at Bombay recently and dis-
cussed this issue, and if so, what
decisions were taken, and whether
some of those employers have even
agreed to this?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, this meeting
did take place early this year. So,
all these factors were taken into
consideration, and it was decided that
such of the industries as could con-
veniently bear this additional burden
should be covered.

Shri Tangamani: May I know, how
many workers are now covered under
the Employees Provident Fund Act

statutorily, what their contribution is, what the employers' contribution is, or in other words, what the amount actually standing in the provident fund is?

Shri Abid Ali: It is about Rs 15 lakhs, and the amount accumulated on account of provident fund should be in the neighbourhood of Rs 125 crores

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this scheme is going to be a phased programme, so far as the implementation is concerned, may I know what stands in the way of implementing this scheme in the industries which can bear the burden?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, we are investigating that

श्री भक्त बर्दान : माननीय मंत्री जी न बतलाया कि यह योजना अभी कुछ ही उद्योगों में लागू की गयी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे कौन कौन से उद्योग हैं जिनमें अब तक यह योजना लागू की गयी है ?

श्री आबिद अली : बहुत से हैं। सीमेंट सिगरेट, इलेक्ट्रिक, आइरन एण्ड स्टील, पेपर, टेक्सटाइल, शुगर, रबर, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी टी, फ्रिटिंग, स्टोन, पाइप्स, मैनिटरी वेयर्स इलेक्ट्रिकल, पोरसिलेन रिफ्रेक्टरी, टाइल्स बर्नरह बर्नरह ।

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether there is any proposal to enforce this scheme in the public sector also?

श्री आबिद अली जी हा ज़रूर ।
पब्लिक सेक्टर में तो प्रावीडेंट फंड भी जारी है ।

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The hon Minister has said that it will be very difficult for those industries that are running on marginal lines to pay this increased provident fund contribution...

Mr Deputy-Speaker: The hon Minister remembers all right what he has said just now, therefore, the hon. Member need not repeat it, he may just ask his question

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether Government have examined the difficulties of those industries, and if they find that they are actually in difficulties, then what will happen to those industries which are run on marginal lines?

Shri Abid Ali: We shall be covering first those industries which can conveniently bear this additional burden

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: The hon. Minister is reported to have said that the housing problem is being tackled very slowly. May I know whether any attempt is being made to ask the employers to take up this housing question in a more urgent way?

Shri Abid Ali: That is quite a separate question

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the employers have stoutly opposed the enhancement of this provident fund contribution, and if so, which type of employers have opposed it?

Shri Abid Ali: I have already explained what transpired at the meeting

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Last November, the hon Minister said that the question of enhancement would be taken up first in those industries where the price, production and distribution are regulated. May I know why no decision has been taken with regard to those industries?

Shri Abid Ali: First, we shall try to investigate those establishments, particularly concerning cement, sugar and steel

Shri Rajendra Singh: May I know the proportion of those industries which are in danger of losing their ground in case of implementation of this increased provident fund contribution, in relation to those industries which are willing to do it?

Shri Abid Ali: I could not hear the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know the proportion of those industries which would not be able to bear this burden, in relation to those on which this burden can be placed?

Shri Abid Ali: I have already submitted that we have to investigate the matter yet.

Mining Boards

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*1642. { **Shri S. C. Samanta.**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mining Boards have been constituted for the States of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if not, when they are likely to be constituted, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the constitution of these Boards in the States which have not set up the same so far?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (**Shri L. N. Mishra**): (a) to (c). A Mining Board has been constituted in Andhra Pradesh but not in Mysore. The Board for Mysore is expected to be constituted shortly

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know why there is so much delay? The hon Minister had told us last time that information had been asked for from the Mysore Government as regards some particulars of the constitution of the Board.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Yes, there was delay in getting the particulars from the mine-owners' association. We have got the particulars, and we have asked them to nominate their representatives; and the Board will be constituted very shortly.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any proposal to have one single Board for Mysore and Andhra Pradesh has come to Government?

Shri L. N. Mishra: No such proposal has come. Andhra Pradesh has its own Board, and Mysore will have a separate Board.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या इस प्रकार के बोर्ड और राज्यों में भी बन रहे हैं या केवल आन्ध्र और मैसूर राज्यों में ही बने हैं। और अगर दूसरे राज्यों में भी बन रहे हैं तो अभी तक कितने राज्यों में बन गये हैं और कितने में बनने वाले हैं।

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : उन राज्यों में जहाँ दस हजार से अधिक मजदूर खानों में काम करने हैं वे बोर्ड बनाये गये हैं। ये मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार, उड़ीसा बंगाल और राजस्थान में बनाये गये हैं।

Shri Tangamani: May I know when the first meeting of this Board which has been set up in Andhra Pradesh will take place, and what the items on the agenda are?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I want notice for that question. I cannot say off-hand when the Board will be meeting.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Act was enforced seven years ago, and the Board for Mysore has not yet been constituted. What are the special reasons for this? Apart from asking the owners, what steps have been taken to get the list from the owners? If the owners do not give the particulars, they can constitute some Board.

Shri L. N. Mishra: There has been delay. It was promulgated in 1955; so, it is not seven years ago, but only about four years back. There has been delay, the main reason is that we had not got the particulars from the mine-owners' association. We have got them now and the Board is to be constituted very shortly.