

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Deputy Minister stated that before delivery of foodgrains from godowns to the stores there is inspection. But we find substandard foodgrains in the market. Has any inspecting authority been punished?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We supply the wheat and if in the bag itself there is deteriorating quality found, we take back the bag and supply good quality wheat or good quality rice as the case may be. As regards dealing with the possibility of any admixture or adulteration after that, we have now arranged for inspection of every ration shop every day to find out whether there is any adulteration after that, and we are keeping a strict watch. If there is adulteration, we will take action.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने जो नैशनल सीड कारपोरेशन की स्थापना की है, वह हैन्ड्रिड किस्म का सीड दे रहा है, इस सीड की 50 प्रतिशत बोरीयां ऐसी निकलती हैं, जिस में जैनेशन भी नहीं होती। जब इस किस्म का सीड रूँदा किया जायगा तो क्या उत्पादन देश में बढ़ सकता है और सही ह्यूट मिल सकता है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The question of seeds is completely different from this question. As far as seeds are concerned, they are separately procured and better quality grains are taken for that purpose.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the hon. Minister or any one of his lieutenants or officials has ever visited these ration shops and seen for himself the difference in the quality of wheat and rice sold at the 'P' Block store and wheat and rice sold at other stores in the capital? If he were to see that, he will find that there is a big difference between the quality of wheat and rice which is sold here and the quality of wheat and rice which is sold in Darya Ganj or near Jama Masjid.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I shall ask my officer to make a visit.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जैसा कि अभी माननीय मंत्री ने उत्तर में बतलाया कि घटिया किस्म का जो गेहूँ होता है उसे वापिस ले लेते हैं लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि जो घटिया गेहूँ होता है सड़ा हुआ और पानी से मरा हुआ उस गेहूँ को पीसने के लिए आटा मिलों को दिया जाता है और आटा मिलें जब उसे पीसने से मना करती हैं और कहती हैं कि घटिया किस्म हम नहीं पीसेंगे तो उन पर दबाव डाला जाता है और धमकी दी जाती है कि अगर तुम इसे नहीं पीसोगे तो तुम्हारे कारखाने को बंद कर दिया जायगा इसलिए घटिया किस्म का अनाज उन्हें पीसना ही होगा और वह उनको पीसने को दिया जाता है, क्या यह बात सही है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No, they are not being pres-surised to accept rotten wheat.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I should like to know whether it is not a fact that certain foodgrains including wheat, rice and American milo which are being sold are considered generally inedible; in particular, whether it is a fact that last year the Milo which was being sold at Rs. 2½ a maund is being sold this year at Rs. 26 a maund, though it is received free from the United States Government.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sorry, I could not follow.

Mr. Speaker: He has gone out of the question. Short Notice Question.

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

हिन्दुस्तान लीवर लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों की भूख हड़ताल

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S.N.Q. 10. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :

श्री बड़े :

श्री राम सेवक यादव :

श्री यू० द० सिंह :

श्री ओंकार लाल बरवा :

10 य० ना० सिंह :

क्या श्रम, रोजगार तथा पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान लीवर लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों ने दिल्ली में भूख हड़ताल की हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उन कारणों का पता लगाने का कोई प्रयास किया है जिनके कारण कर्मचारियों को भूख हड़ताल करनी पड़ी है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कारणों का व्योरा क्या है ; और

(घ) इस समस्या को सुलझाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The hunger strike has been resorted to against the alleged unilateral action of the management in introducing a programme of intergration of the firm's three separate Units viz. Toilet, Food and Soap.

(d) Neither of the parties has so far approached the Labour Commissioner, Delhi with the request for intervention. However, on enquiries made by him from the parties, it was reported both by the Management and the Union that the issue involved was connected with the firm's operations in their units all over India and they did not wish the Delhi Administration to intervene at this stage.

श्री हुकूम चन्द कच्छवाय : हिन्दुस्तान लीवर लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों द्वारा क्या माननीय मंत्री को या सरकार को कोई मैमो-रेंडम दिया हुआ है, यदि हां, तो उस में क्या क्या उन्होंने मांग की है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : जी हां, उन्होंने एक मैमो-रेंडम दिया है जब वे मेरे पास आये थे और जैसा कि मैंने अभी आप को अपने उत्तर में बतलाया उस में उन की प्रमुख मांग यह है कि प्रबन्धकों द्वारा फर्म में तीन अलग अलग इकाइयों, इन तीन कामों को जो एक साथ मिला दिया गया है वह न किया जाय । व्यापार करने के मामले में भी ट्रान्सपोर्ट वर्ग-रह को भी ठेकेदार की मार्फत करा रहे हैं इसलिए खतरा है कि बहुत से जो वहां काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हैं वह इस तरह से सरप्लस हो जायेंगे और जिनको हटाया जा सकता है ।

श्री हुकूम चन्द कच्छवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस कम्पनी द्वारा जो ठेकेदारी की प्रथा चालू की गई है तो क्या इस सम्बन्ध में इस कम्पनी के प्रबन्धकों ने आप से कोई सलाह मशविग किया था या आप को इस बात की सूचना दी थी, यदि नहीं तो ऐसा उन्होंने जो किया है यह कानून का हनन किया है तो आप इस सम्बन्ध में कौन सी कानूनी कार्यवाही उन के खिलाफ करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : जी नहीं, उन से मेरी कोई मुलाकात नहीं है और उस की आवश्यकता भी नहीं है क्योंकि यह प्रश्न केन्द्रीय सरकार के मातहत का नहीं है । जैसा कि मुझे सूचना मिली है मैनेजमेंट और यूनियन में जो समझौता हुआ था और जिसका कि जिक्र किया गया है उस के अनुसार मैनेजमेंट ने यह बताया था कि यह कार्यवाही करने की वजह से किसी भी मजदूर को हटाया नहीं जायगा, किसी की छंटनी नहीं की जायगी ।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : जून सन् 66 में कम्पनियों द्वारा तैयार किये गये वनस्पति धी के दाम बढ़ाने के लिए उन्हें पूर्व सूचना देनी आवश्यक थी मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि वैसा क्यों नहीं किया गया ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : दामों के सम्बन्ध में तो मैं कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कह सकता लेकिन

जो उन के मजदूरों के साथ समझौता हुआ था उस में वह तय पाया था कि उस के फलस्वरूप किसी आदमी को हटाया नहीं जायगा और उस में यह भी था कि अगर इस मामले में कोई मतभेद हो तो बम्बई की सरकार को इसे रफर किया जायगा और उस का जो फैसला होगा वह सारे देश के लिये मान्य होगा ।

श्री बुद्धवीर सिंह : हिन्दुस्तान लीवर्स लिमिटेड जैसी बड़ी बड़ी कम्पनियों जो प्रायः विश्वेशियों की हैं और जिनमें कि लाखों की तादाद में भारतीय काम करते हैं उन में इस प्रकार के भारतीय कर्मचारियों के असन्तोष के समाचार मिलते रहते हैं तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार केवल यह कहा करेगी कि यह प्राइवेट कम्पनियाँ हैं इसलिए उन में वह हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकती है या सरकार कोई एक स्पष्ट सीमा बतलायेगी कि इस प्रकार के जो कम्पनियों के मामले हैं उन में वह कहां तक जा सकती है और उस की क्या सीमा है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह मैंने कभी नहीं कहा है कि इस मामले में अर्थात् मजदूरों और मालिकों के झगड़े में सरकार कभी हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेगी । ऐसा मैंने कभी नहीं कहा । कहना भी नहीं चाहता और कहूँगा भी नहीं लेकिन जहाँ यूनिनियन ने खुद कहा कि इस परिस्थिति में अभी दिल्ली के लेबर कमिश्नर इस मामले में न पड़ें तो जब स्वयं वे पड़ने को नहीं कहते तब कैसे पड़ा जाय ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty : It has been the policy of the Government although it has not lived up to it that contractual labour should give place to departmental labour wherever possible. In this case, it is the opposite that is being done; where there is departmentalised labour, contractual labour is being introduced. Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that this company had been allowed a huge price increase, a fantastic price increase on 1-6-1966, of Rs. 700 per ton or 17 np. per kg.

over and above the huge profits reaped always by the Hindustan Lever and will this question of turning departmental labour into contractual labour or increasing of workload, will be discussed with the union of the company and the opinion of the union taken by the management before any such new methods are introduced?

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I am not aware of the increase in the price. But so far as the allegations of the workers are concerned, it is said that those in service are being retrenched or laid off as a result of contractors being appointed for certain works such as transportation, loading and unloading and other things, they met me; and I told them that the difficulty of the Central Government was that this dispute lies in the State sphere and at the most I can deal with the disputes in Delhi if the workers so desire. They have requested me to examine what is possible for me to do in order to resolve the dispute throughout the country; I am getting that examined.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy : Whatever may be the scheme it is evident that because of the introduction of this integration some retrenchment is going to take place. The I.L.O. conference, 1957 has decided against human rationalisation. Are they going to take any steps against Hindustan lever for introducing that scheme and violating the code of discipline?

Shri Jagjivan Ram : As I have said, the management says that there was a discussion with their all-India Union; in Delhi they have only a branch of the all-India unions. On enquiry by the labour commissioner the management informed him that in May last there was a discussion between the management and the union about the proposed introduction of the rationalisation scheme and the management offered that as a result of the rationalisation scheme no one who was in a position in the establishment will be thrown out of employment and they will discuss with

the union if there is any dispute regarding this matter, and the matter will be referred to the labour department of the Maharashtra Government, and whatever its decision will be applicable to all the establishments of that company. Unfortunately, the union has not sought the assistance of the labour department of the Maharashtra Government as yet.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Hindustan Lever is spread over the whole of India and it has its factory not concentrated in Maharashtra alone; their profits are increasing in proportion to the decrease in the number of labour. In view of these conditions, is it not fair and just on the part of the Government of India to interfere at this stage for this is a foreign company, controlled by foreigners with foreign capital and the Government is directly interested in the flow of money from India to any foreign territory? Would it not be fair in the interest of labour and in the interest of the country to take steps against decreasing the number of labour?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: My hon. friend knows that this company has branches in various parts of the country. I presume that he is also aware that according to the provisions of the Constitution the Centres jurisdiction does not spread or cover disputes in this industry; they have to be dealt with by the State Government concerned. The Maharashtra Government is not competent to deal with any dispute of an all-India nature. According to an agreement between the two parties, it has been stated that if any dispute arises it will be dealt with at the headquarters of the company and the Maharashtra Government if referred to will take a decision and that decision will be applicable according to the agreement to all the establishments in the country. I am not competent to deal with it.

Shri S. B. Banerjee: The hon. Minister replied that the management had assured that there was not going to be retrenchment because of certain

change in procedure. Is he aware that the Lever brothers, this company, is not retrenching people but they are declaring them surplus and making them useless, by not running their own cars but by using taxis, by not using their people but by using contractor's labour, in this way they are going to repeat the same thing as was done by ESSO and CALTEX. They do not retrench people but force them to resign. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of that position and, if so, would he call a tripartite meeting with the employees and a employers to discuss this issue in the face of what happening in ESSO and other places in the matter of retrenchment?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have said that this is one of the allegations of the workers in the memorandum which they have presented to me and I have told them that I will examine it to see whether I have any authority to interfere in the matter and after that I will decide what course of action is possible.

श्री प्रिय गुप्त : जैसा अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया, इस कम्पनी का एक हिस्सा दिल्ली में भी है, और दिल्ली का ताल्लुक सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से होने की वजह से वहां की डिस्प्यूट्स बगैरह हल करने के लिये मुझाव देने और इंटरवीन करने का अख्तियार सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को है और ऐसा उन को करना चाहिये। अगर करते हैं तो जिस तरह से इस प्रदेश में उन को यह हक है उसी तरह से दूसरे प्रदेशों में भी है। मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं कि वह लोग भ्रादमियों को निकालने के लिये जो तरीका अख्तियार कर रहे हैं वह यह है कि किसी किसी काम को वाइन्ड अप कर के दूसरी चीजों में भ्रादमियों को लगाते हैं और दूसरे प्रदेशों में उन का ट्रांसफर कर देते हैं जहां उन का जाना मुश्किल हो जाता है, परिणामस्वरूप उन को रिट्रेंच कर देते हैं। यदि सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से इंटरवीन कर

के वह किस किस का मुद्दा इन मामलों में देते हैं ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : जैसा मैंने पहले बतलाया वरकर लोगों ने अपने मेमोरेण्डम में कहा है कि वह बातें कम्पनी की तरफ से हो रही हैं । जहां तक दिल्ली की हद के भीतर मतभेद का प्रश्न है, दिल्ली को अधिकार है कि वह उस मामले में पड़े । लेकिन वह जो फ़ैसला करेंगे वह सिर्फ़ दिल्ली प्रशासन की सीमा के भीतर लागू होगा, उस के बाहर लागू नहीं हो सकता कानून की तहत । इसलिये इस चीज पर विचार हो रहा है कि क्या किया जाये । जैसा मैंने कहा कि अभी मैं राय दूंगा यूनियन को कि वह महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट के पास पहुंचे कि जो समझौता मैनेजमेंट और यूनियन में हुआ है उस की तहत महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट फ़ैसला ले कर उस को सारे भारत में लागू करे ।

Shri Priya Gupta: Let me ask a clarification.

प्रव्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आप से कह रहा हूँ कि अब कुछ मत पूछिये । सवाल किया गया उसका जवाब हो गया ।

Shri Priya Gupta: It is a very vital question. I want a clarification of the Minister's statement. The clarification arises out of his answer. It is a matter affecting the whole of India and the entire trade union movement. Kindly permit me to ask a clarification.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Joachim Alva.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is the hon. Minister really aware of the tremendous difficulties the workers of Hindustan Lever are undergoing and how they are fighting against the gigantic firm? Firstly, the last Finance Minister, out of his great fascination for it, nominated the Chairman of this British company as a Director of the Reserve Bank of India; secondly, this company goes by the name 'Hindustan' Lever, just to fool the public of India; thirdly, this company is one of the

largest trading firms in the world with the resources for the soap industry to a vast extent—

Mr. Speaker: What is the question? He is giving information.

Shri Joachim Alva: I want to know what facilities the workers are getting at the hands of such a giant, gigantic monopolist concern.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: What have I to say on this? What the last Finance Minister did, how he got him appointed to the Reserve Bank—how all these facts are relevant to this question, I do not know.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is relevant because the Chairman of the company, Mr. P. L. Tandon, is moving along with Shri Subramaniam.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Whatever Shri Banerjee may feel, he has not given me the authority under the Constitution to deal with the all-India disputes in this industry, and I am not going to function beyond the authority that the House and the Constitution give me.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that this firm, Hindustan Lever, employs a disproportionately large number of its employees under terms of contract and one of the devices by which the retrenchment takes place is to terminate the contracts, and as a matter of fact, the lower cadres of clerical service and such other comparable services are mostly under contract, and will he kindly conduct an enquiry into that aspect of the matter?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wool Grading and Shearing Programme

*451. **Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community