

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Minister the share of the Ministry of Water Resources to be borne in the amount earmarked for construction of road-bridge and whether Government of U.P. has given its share or is it outstanding? You are running Govt. in Bihar, you are running Govt. in centre and you are also running Government in U.P. All of you have contributed a lot in construction of this bridge. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is using his influence in Bihar Government and obtaining that amount from the Ministry of Water Resources to construct the bridge without any delay. What is the reason for not giving the amount by the Ministry of Water Resources so far?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Speaker, Sir, as regards the Ministry of Water Resources only 22.53 Crore Rupees are outstanding against them. U.P. has given their share. M/o Railway had to give Rs. 76.14 crore. We have given Rs. 93.58 Crore in place of Rs. 76 Crore. Rs. 17 Crore more has been invested. Rs. 4.73 Crore are outstanding against Bihar Government. Bihar Govt. has promised that they would pay this amount in the year of 1996-97. As regard the M/o Water Resources. I talked to them personally, in this regard our officers were kept in touch from time to time. Earlier, Mr. Shukla was the Minister of the M/o Water Resources, I also talked with them on my own. I also talked to Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, he told that he would take action in this regard as soon as possible. After getting this amount from the Planning Commission he will allocate it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Speaker Sir, Bagaha-Chitauni Railway bridge was constructed. Now you are going to convert it in to broadgauge. That route goes to Kaptanganj and Gorakhpur. From Kaptanganj, Metre Line goes for Seewan. It is a small part and small line. Will you convert it in broad gauge, if so, when? Besides this, this route was connected to Chitauni. Chitauni-Bagaha Railway bridge was constructed before five km. taking diversion from Paniyama. Now train is going from there this is the demand of the people of that area and the delegation has also met you. You have promised that Rail will operate up to Chitauni. Are you going to fulfil their demand and are you going to start broadgauge from Kaptanganj to Seewan.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Suggestion given by honourable Minister will be considered.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment for Generation of Jobs in India

*309. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE, RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government would not let industry eat up jobs" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated September 22, 1996;

(b) if so, whether after initiation of liberalisation policy and consequent foreign capital investments in the country the percentage of generation of jobs in the country has not picked up;

(c) if not, the details of total foreign capital investment in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan uptill March, 1996 alongwith the details of percentage of additional jobs generated as a result thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether due to the influx of foreign capital and latest technology from abroad the percentage of generation of jobs has come down; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Employment in the organised sector which was of the order of 25.7 million as on 31.3.1991 has gone up to about 27.7 million as on 31.3.1996. Detailed study on the effect of foreign investment on employment or unemployment has not been made.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Speaker Sir, the reply is given by the Hon. Minister is not satisfactory. Since the introduction of New Economy Policy in 1991 and liberal policy came into force, country is leading towards Unemployment. In this house, the then Govt. told that the technology to be developed and to be brought in India would be labour-oriented. It was also stated that we would take positive steps to solve the problem of Unemployment.

During the last 5 years, what progress we made, is not clear from the reply of the hon. Minister. It is admitted in it that employment is increase by 1.1 percent. Survey was not conducted in this regard. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the number of opportunities of employment increased with the labour oriented technique foreign investment in last five years. House should be intimated clearly in this regard that if there is any scheme by which Unemployment could be minimised?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, after the introduction of the New Economic Policy in 1991, there was a concerted move towards permitting the greater role of foreign capital in India to supplement the domestic resources including technology. From 1991 onwards, certain high priority industrial sectors allowed automatic foreign equity participation of up to 51 per cent. Today, these high priority sectors include 35 industries which are mostly manufacturing industries with the exception

of the software, hotel and tourism industries in the services area. This has created employment opportunities. If you see the unemployment rate, it has created employment opportunities. If you see the unemployment rate, it has come down considerably. In 1987-88, the overall unemployment rate is 3.77 per cent. In 1993-94, if you see it, after the introduction of the New Economic Policy, it has come down to 2.56 per cent. Therefore, this New Economic Policy has helped to create employment opportunities.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Speaker Sir, it is requested to Hon. Minister to increase the opportunities of employment through foreign investment and what he quoted in his reply, is unsatisfactory. It is requested that foreign investment may be increased in our country. But the Government has not cleared to what extent unemployment was removed by labour oriented foreign investment. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any time bound, planned programme has been chalked out to bring down the unemployment

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : It is up to the Planning Commission. They have to chart out the programmes. There are Departments which are creating employment opportunities. The Urban Affairs and Employment Department has been creating employment opportunities in the urban areas. The Rural Development is creating employment opportunities in the rural areas.

[English]

Transportation of Cement

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*310. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways cannot provide wagons to the cement industry for movement of coal to cement plants and to transport cement out of cement plants and that despatch of cement by rail is declining every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that transportation of Coal and Cement by Road instead of by Rail means additional oil import of Rs. 2500 Crores a year in foreign exchange;

(c) if so, what action the Government has been taking to take over transportation of these two bulk commodities, to get back their due revenue of Rs. 8495 crores and to reduce oil import by Rs. 2500 crores a year; and

(d) if not, the details of actual shortage in rail transport, actual loss of revenue and actual additional oil import involved and action taken to prevent them?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) At present, there is no difficulty in clearing the traffic offered by Cement plants for movement of cement or for movement of coal to cement plants. There have been occasions in the past when wagon difficulty was experienced. However, despatch of cement by rail increased every year as compared to the preceding year except during 1992-93 and 1994-95.

(b) The statistics referred to are not available. At present, Railway have adequate wagons to transport coal and cement.

(c) and (d). The requirement of wagons is reviewed continuously and whenever wagon shortage is felt, additional wagons are acquired. Steps taken to improve loading of bulk commodities include induction of container service for movement of cement, introduction of crack rakes of air-brake stock on specified circuits with intensive maintenance to give extended run, intensive monitoring at terminals for loading and unloading to reduce detention to wagons etc. These measures have brought about improvement in wagon turn round and thereby improved overall availability of wagons for freight traffic. The actual loading of total coal, coal for "others" including cement sector and loading of cement for the current year, upto October, 1996, is more than the pro-rata target for the current financial year as well as the actual loading during the corresponding period of 1995-96.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has admitted that there was some shortage of wagons... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice regarding the breach of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is going on at present why do you put it now?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am putting a supplementary question... (Interruptions) He has admitted that there was some shortage of wagons and because of that, the movement of cement from the industry to the consumers was affected. There was a news item in the month of September saying that the cement manufacturers had decided to close down some of their plants because of non-availability of sufficient number of wagons. Cement is one of the bulk freight traffic of the Indian Railways.

12.00 hrs.

In order to increase the availability of wagons, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take steps