

stated that in Maharashtra, there were four Benches, in West Bengal four Benches and one Bench was going to be set up soon at Mysore. In regard to the pending number of appeals, he had stated that in Maharashtra, there were 10,488 cases pending while in West Bengal there were 14,749 and in Mysore only 819. What was the motive underlying the setting up of a tribunal at a place where the number of cases pending was only about 819 as against places where the pending ran into such colossal figures as to 14,000 and 10,000? May I ask him whether it was due to his policy of appeasing some people or there were some administrative reasons behind it?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** A bench of the ITAT was opened in Bangalore in order to help assesses in Mysore State so that they need not go to Bombay or Madras in order to have their cases tried. Bombay and Calcutta are the centres where there are the largest numbers of income-tax cases, but there is no use of adding to the number of benches in those places because there is no proportionate increase in disposal of work, for want of departmental officers and for want of advocates who may be called in one bench and who will then ask for adjournment in the other bench. So we have maintained 4 benches in Calcutta and Bombay and are trying to establish benches in different parts of the country so that the assesses in those areas will be benefited.

There is presently a proposal to establish a new bench somewhere in MP, most probably in Indore

#### Old Age Pension Scheme

\*393. **SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :** Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2624 on the 5th August, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have since considered the scheme to pay old-age pensions; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) :** (a) and (b). Due to the existing constraint

of resources and other pressing priorities for the welfare of the children, the handicapped, the Backward Classes etc., it is not considered feasible to introduce the Central Old Age Pension Schemes during the Fourth Plan Period.

**SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :** This Government professes to swear by the socialist pattern of society and implementation of schemes towards that end. One of the first things to be introduced in a welfare state wedded to social security measures is old age pension. May I know why has such a scheme not found a place in the list of priorities?

**DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA :** I have already explained that first priority has been given to welfare of children, the handicapped, backward classes and so on. After discussion, it was felt that it was not possible to take up this scheme in the Fourth Plan.

**SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :** Eight States in India have already introduced and implemented schemes of old age pension. So far as they are concerned, old people deserve such help, but so far as the Central Government are concerned, they do not deserve any help from Government. I may also mention that in those eight States in addition to this scheme, schemes mentioned by the hon. Minister are also being implemented. In Kerala, for example; in addition to old age pension scheme, there is a scheme to pay pension to the physically handicapped, destitute women, grants to TB patients and so on. This is in spite of the fact that those States are more hard pressed for finance than the Central Government. That being so, why is it not possible for the Central Government to introduce this scheme at least in the Union Territories? Also, will Government help State Governments with financial assistance to implement schemes not only of old age pension but other schemes that the Minister has mentioned?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) :** Apart from the eight States, the old age pension scheme is in force in two Union Territories also Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh. It is our desire to see

that it is extended as widely as possible. But due to paucity of funds, however much the Department would like to see that it is made universal in India, we could not do it.

As for the question of financial assistance to State Governments, the revenue gaps in the different States consequent on these activities are sought to be removed to the extent possible on the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Since this is a revenue expenditure, in the computation of the gap between revenue and expenditure, expenditure on this account will also come in.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** उत्तर प्रदेश में भोल्ट एज पेंशन मिल रही थी, लेकिन बहुत-से लोगों ने कम्प्लेंट की है कि जब से प्रेजिडेंट्स रूल्स हुआ तब से वह बन्द हो गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जो नई गवर्नमेंट आई है क्या मन्त्री महोदय उस को एडवाइज करेंगे कि वहां पर भोल्ट एज पेंशन फिर लागू की जाये ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** I can convey this view to the new Government.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** इस समय बहुत बड़ी संख्या में भिक्षुक लोग हैं और उन में बहुत से बहुत अधिक संख्या बूढ़ों की है। यह लोग भिक्षुक बन रहे हैं इसके लिए क्या कोई विशेष योजना बनाई जायेगी पेंशन देने के लिए या उनके एक स्थान पर इकट्ठा भोजन देने की कोई व्यवस्था की जायेगी ? क्या जो संसद्-सदस्य बूढ़े हो जायेंगे उनको भी पेंशन मिलने वाली है ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** It is a very good thing, but not connected with this question.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** बहुत-से भिक्षुक बूढ़े हो गए हैं जिनमें स्त्रियाँ भी हैं और पुरुष भी हैं। उनके लिये कोई सहारा नहीं है। न पुत्र हैं, न मकान है और न व्यापार है। क्या उनके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार का कोई विशेष सहूलियत देने का विचार है ?

**DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA :** There are destitutes' homes and beggars' homes in almost all States.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** Government have not come to a decision regarding old age pension. Is it on account of the consideration that it is very difficult to ascertain when a man or woman attains old age.

**DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA :** It is for lack of resources only.

**श्री आर्ज फरनेन्डीज :** जब यह कहा जाता है कि आर्थिक कठिनाई है तब मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने किन किन क्षेत्रों में सबसे पहले पैसा देने की योजना बनाई थी और उसमें कितना पैसा लगाने का विचार था जिसको लेकर आज कहा जा रहा है कि हमें आर्थिक परेशानी है ?

**DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA :** It was estimated that the old age pension scheme would alone require Rs. 2,122 crores in the Fourth Plan period.

**श्री तुलसीदास जाधव :** जिन बूढ़ों को कोई सम्भालने वाला नहीं है, उनके लिये पेंशन दी जाती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट इस पर विचार करेगी कि जिन लड़कों के माँ बाप है और जो कमाते हुए भी उनको नहीं सम्भालते हैं, उनकी तन्स्वाहों में से कुछ हिस्सा गवर्नमेंट ले ले और खुद भी उसमें कुछ डाल दे और उस से बूढ़े लोगों को सहायता दे। कम-से-कम जो केन्द्रीय सरकार के नौकर हैं उनके बारे में वह ऐसा कर सकती है और जो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स में सर्वेंट्स हैं उनके बारे में स्टेट्स को सिफारिश कर सकती है कि जो भी खर्च आता है उसका कुछ हिस्सा वह उन लोगों की तनस्वाहों में से काट ले और सन्निडी के रूप में कुछ रुपया मिलाकर ऐसे आदमियों को सम्भालें ?

**DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA :** This is a suggestion which should be considered.

**SHRI G. VISWANATHAN :** The hon. Minister stated that only in two Union Territories, namely, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh old age pension scheme is being implemented. Will such a scheme be inaugurated or implemented in Pondicherry also or will it be delayed due to the miserable debacle of the Congress Party in yesterday's elections ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** The political colour of the Administration is not taken into consideration in these matters. I hope Mr. Viswanathan and other friends who exhibit anxiety for the expansion of the old age pension scheme would help me during the discussion on the Budget by suggesting that more funds should be made available to the department to expand its activities.

श्री ५० सा० बा० वरुणपाल : योजनाओं के बारे में मैं अधिक नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। योजनाएँ ऐसे ही चलती हैं जैसे छिनाल की जुबान। इसके आगे फिकरा मैं कहना नहीं चाहता हूँ। वृद्धावस्था पेंशन दरअसल में बहुत ही अपर्याप्त है। लेकिन जहाँ पर यह लागू की भी गई है, वहाँ मैंने देखा है कि वास्तव में जो अपंग हैं, असह्य हैं, अन्धे हैं, लूले हैं या वृद्ध हैं, उनको यह पेंशन नहीं मिलती है। जिनकी एप्रोच होती है, जो चालाक होते हैं, जिनका सम्पर्क ज्यादा होता है, वही इसको ले जाते हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में भी सरकार ने कोई जानकारी हासिल की है? वास्तव में जो इसके हकदार हैं उनको यह मिले, इसके बारे में भी क्या आप कुछ करेंगे ?

**DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA :** It will be considered.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** ... (Interruption)  
In spite of appearances, I am old and I represent the old. I must confess some amazement at the calculation of Rs. 2200 crores for paying this old age pension; I want the Ministry to confirm this figure. Are they thinking in terms of the whole population, above 70 years or 65 years of age. The actual population above 65 years of age is about 1.2 per cent : above 70 years is 0.01 per cent. Even granting that

their calculations are based on this figure. I should like to inform them that this old age pension is given to those who are indigent and have no one to support them. The figures for the Mysore State where an old age pension of Rs. 15 per month per head is paid do not exceed Rs. 7 lakhs, Rs. 2 200 crores may be the figure for the whole of India, not to the Union Territories alone which are the subject of this question. I should like the hon. Minister to say whether this figure of Rs. 2200 crores applies to the Union Territories only or whether it applies to all people or those who are qualified because of their indigency.

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** The figure is given for the entire country.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** Why not provide for the Union Territories ? It will be a small amount.

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** The suggestion will be kept in mind.

**SHRI KARTIK ORAON :** Any scheme of family planning or any scheme of old age pension should be applicable to all regardless of State, caste, creed and religion, to the people in the country. I should like to know from the Government the criteria laid down for introducing such scheme in Union Territories and States or for making exceptions in regard to those schemes.

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** Initiative in the matter of introduction of old age pension schemes was taken by the State Governments and they deserve all congratulations for it. Only eight States had introduced the scheme. The Central Government cannot pay old age pensions in the States because they can only help States. I hope other State Governments also will take initiative in the matter.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I suggest that the remarks made by Mr. Lobo Prabhu while putting his question : "I am old and I represent the old" should either be expunged or withdrawn. People outside will read it and it will go against him.

**MR. SPEAKER :** People in the galleries also will hear it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE ; When members belonging to the ruling party grow old, they are made Governors, Ambassadors, High Commissioners or Chairmen of Corporations. Their future is assured. Some State Governments initiated action. In U. P. for instance after the Rashtrapati's rule was imposed, that scheme was discontinued. When Mr. Asoka Mehta was the Minister, there was a scheme of unemployment insurance. Will that scheme be included in the Fourth Plan or not ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON Unemployment insurance programme is handled by the Labour Ministry... (Interruption).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Ministries are reshuffled so frequently : they go like shuttle cocks.

दुर्गापुर इस्पात कारखाने में तोड़-फोड़ की घटनाएं

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- \* 394. श्री सूरज मान :  
श्री रणजीत सिंह :  
श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :  
श्री बृज मूषण लाल :

क्या इस्पात और भारी इंजीनियरिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत सितम्बर में दुर्गापुर इस्पात कारखाने में जो तोड़-फोड़ की घटनायें हुई थीं, क्या उनके कारणों की जांच पूरी कर ली गयी है ?

(ख) क्या भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कामिक संघ कांग्रेस और उसके प्रधान इस प्रकार की घटनाओं से प्रत्यक्ष अथवा अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से सम्बन्धित है ;

(ग) 19 सितम्बर, 1968 की हड़ताल सम्बन्धी सरकारी नीति के अनुसरण में क्या सरकार भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कामिक संघ कांग्रेस की मान्यता वापिस ले लेगी ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Members are referring to the Police investigations regarding the incident which took place at Durgapur Steel Plant in September 1968. Criminal proceedings initiated by the Police are in progress and about 65 persons are under suspension pending finalisation of these proceedings.

(c) and (d). As provided in the Code of Discipline, this matter has already been referred to the State Government for consideration. This incident has no connection with the strike of September 19, 1968 by Central Government servants.

श्री सूरज मान : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि 19 सितम्बर की स्ट्राइक से इसका कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। 19 सितम्बर की हड़ताल जिन यूनियन ने करवाई उनको आपने डिरिक्गनाइज कर दिया उनका आपने रिकगनिशन वापिस ले लिया। लेकिन एक एसी यूनियन है जो कि इंटक से एफ्लिएटिड है और वहां पर सैवोटेज भी कराती है जिसकी बजह से 4 लाख 64 हजार रुपये का नुकसान होता है और इसको दिसम्बर में मंत्री महोदय ने खुद माना है और इस सैवोटेज के कारण जो वहां पर काम बन्द पड़ा रहा है, उससे भी तकरीबन डेढ़ करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान और हुआ है, लेकिन उस यूनियन के सम्बन्ध में कुछ नहीं किया जाता है बेशक 19 सितम्बर की हड़ताल से इसका कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है लेकिन 19 सितम्बर की हड़ताल के समय कोई सैवोटेज नहीं हुआ दूसरी ओर सैवोटेज करनेवाली और इंटक से एफ्लिएटिड जो यूनियन है क्या उसको आप डिरिक्गनाइज करेंगे ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : इसमें मेरा यह कहना है कि चूंकि इंटक यूनियन थी इसलिए केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कुछ नहीं किया, यह बात बिल्कुल गलत है। यह इसी से साबित होता है कि मैंने अभी बताया है कि पुलिस कार्यवाई कर रही है, और केसिल चल रहे हैं। जहाँ तक डिरिक्गनिशन का प्रश्न है, यह तो स्टेट नर्कम-