COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (1993-94)

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

Eighteenth Report on

Treating as an assurance the reply of the Minister of Railways given on the floor of the House on July 25, 1991

(Presented on



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> LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI

January 21, 1994/Magha 1, 1915 (Saka)

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CORR IGENDA

to the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances (1993-94) (Tenth Lok Sabha)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*

(1991-92)

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Lakshminarain Pandey

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri Sai Prathap Annayyagari
- 3. Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi
- 4. Shri B. Devarajan

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- 5. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
- 6. Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria
- 7. Shrimati Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)
- 8. Shri Balin Kuli
- 9. Shri Manphool Singh
- 10. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 11. Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
- 12. Shri Shashi Prakash
- 13. Shri Naval Kishore Rai
- 14. Shri Gadam Ganga Reddy
- 15. Shri Chinmayanand Swami

SECRETARIAT

Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj — Additional Secretary
Shri Murari Lal — Joint Secretary
Shri Joginder Singh — Deputy Secretary
Shri Ram Autar Ram — Under Secretary

he Committee was nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 25 November, 1991 vide para 515 of pk Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 25.11.1991.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT **ASSURANCES***

(1992-93)

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Laxminarain Pandcy

MEMBERS

- 2. Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi
- 3. Shri B. Devarajan
- 4. Smt. Saroj Dubey
- 5. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
- 6. Shri Prabhu Daval Katheria
- 7. Shri Balin Kuli
- 8. Shri Manphool Singh
- 9. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 10. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
- 11. Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
- 12. Shri Naval Kishore Rai
- 13. Dr. D. Venkateshwara Rao
- 14. Shri A. Prathap Sai
- 15. Shri Chinmayanand Swami

SECRETARIAT

Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj Additional Secretary Shri Murari Lal Joint Secretary Shri Joginder Singh Deputy Secretary Shri Ram Autar Ram Under Secretary

^{*}The Committee was nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 13 December, 1992 vide Para 1596 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 14.12.1992.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES* (1993-94)

CHAIRMAN

Shri Basudeb Acharia

Members

- 2. Shri Vishveshwar Bhagat
- 3. Shri Gurcharan Singh Dadhahoor
- 4. Prof. K. Venkatagiri Gowda
- 5. Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal
- · @6. Shri (Maj.) D.D. Khanoria
 - 7. Shri Harpal Panwar
 - 8. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
 - 9. Shrimati Suryakanta Patil
 - 10. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
 - 11. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai
 - 12. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
 - 13. Shri Yoganand Saraswati
 - 14. Shri Shibu Soren
 - 15. Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan

SECRETARIAT

Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj — Additional Secretary
Shri Murari Lal — Joint Secretary
Shri Joginder Singh — Deputy Secretary
Shri Ram Autar Ram — Under Secretary

^{*}The Committee was nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 20 December, 1993 vide para 2609 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 20.12.93.

[@]Nominated to the Committee on 23 December, 1993 vide para 2628 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 23.12.1993.

INTRODUCTION

- I, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, as authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf, this Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.
 - 2. The Committee (1993-94) were constituted on December 20, 1993.
- 3. The Committee at their sitting held on November 6, 1992 took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Railways in connection with the treating as an assurance the reply of the Minister of Railways given on the floor of the House on July 25, 1991. At their sitting held on January 21, 1994, the Committee considered and adopted the Draft Eighteenth Report.
 - 4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of the Report.
 - 5. The conclusions/observations of the Committee are contained in this report.
- 6. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Railways for their co-operation.

New Delhi;

41.

BASUDEB ACHARIA.

January 21, 1994

Chairman,
Committee on Government Assurances.

Magha 1, 1915 (Saka)

REPORT

TREATING AS AN ASSURANCE THE REPLY OF THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS GIVEN ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE ON JULY 25, 1991

On July 25, 1991, during the course of General Discussion on Railway Budget in the House the Union Minister of Railways (Shri C. K. Jaffer sharief) while replying to points raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia made the following statement:—

- "...I can assure you, there is no question of throwing them out of employment. We are not going to throw the workers on the street. We will get them redeployed somewhere by giving them necessary training."
- 2. Shri Basudeb Acharia stressed the point regarding the re-deployment of contract workers in steam locomotives who handle coal and ash. The Minister of Railways gave the following statement in the House on the same date:—

...Well, we have already said about the workers from steam locomotive. We will not send them out. We will use them somewhere by giving them necessary training."

[L.S. Deb. Pt.II, cc 322 dt. 25.7.91]

- 3. Sarvashri Basudeb Acharia and Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, M.Ps vide their letters dated May 5 and 20, 1992 respectively alleged that the Government had started retrenching workers and loco sheds had been closed by Railway authorities making the workers jobless and requested that the issue might be pursued and the commitment made by the Minister on the floor of the House be executed.
- 4. On May 11, 1992, the Lok Sabha Secretariat forwarded a copy of the letter received from Shri Basudeb Acharia to the Minister of Railways for his comments. On June 24, 1992, the Ministry of Railways were reminded to expedite their comments.
- 5. At-their sitting held on June 30, 1992 the Committee considered the issue of treating the reply given by the Minister of Railways on July 25, 1991, as an assurance. The Committee arrived at the following conclusion:—

"After going through the verbatim proceedings of the debates (Debates Pt-II dated July 25, 1991, cc 322) the Committee concluded that even though the Phraseology used in the reply by the Union Minister of Railways did not fall within the ambit of the

standard list of expressions that constitute assurance, a solemn commitment was, however, made by the Minister on the floor of the House and his reply constituted an assurance. The Committee also decided that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Railways might be apprised of the decision of the Committee and desired that the assurance be implemented alongwith another assurance given during the General Discussion on July 25, 1991 regarding reinstatement of railway employees dismissed under rule 14 (ii) without any inquiry."

6. The Ministry of Railways vide their U.O. No. E (NG)II/92/RE-I/4 dated 3.7.1991 clarified their position as under:—

"The remarks made by the Minister of Railways seem to be getting quoted out of context. They have to be read with the reference to the main subject under discussion namely "trimming of the work force". While on the subject, Minister of Railways explained 'let me assure the House, that when I am speaking about the trimming of the work force, it does not mean trimming of the labour. There is no question of throwing them out of emplyment. We are not going to throw the workers on the street. We will get them redeployed by giving them some necessary training.' Thus, the issue regarding regular work force employed by the Railways was under discussion. At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia intervened regarding contract workers in the Steam Locomotives who handle coal and ash. Minister of Railways, however, continued with the theme he was developing and mentioned that workers from Steam locomotives who have to deal with ash and other things would not be sent out. This remark was with reference to the regular steam staff like engine cleaners who also deal with ash etc. There was no intention to expand the scope beyond regular workers.

Further, it may be pointed out that contract workers are not directly paid from Railway funds and the Railway Ministry cannot take the responsibility for such private workers. There are thousands and thousands of such private workers associated not only with steam traction but with various other engineering and commercial activities of the Railway system. Railway already have the moral responsibility to take care of more than 1,2 lakh casual labours who are directly employed by them and are paid from Railway Funds. Over and above this, a large number are figuring in live registers and have a claim for re-engagement wherever there is a departmental need."

7. Thereafter, the Minister of Railway endorsed a copy of the letter No. 92/Fuel/59/5 dated 3.7.1992 to this Secretariat addressed to Shri Basudeb

Acharia, M.P. In his letter the Minister of Railways gave the following clarification:—

- "(1) Due to gradual replacement of steam locomotives by diesel and electric locomotives, some redundancy of regular staff and contract labourers has to take place. The railways will take care of redeployment of regular surplus staff. However, it is not possible for the Railways to absorb the contract labourers.
- (2) The observation made by me in the budget speech that workers from Steam locomotive who have to deal with ash and other things will not be sent out, and that they will be used somewhere by giving them necessary training. You have taken a view that this applies to contract labour.
- (3) this observation pertains only to railway employees working in steam sheds and other allied activities and not to contract labour."
- 8. On August 5, 1992 the Committee consider the above request of the Minister of Railways and the Ministry of Railways as well. The Committee were not convinced by the aforesaid clarifications and decided to hear the views of the representatives of the Ministry of Railways with a view to finalise the issue.
- 9. On November 6, 1992 the representatives of the Ministry of Railways appeared before the Committee to give oral evidence.
- 10. Alongwith other things, the Committee sought clarifications on certain points regarding (i) the number of loco sheds closed; (ii) the number of contract labourers working in the railways at present; (iii) total number of sheds which are likely to be closed; (iv) the total number of workers working in coal and ash in the railways, zone-wise and divisionwise; (v) the number of contract labourers absorbed during the last five years in railways, zone-wise; and (vi) the total number of contract labourers retrenched without giving any notice and the reasons therefor. The Committee kept the issue open in the absence of the information on these points.
- 11. On March 23, 1993 the Ministry of Railways furnished their reply to each of these points as per details given below:—

Point Raised	Government Reply		
1	2		
1. No. of loco sheds closed	(1) Number of steam locomotive sheds closed during the stant three years is as under:—		
	Year No. of sheds closed 1989-90 07 1990-91 07 1991-92 13 1992-93 39 (upto 31.1.93)		

2 1 2. No. of contract labour working (2) No. of contractors' labour enin the railways at present gaged in coal and ash handling work on different zonal Railways are as under: Central: 65 Eastern: 1588 1092 Northern: N. Eastern: 1376 N. Frontier: 829 Southern: 244 S. Central: 407 399 S. Eastern: 345 Western: 6345 Total 3. The total number of sheds (3) The number of steam locomotives sheds on the Indian which are likely to be closed. Railways as on 1.2.93 under:---BG 28 MG 48 NG 10 86 Total The tentative programme of phasing out of the steam traction is as follows:--BG : By 1996-97 MG : By 1998-99 NG : By 1998-99 4. The total number of workers (4) Total number of contractors labour working in Coal and Ash working in coal and ash in the handling on the Railways, zonerailways, zone-wise and diviwise and division-wise, is furnished sion-wise. in Annexure I. 5. No. of contract labourers ab-(5) There is no policy for absorpsorbed during the last five tion of Contractors' labour dealing years in railways, zone-wisc. in coal and Ash. As per information available, no coal and ash handling contractors' labour has been absorbed in the Railways. The Zonal Railways have also confirmed that no absorption has taken place.

1

2

- The total number of contract labourers retrenched without giving any notice and the reasons therefor.
- (6) The Contractors' labour are engaged/discharged by the Contractors under the Contractors' control and Railways have no information whether the Contractors' Labour after closure of a shed etc. have been discharged by the contractors or re-engaged elsewhere by them."
- 12. In the meantime, Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P. vide his letters dated September 13 and 18, 1993 furnished some facts regarding constitution of a screening Committee for absorption of casual contract labourers in the South Eastern Railway. The text of the letters is given at Annexure II and III.
- 13. At their sittings held on September 3 and November 8, 1993, the Committee considered the clarificatory reply received from the Ministry of Railways and facts furnished by Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P. on the policy for absorption of contractors' labour dealing in coal and ash.
- 14. The Committee, having regard to the statement made on the floor of the House by the Minister of Railways and the points raised by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding stoppage of retrenchment and deployment/absorption of the already retrenched contract labourers of the steam locomotives handling coal and ash, have come to the conclusion that the statement of the Hon'ble Minister made in Parliament constitutes an assurance and needs to be fulfilled by the Government. In this connection the Committee have certain information that few such labourers have already been provided with alternative employment by the Ministry of Railways and as such the same treatment is needed to be meted out to the remaining retrenched contract workers. The Committee do not find it out of place to point out that the Supreme Court of India have also given a direction in the matter to the Ministry of Railways to examine this problem from humanitarian angle and attempt to provide suitable alternative employment to the retrenched workers. The court has directed the Ministry of Railways to view it as a matter of policy and the counsel for the Railways wanted some time to have the matter examined by the Rathays.
- 15. While going through the facts furnished by the Ministry of Railways, the Committee are of the view that it would not be proper to throw out of employment any labour working in the locosheds in general and those dealing in coal and ash in particular in view of the categorical assurance given on the floor of the House by the Minister of Railways and the direction given by the highest court of justice. The Committee do not appreciate the plea taken by the Ministry that they do not have any responsibility for contractors' labourers. The Committee observe that these

labourers have equal participation and involvement in the running of the Indian Railways and as such it is the first and the foremost duty of the Railways Administration to see and ensure that they are treated at par with other retrenched railway workers in the matter of employment and benefits accruing as a result thereof. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the entire lot of 6345 contractors' labourers handling coal and ash who have been rendered jobless should be absorbed permanently in the respective Railway Zones.

16. The Committee desire the Ministry of Railways to adopt a uniform policy in the matter of absorption of contract labourers dealing in coal and ash and fulfil the assurance given by the Railway Minister without any further delay. The Committee further recommend that the absorption of all—the contractors' labourers who have become jobless are absorbed suitably in the railways on top priority basis. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this behalf within three months from the date of presentation of this report to the Parliament.

New Delii;

January 21, 1994

Magha 1, 1915 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA, Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances.

MINUTES Ninth Sitting

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES HELD ON MAY 28, 1992 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'D' IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

... The Committee met on Thursday, May 28, 1992 from 15.00 hours to 16.00 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey-Chairman

Members

- 2. Shri Sai Prathap Annayyagari
- 3. Shri B. Devarajan
- 4. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
- 5. Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria
- 6. Shrimati Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)
- 7. Shri Balin Kuli
- 8. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 9. Shri Shashi Prakash
- 10. Shri Naval Kishore Rai
- 11. Shri Gadam Ganga Reddy

SECRETARIAT

Shri R.C. Bhardwaj—Additional Secretary

Shri Murari Lal —Director

Shri Joginder Singh—Deputy Secretary

Shri K.K. Ganguly—Under Secretary

- 5. Thereafter, Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, M.P. raised an issue regarding not keeping the promise made by the Minister of Railways on the floor of the House on July 25, 1991 in respect of re-deployment of all workers in steam loco sheds. The Chairman desired that the matter might be placed before the Committee at its next sitting.
 - 6. The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES Tenth Sitting

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES HELD ON JUNE 30, 1992 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'C', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee met on Tucsday, June 30, 1992 from 15.30 hours to 16.15 hours.

PRESENT

.Dr. Laxminarain Pandcy-Chairman

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri B. Devarajan
- 3. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
- 4. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 5. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai
- 6. Shri Gadam Ganga Reddy
- 7. Shri Chinmaya Nand Swami

SECRETARIAT

Shri R.C. Bhardwaj — Additional Secretary

Shri Murari Lal — Director

Shri Joginder Singh — Deputy Secretary
Shri K.K. Ganguly — Under Secretary

- 2. The Committee took up for consideration the draft Fifth Report and adopted it. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to present the Fifth Report of the Committee to the Lok Sabha on July 15, 1992.
- 3. The Committee then took up for consideration Memorandum No. 36 regarding treating the reply of the Minister of Railways given on July 25, 1991, as an assurance.
- 4. After going through the verbatim proceedings of the debates, (Debates Pt-II dated July 25, 1991, cc 322) the Committee concluded that even though the phraseology used in the reply by the Union Minister of Railways did not fall within the ambit of the standard list of expressions that constitute assurances, a solemn commitment was, however, by the Minister on the floor of the House and his reply constituted an assurance. The Committee also decided that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and

the Ministry of Railways may be apprised of the decision of the Committee and desired that the assurance be implemented alongwith another assurance given during the General Discussion on July 25, 1991 regarding reinstatement of railway employees dismissed under rule 14 (ii) without any inquiry.

- 5. The Chairman and Members of the Committee narrated their experiences during the recently concluded on-the-spot study tour to Calcutta, Gangtok, Darjeeling, Guwahati and Agartala from 2 to 10 June, 1992. The Members also suggested how improvements could be made in conducting these study tours.
- 6. The Committee observed that such study tours have a cascading effect on the pace of implementation of the pending assurances as the Government fulfilled as many as ten long pending assurances out of 18 assurances which were chosen for the study tour.
- 7. Narrating the experience at Calcutta, Shri B. Devarajan, M.P. explained how the Ministry of Coal fulfilled a long pending assurance pertaining to amendments in Colliery Control Order which inter-alia plugged the loopholes that existed in the Colliery Control Order.
- 8. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, M.P. was of the view that the representatives of the Ministries of Labour and Petroleum and Natural Gas attended the meetings at Darjeeling and Agartala respectively without much preparations. He suggested that adequate notice should be given to the concerned Ministries so that the officials representing their Ministries could well equip themselves about the assurance and answer queries raised by the Members of the Committee.
- 9. The Committee decided to meet again on Wednesday, August 5, 1992 at 1.30 hours.
 - 10. The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES Eleventh Sitting

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES HELD ON AUGUST 5, 1992 IN ROOM NO. 50, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI

The Committee met on Wednesday, August 5, 1992 from 15.30 hours to 16.15 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey-Chairman

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri Sai Prathap Annayyagari
- 3. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
- 4. Shri Balin Kuli
- 5. Shri Manphool Singh
- 6. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 7. Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
- 8. Shri Shashi Prakash
- 9. Shri Gadam Ganga Reddy
- 10. Shri Chinmaya Nand Swami

SECRETARIAT

Shri Murari Lal —Director

Shri Joginder Singh —Deputy Secretary

Shri K.K. Ganguly — Under Secretary

- 2. The Committee considered their Draft Sixth and Seventh Reports and adopted them.
- 3. The Committee authorised the Chairman and in his absence Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, M.P. to present the Sixth and Seventh Reports of the Committee in Lok Sabha on August 11 and 18, 1992 respectively.
- 4. The Committee then took up for consideration Memorandum No. 37 regarding review of recommendation of the Committee on Government Assurances in respect of treating the reply given by the Minister of Railways during the Discussion on Railway Budget on July 25, 1991 as an assurance.

- 5. The Committee persued the new points furnished by the Ministry of Railways in respect of the issue raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P. in regard to regularisation of contract labour. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, M.P., did not agree with the plea taken by the Ministry of Railways that the contract workers are not directly paid from the railway funds and, therefore, the Railway Ministry could not take the responsibility for such private contract workers. He was of the view that the Railways provided wages to workers through contractors. The jobs undertaken by these contract workers were perennial in nature. The Railways might change the contractors but the contract workers remained unchanged. Citing an example, he stated that there were a number of contract workers who had rendered more than 15 years of service. Such contract workers had been regularised by Southern Railway and South Eastern Railway (Kharagpur Division).
- 6. The Committee were not convinced with the clarifications advanced by the Ministry of Railways in regard to treating the workers handling coal and ash as not the railway workers and therefore decided to call the officials from the Ministry of Railways for oral evidence to finalise the matter.

9. The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

Tenth Sitting

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERN-MENT ASSURANCES HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1993 IN COMMIT-TEE ROOM 'D', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee met on Friday, September 3, 1993 from 15.00 hours to 16.10 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey—Chairman
Members

- 2. Shri B. Devarajan
- 3. Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria
- 4. Shri Balin Kuli
- 5. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 6. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
- 7. Shri Chinmaya Nand Swami

SECRETARIAT

Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj-Additional Secretary

Shri Murari Lal-Joint Secretary

Shri Joginder Singh—Deputy Secretary

Shri K.K. Ganguly—Deputy Secretary

2. The Committee took up for consideration Memoranda Nos. 69, 70 and 71 regarding request from Government for dropping of assurances.

Memorandum No. 69: Reply given by the Ministry of Railways during the course of General Discussion on Railway Budget on July 25, 1991 regarding redeployment of contract labour dealing in coal and ash.

3. The Committee noted that on November 6, 1992, the representatives of the Ministry of Railways appeared before the Committee to give oral evidence on the above subject. During the course of evidence clarification

on certain points were sought by the Committee. The Committee considered the clarifications now furnished by the Ministry of Railways on each of the points mentioned below:—

Point Raised	Government Reply		
1. No. of loco sheds closed		per of steam losed during the s under:	
	Year	Nos. of she	eds closed.
	1989-90		07
	1990-91		07
	1991-92		13
	1992-93		39
	(upto 31.1	1.1993)	
2. No. of contract labourer working	(2) No. o	f contractors' l	abour en-
in the Railways at present	gaged in	coal and ash	handling
•	work on d	ifferent zonal ra	ilways are
	as under	•	
	Central		65
	Eastern		1588
	Northern		1092
	N. Eastern		1376
	N. Frontic	r	829
	Southern		244
	S. Central		407
	S. Eastern		399
	Western		345
		Total	6346
3. The total number of sheds which are likely to be closed	ch (3) The number of steam loc tive sheds on the Indian Railwoon 1.2.93 is as under:		
	BG	:	28
	MG	:	48
	NG	:	10
		Total	86
		entative progra	
	phasing ou	t of the steam t	raction is
	as follows		100/05
	BG	: B y	1996-97
	MG	: By : By	1998-99 1998-99
	NG		

1

2

- The total number of workers working in coal and ash in the railways, Zone-wise and divisionwise.
- No. of contract labourers absorbed during the last five years in railways zone-wise.
- The total number of contract labourers retrenched without giving any notice and the reasons therefor.

- (4) Total number of Contractors' Labour working in coal and Ash handling on the Railways, Zonewise and division-wise, is furnished in *Annexure*.
- (5) There is no policy for absorption of Contractors' labour dealing in Coal and Ash. As per information available, no coal and ash handling contractors' labour has been absorbed in the Railways. The Zonal Railways have also confirmed that no absorption has taken place.
- (6) The contractors' labour are engaged/discharged by the Contractors under the Contractors' control and Railway have no information whether the Contractors' labour after closure of a shed etc. have been discharged by the contractors or reengaged elsewhere by them."
- 3.1 The Committee were not convinced with the reply to the points furnished by the Ministry of Railways particularly to points 5 and 6 above as some Members pointed out that the reply of the Ministry was factually incorrect as contractor's labour had been redeployed in certain Zonal Railways. The Committee, therefore, decided to keep the matter in abeyance and requested the Members in the meantime to furnish material/facts regarding actual absorption of contractors' labour in certain Zonal Railways,
- 6. Thereafter, the Chairman apprised the Committee about the kind permission granted to the Committee by the Hon'ble Speaker to undertake an on-the-spot visit to two States, namely Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during October, 1993 to ascertain the progress made in implementation of certain pending assurances. The Committee decided to assemble at Udaipur on October 4, 1993 and disperse at Bhopal on October 11, 1993.
- 7. The Committee also decided to meet again at Delhi on October 4, 1993.
 - 8. The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES Twelfth Sitting

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERN-MENT ASSURANCES HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 1993 IN COMMIT-TEE ROOM NO. 62, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI

The Committee met on Monday, November 8, 1993 from 15.00 hours to 16.00 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey—Chairman

Members

- 2. Shri B. Devarajan
- 3. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
- 4. Shri Balin Kuli
- 5. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
- 6. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
- 7. Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil
- 8. Shri Naval Kishore Rai

SECRETARIAT

Shri Joginder Singh—Deputy Secretary

Shri Ram Autar Ram—Under Secretary

2. The Committee took up for consideration Memorandum No. 72 regarding treating it as an assurance the statement of the Minister of the Railways given on the floor of the House on July 25, 1991 and Memoranda Nos. 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78 and 79 regarding requests from Government for dropping of the Assurances.

Memorandum No. 72: Treating as an assurance the reply of the Minister of Railways given on the floor of the House on July 21, 1991.

The Committee considered the statement of the Minister of Railways made in reply to the points raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P. during the court of General Discussion on Railway Budget on July 21, 1991 regarding re-employment of contract casual labourers dealing in coal and

ash. The Committee also considered the facts furnished by Shri Basudeb Acharia, MP, to the Committee *vide* his letters dated September 13 and 18, 1993 and decided to pursue the assurance.

*** *** ***

- 11. The Committee took up for consideration their draft Fifteenth Report and adopted the same for being presented to the House.
- 12. The Committee decided to hold the next sitting on November 30, 1993 at 11.00 A.M. or any day during the first week of December, 1993 as may be decided by the Chairman.
 - 13. The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

Second Sitting

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERN-MENT ASSURANCES HELD ON JANUARY 21, 1994 IN ROOM NO. '143', PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI

The Committee met on Friday, January 21, 1994 from 15.00 hours to 16.30 hours.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia — Chairman

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri Gurcharan Singh Dadhahoor
- 3. Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal
- 4. Mai. D.D. Khanoria
- 5. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
- 6. Shrimati Suryakanta Patil
- 7. Shri Yoganand Saraswati
 - 8. Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan

SECRETARIAT

Shri Murari Lal — Joint Secretary
Shri Joginder Singh — Deputy Secretary
Shri Ram Autar Ram — Under Secretary

- 2. The Committee considered and adopted their draft Eighteenth Report. The Committee authorised the Chairman and in his absence Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan, M.P. to present the House the same on the second day of the budget session of 1994.
- 9. The Committee then decided to hold their next sitting on Thursday, February 10, 1994 at 11.30 hours.

* * *

10. The Committee then adjourned.

Contractors labour working in coal and ash handling work

ANNEXURE-I

Railway	Division	Contractor's labour
(1)	(2)	(3)
Central	Bhusaval	65
Eastern	Asansol	619
	Howarh	167
	Dhanbad	99
	Danapur	236
	Malda	467
Northern	Delhi	51
	Lucknow	146
	Ambala	141
	Bikaner	193
	Jodhpur	71
	Allahabad	20
	Moradabad	291
	Fcrozpur	179
North Eastern	Izatnagar	260
	Varanasi	426
	Lucknow	140
	Soncpur	216
	Samastipur	334
N. Frontier	Katihar	460
	Alipurdwar	96
	Lumding	146
	Tinsukia	127
Southern	Trichi	132
	Madhuri	102
	Palghat	10
S. Central	Guntakal	109
	Vijayawada	80
	Hubli	218

(1)	(2)	(3)
S. Eastern	Kharagpur	112
	Adra	170
	Bilaspur	57
	Nagpur	60
Western	Baroda	16
	Ratlam	667
	Jaipur	65
	Rajkot	99
	Bhavnagar	98

BASUDEB ACHARIA, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) 413, V.P. House, New Delhi-110 001.

September 13, 1993.

Dear Dr. Pandey,

I am very much thankful that you have shown so much sympathy for the workers who are engaged in coal and ash handling. The Assurance Committee is examining this issue and will take a decision in the matter. I am sending herewith a list of those workers in Kharagpur Division and Adra Division in the year 1971-72 and 1986-87. When there are precedents in the Railways I think there is no problem in giving alternative employment to 3,000 coal and ash handling workers who are facing retrenchment consequent upon elimination of steam locos and closure of steam loco sheds. The Minister's assurance of 25th July, 1991 is not being implemented and workers are being thrown out of employment without considering their absorption in the Railways. Most of these workers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community and are working for more than 15 to 20 years. They are doing the perenial nature of jobs and are directly connected with the Railway operations.

I sincerely hope that Committee on assurance will take a positive view in this matter.

Your Sincerely,

Sd/(Basudeb Acharia)

Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey, Chairman, Committee on Govt. Assurances, Lok Sabha.

Encl:—As above.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Civil Appeal(s)No.(s)135/86,

(With CA No.1356/86, 1357/86, WP (C) 1024/89, 190/90 (XA)

Biswa Nath Sons & Ors

Appellant(s)

Vs.

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

(with appln for directions and early hearing)

Date 4.3.93 This/These matter(s) was/were called on for hearing today.

CORAM

Hon'ble Mr. Justice JS VERMA Hon'ble Mr. Justice NM KASLIWAL

For the Appellant(s)

Mr. Kapas Roy, Sr. Adv.

M/s. IIK Puri & Jamshed Bey, Advs.

For the Respondent(s)

Mr. FS Nariman, Sr. Adv.

M/s. A Subba Rao, ANN Rao, VP Verma EP Prasad, Advs.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following

ORDER

It appears to us that the Railway Administration would be well advised to examine this problem from humanitarian point of view in an attempt to provide suitable alternative employment to as many of the appellants/petitioners as possible in the circumstances of the case. The question involved is of importance for all the zonal railways in the country and, increfore, it has to be viewed as a matter of policy by the Ministry of Railways. Learned counsel for the railways, therefore, wants some time to have the matters examined by the concerned officers in this prospective sist on 13.4.93.

Sd-SUNITA TALWAR) AR CUM PS Sd-(VINOD KUMAR) COURT MASTER Working in Rly from Cinders Labour of Adra Loco.

- 1. Parofullo Kumar Das s/o Anando Das working in operating at Adra.
- 2. Pawan Mahato working at Adra Engineering Department Departmently working on 1980.

Cindered labour working as Departmental by Rly. on 2.3.80 to 31.3.80

INFORMATION ON LOCO SHED/ANARA

1	Declared closed21st Dec — 79
(Poal and Ash Employees12 Heads.
	Male — 6Female — 6
1	. Shri N.D. BhattachariyaOPTG/ANR
2	2. Dewan MaghiWas/Shop/ADA
3	3. Hopan Maghi Mah/Bokaro (network)
4	Bivision Maghi (dead) Mech/Bksc
	6. Bilas DeswaliMech/Trg School/ADA (chowkidar)
ı	مية
ı	
P	Chinta Deswali(CPC)
ŧ	2. Moti Deswali(CFW)
Ì	Basini Maghi(ANR)
1	. LT. Alta Bauri
1	. LT. Triguna Bauri (Expired)
	. Shri Balika BauriAbsconded.
3	

Recorded short minutes of the meeting held with the Railway Administration to consider the possibilities of absorption of Retrenched Thika Majdur.

Meeting of 29.3.72

Present: (1) Shri P.S.N. Bedi, Divl. Superintendent,

- (2) Shri N.C. Roychoudhary, General Secretary, SERMU.
- (3) Shri K.M. Bhattacharjee, Vice-President, SERMU
- (4) Shri P.B. Ganguli, Branch Secretary, SERMU, KGP/O.L.
- (5) Shri Umpati Prasad Ambast, Secretary, Thikadar Majdur Union.

The problem of retrenched labour so long employed by the Railways through Labour Contract Co-operative society for Coal and Cinde's handling work at Locoshed, Kharagpur was discussed.

The position in this regard is this, there were 246 persons employed for these works but only 125 were taken as Khalsi leaving a balance of 121.

It was decided to take 32 more labour from the empanelled and medically fit candidates. It was further decided that after working with this strength for some time, if need be further posts would be sanctioned. Further sons/daughters of retired railways employees (amongst retrenched labour) would be considered for employment as per employment assistance scheme. In this unit 89 stand retrenched.

Meeting 30.3.72

Present: (1) Shri P.S.N. Bedi, Divl. Suprintendent,

- (2) Shri Shahay, SM(W)/KGP.
- (3) Shri K.M. Bhattacharjee, Vice-President, SERMU.

The Coal handling labour issue of workshops was discussed first. Out of 39 labour 26 were taken. The SM(W) explained that due to closure of power house some coal labour engaged there will not be required and these labour will have to be placed at other shops. So, further recruitment for coal handling is not possible. The SM(W), however agreed to take one Roja who has passed the selection and medical test. The balance 12 stand retrenched in this unit.

Then the material handling labour issue of workshop was discussed. Out of 188 only 69 were employed. After discussion, it was decided that another 41 will be taken for which a panel is ready. The SM (W) stated that within a six months period i.e. by 21.8.72 sanction of those 41 posts will be taken and recruited. The SM(W) further stated that sons/daughters

of retired or going to be retired railway empoyees would be considered separately. So, full employment of 110 was guaranted, 78 stand retrenched.

Regarding cinder handling work at Kharagpur Workshops. There were works 47 labour working at this particular job. Only 29 posts were created. After discussion, it was decided that 29 persons will be taken from 10.4.72 and a panel of 11 will be kept. These labour wiil be absorbed within a very short period. That is a total of 40 will be taken. The remaining 7 will get chance in case they are required to fill up any gap in these 40.

Meeting of 1.4.72

Present: (1) Shri P.S. Bedi, Superintendent,

- (2) Shri K.M. Bhattacharjee, Vice-President, SERMU,
- (3) Shri Gurbanchan Singh, DCOs/ESD,
- (4) Shri Umapati Ambast, Secretary, T.M.U., KGP.

The question of retrenched labour of stores Department was discussed. DCOs/KSD explained the position and stated that due to gradual reduction in work, it will not be possible to employ and more labour to the contrary serious efforts are being put to retain 444 labour, which were taken by the Railways.

The DS stated that he will put in necessary efforts to find out some work in other departments after consulting DEN and others. For this purspose, he waited 15 days time to examine the entire issue. The representatives of the labour agreed. The total labour retrenched in the stores is 196. The Union suggested to absorb as many as possible to casual labours work and to offer some work to the labour contract co-operative society such as material handling, road, buildings, quarters buildings etc. so that the retrenched labour may be employed by the Co-operative labour contract society.

The above recorded minutes is forwarded to GM/CPO/COS/CME/DS/SM(W)/DCOS (ESD) for information. The Union would request that an all out effort may kindly be made to find out some item of work to protect the retrenched labour, which is about 400.

Sd- Illegible.
(K.M. Bhattacharjee)
VICE-PRESIDENT (CENTRAL)
S.RAILWAY MENS UNION.

Copy of letter No. SE/P/9/ST/KGP dated 20.11.72 from the Chief Personnel Officer, S.E. Rly., Garden Reach, Calcutta addressed to the Regional Labour Commissioner(C), Calcutta.

 \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}

Sub: Employment of retrenched Thikhadar Mazdoor of Kharagpur and programme of movement thereof.

Ref: Your letter No. Cal-58(43)/72 dated 14.11.72 and-III (Rly)/ (Complt)/72 dated 14.11.72.

Reference is invited to your letters quoted above. The genesis of the case is given below in brief for your information:—

As a matter of administrative expediency, the following handling works, which used to be carred on previous by employing contract labour, were departmentalised in the recent past:—

- (i) Stores handling of Engineering Store Depots and Scrap yards;
- (ii) Coal, Cinder and material handling in Kharagpur Workshops;
- (iii) Coal and Cinder handling in Kharagpur Loco Shed.

At the time of such departmentalisation, an unwritten agreement had been made with the Thikadar Mazdoor Union, Kharagpur (which is an unrecognised union) that such of the labour who had not been given regular appointment on the railways in the wake of departmentalisation would be eligible for being considered against any casual labour posts that might be sanctioned for seasonal increase in the handling work as and when additional requirement comes up in future.

It has now been represented by the President, Kharagpur Thikadar Mazdoor Union vide his representation dated 24.10.72 that this part of the commitment is not being honoured. It has been explained to him that as and when requirement for additional labour, whether on a regular or on a casual basis comes up for handling in any of the above units, the manpower requirement will be met from the displaced contract labour.

It may be pointed out that no promise of any negotiation had been given by this administration as a sequel to the withdrawal of the hunger strike resorted to at Kharagpur with effect from 4.9.72 as stated. This hunger strike was given up on 7.9.72.

On 12.9.72 when the General Secretary, S.E. Railwaymen's Union, Kharagpur (a recognised union) visited this office along with the Secretary, Thikadar Mazdoor Union, Kharagpur, it was explained to him that as and

when requirement for additional labour whether of a regular or on a casual basis comes up for handling in any of the above units, the man-power requirement would be met from the retrenched contract labour. The contemplated mass squatting from 15.11.72 at Kharagpur as stated in the said representation had been subsequently given up.

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Note:

KGP Dt. 10.3.72

Discussion with Shri Uma Pati Ambast, Secretary, Thikadar Mazdoor Union-KGP in connection with the appointment of balance 10 labour for Cinder handling/Cinder Picking work.

Out of a total of 40 labour sanctioned for cinder handling/picking work, 30 have already been appointed (19 Females and 11 Males). After appointing 30 labour it was revealed from the record that 12 out of 40 were sanctioned for cinder picking which work was not required to be taken in hand after departmentalisation of this work.

- 2. Opinion of the Thikadar Mazdoor Union was sought regarding the appointment of balance 10 whether to appoint from cinder pickers or from cinder handling. It was agreed that out of a balance of 4 Males, 6 Females who are required to be appointed, 2 Malespand 2 Females may be taken from the list of cinder handling work as per agreement already arrived at. The balance 6 Females may be taken from the cinder picking work. These 6 Females will, however, have no objection for their utilisation for cinder handling work.
- 3. These 6 Females from cinder picking list may also be taken as per para 6 of the Previous Note dated 9.2.72 which is reproduced below:—
 - "(6). For cinder handling work, the youngest (above 18 years) will be given preference for employment since seniority list of these labour is not available."

Sd/-(UMA PATI AMBAST) SECRETARY, Thikadar Mazdoor Union, Kharagpur \$d/-(I.N. VINDAL) for DIVL: SUPDT-KGP.

ANNEXURE-III

BASUDEB ACHARIA Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

Deputy Leader, C.P.I.(M) Lok Sabha Member.

Consultative Committee. Ministry of Railways.

R4O. No.....

413, V.P. House, Rafi Marg. New Delhi-110001

Phone: 3715957

Vill. Kantaranguni P.O. Adra, Distt. Purulia(WB) Phone: 262(R) 3058, 2360 (O)

Dated: September 18, 93

Dear Dr. Pande.

This is incontinuation of my letter regarding absorption of Coal and Ash Handling workers engaged in Steam Loco Shed. I am enclosing herewith a list of 9 such workers who were absorbed in the Railways consequent upon closing down of Steam Loco Shed at Anara in South Eastern Railway. The Assurance Committee of Lok Sabha is examining the case as the Railway Minister, Shri C.K. Jaffar Sharief gave a categorical assurance on the Floor of the House on 25th July, 1991 when this question was raised by me. I sincerely hope that the Assurance Committee, Lok Sabha will make positive recommendation for their absorption in Railways consequent upon the closure of Loco Shed and elimination of Steam locomotives.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-(BASUDEB ACHARIA)

Dr. Laxmi Narain Pandcy, MP Chairman Parliament House New Delhi

CC: Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, Member, Assurance Committee

(BASUDEB ACHARIA)

No. 22/83

Adra, dt. 12-1-83

15

Reg: Screening of 9 coal handling Casual Labourers working at L/ANR in the seniority unit of L/ANR-PRR-CNI for regularisation as per decision made in the PNM Meeting with SERMC.

Ref: This office circular No. DPO/ADA/DRM dt. 15/20-10-82 2 CF-4
ANR's letter dt. 30-11-82.

Above 9 coal handling casual labourers of L/ANR as detailed below were screened on 30-12-82 by a duly constituted Screening Committee. All the 9 candidates were present and non were absent on the said date of screening.

On the recommendation of the Screening Committee, the DRM has approved the following panel on 10-1-83.

SI. No.	Name & Father's Name	D/Birth	Dt. of initial Apptt.	Remarks regarding overage
ī	2	3	4	5
1.	Smt. Triguna Bouri (SC) Chamu Bouri	15-9-36	1-8-76	Overaged by 6 yrs. 11 months on apptt. even after giving relaxation of age by 5 yrs. for being SC candidate.
2.	Shri Nanda Dev Bhattacharjee, T. C. Bhattacharjee	20-1-38	1-8-76	Overaged by 10 yrs. on apptt.
3.	Smt. Chinta Deswali Dayal Deswali	10-7-40	1-8-76	Overaged by 8 yrs. month on appointment.
4.	Smt. Alta Bouri (SC) Hansu Bouri	20-8-45	1-8-76	Within age limit after giving age relaxation of 5 yrs. for being SC.
5.	Shri Dewan Majhi (ST) Braja Maghi	15-9-35	5-8-76	Overaged by 7 yrs. 11 months on apptt. after giving age relaxation of 5 yrs. for being ST.

1	2	3	4	5
6	Shri Bilas Deswali Khudiram Deswali	25-6-46	5-8-76	Overaged by 2 yrs 2 months on apptt.
,7 .	Smt. Basini Majhi (ST) Keshar Majhi	15-5-48	5-8-76	Within age limit after allowing 5 yrs. age relaxation for being ST.
8.	Smt. Balika Bouri (SC)	20-3-50	3-8-76	Within age limit on appointment.
9 .	Moti Deswali Dayal Deswali	20-4-50	5-8-76	-do-

All of the 9 candidates were working continuously from 19-1-79. They have submitted the Court's affidavit towards their date of birth. Item No. 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 have produced the proper SC/ST certificate from the competent authority. Their absorption in regular measure will depend on availability of vacancies any where.

Sd. R. D. Arya, 12.1.83

Divl. Personnel Officer/Adra.

C. to Sr. DME, Sr. DAO, OS—Bill, CF—ANR, OS. Pass, Divl. Secy.

ERMC/ADA, Vice President—SERMU/BURN for inf. and n/action.

Sd/- R. D. Arya, 12.1.83 Divl. Personnel Officer/Adra.