

He cleared the position about the Jhudpi jungle. But after Shri Bhajan Lal, it was reversed. What is the attitude of the new Government about the Jhudpi jungle?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : I am not aware of the details he is asking. But I shall furnish them later.

Translation

SHRI DATTA MEGHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of Jhudpi jungle prevails in some districts of Vidharba region. The Government of Madhya Pradesh lent no ears to what the Central Government proposed. Development proposals of others were cleared but this was not cleared. You know it well that this problem persists in several districts near Nagpur in Maharashtra. The matter was discussed time and again; decisions were also taken but not implemented. Will the Government clear the proposal within one or one and a half months to solve the problem of Jhudpi jungle in Vidharba region

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : As I said, about Jhudpi jungle, I do not have the information. But I would like to assure the Member that between Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, especially his region, I would not have any disparity.

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : One project that the hon. Minister has referred to in his reply is the Telugu Ganga project. It is pending with the Union Government for its clearance. To my knowledge, all the information has been supplied by the Andhra Pradesh Government. It is pending with the Union Government for its clearance for more than six months.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what exactly is the reason? Why is it still pending even if it is more than six months?

MR. SPEAKER : The question has already been answered in detail.

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : No, Sir. About the Telugu Ganga, it has not been answered.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : He has referred to a very specific project. Several cases are pending. I am not aware of this particular case. But I shall give him the information.

SAFETY MEASURES IN HAZARDOUS PLANTS

*31. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the strict implementation of safety measures for workers in chemical plants, mines and other hazardous plants; and

(b) the details of the system adopted to monitor the safety measures in major public and private sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) and (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The safety measures for workers in chemical plants and other hazardous plants (except mines) are covered under the Factories Act (as amended in 1987) and the rules made thereunder. This Act is enforced by the State Governments through the Chief Inspectors of Factories. The compliance with the safety measures laid down under this statute and the rules made thereunder is monitored through :—

- (i) periodical inspections carried out by the Inspectors;
- (ii) scrutiny of applications received from the management for licensing, approval and registration of factories and for their periodical renewal;
- (iii) scrutiny of documents such as on-site emergency plans and other information etc., which are required to be submitted by the management to the Chief Inspector;
- (iv) investigation of complaints or representations received from workers; and
- (v) investigation of serious/fatal accidents.

2. The provisions for safety of workers employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations made thereunder. The Mines Act places responsibilities on the owner, the agent and the manager of mine and the supervisory officials concerned to provide for and ensure implementation of the safety measures. Officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety, inspect mines periodically in order to check compliance of the statutory provisions. Besides, Workmen's inspectors, safety committees, safety officers and other officers of internal safety organisations and the Conference on safety in mines etc., are some of the other instruments which contribute towards monitoring and implementation of safety measures in mines.

3. The safety provisions are applicable to all factories and mines as defined in the relevant statute irrespective of the fact whether they are in the public sector or in the private sector.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : A large number of workers are working in chemical plants, especially those plants where radioactive materials are handled. They are suffering from skin diseases, lung diseases and there are a number of cases of cancer. So far no effective monitoring measures are taken to look into these cases. So, may I request the hon. Minister to see that effective measures would be taken so that the safety of the workers in the chemical plants is ensured ?

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. member has asked a question about the safety aspect and monitoring of safety measures in the chemical plants and other hazardous plants. I would like to inform the hon. member through you that most of the measures for the safety of workers who work in the hazardous chemical plants are covered under the Factories Act, which is solely administered by the State Governments. It is not under the purview of the Central Government. My Ministry is in charge of mines only. However, we cannot shut our eyes. Wherever there is lack of safety measures, whether it be factories or chemical plants or any other place, we also monitor from time to time. Particularly in those cases

where the State Governments are involved, the Director General who sits in Bombay reviews the cases from time to time. We also suggest modification and amendment of certain rules of the Factories Act, taking into account the new working conditions of the plants. The Government of India is also taking the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation into account and we are instructing the concerned State Governments over these aspects from time to time. I am one to agree with the hon. member that there cannot be any compromise on the question of safety measures.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : The hon. Minister himself is a veteran trade union leader. When a similar question is put before the State Government, he knows what their answer is. The State Governments say that major chemical industries are with the Central Government and public sector and that they are helpless in these matters. Now the same question is put to the Central Government and the Central Government is putting the burden on the State Government I have a humble request to make. I want to ask the hon. Minister in respect of these workers whether they be in the private sector or public sector or under the State Government or the Central Government, their safety problems should be looked into....

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : I am coming to it Sir. I am explaining from the practical point of view. When we go to the State Government, they wash off their hands. When we approach the Central Government they also wash their hands off. Even hon. Minister also does the same. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take some personal interest in the matter so that with regard to safety measures in the public sector and also in the private sector, we will have a coordinating and monitoring machinery under the Government of India.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : I assure the hon. member that we will never wash our hands off. As far as safety measures and adherence to rules are concerned, we are taking certain constant coordinating

measures. The National Safety Council in Bombay is registered under the Societies Act. It has a tripartite character in the sense that it is represented by employers, workers and the Government. The National Safety Council is coordinating these matters and it takes up these issues with the concerned State Governments. Since it is a tripartite body, workmen are also involved in it and from time to time they are suggesting the measures to be adhered to. At the shop floor level and at the plant level itself, Safety Council and other organisations are also working. If my hon. friend bring any specific case to my knowledge, I will definitely look into it.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Sir, in the high explosive factories of Pune no care has been taken regarding the safety of workers who are working there. They are exposed to skin cancer and diseases of Lungs. So, I would like to know what safety measures have been taken for the workers who are working there.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Sir, again this question is concerned with regard to Pune and other areas where workers are working in the hazardous places of high explosive industries. If any specific case is brought to my knowledge I will take it up with the Government of Maharashtra and I will definitely do the needful.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

EXPORT OF GIRLS

*24. **DR. ASIM BALA :** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any statistics on export of girls to foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

UNIVERSITIES FOLLOWING UGC ACADEMIC CALENDAR

*25. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Universities, particularly in Bihar, which are following the guidelines provided by the University Grants Commission regarding the academic calendar;

(b) the Universities, particularly in Bihar, which are not implementing the guidelines; and

(c) the specific steps being taken to ensure full compliance in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) : As a follow up action on the National Policy on Education, 1986, the University Grants Commission had circulated a model academic calendar in July, 1989 for implementation by universities from the academic year 1990-91. According to the information furnished by the Commission, six universities, including Magadh University in Bihar, have agreed to adopt the model academic calendar. The Commission is pursuing the matter with the State Governments and universities to implement the academic calendar.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF CHATTOPADHYAYA COMMISSION

*28. **SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chattopadhyaya Commission had made certain recommendations to improve the conditions of teachers;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made;

(c) how many of these have since been implemented;

(d) the likely date by when the remaining recommendations are likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?