

The question is:

"This House notes with concern that the landless agricultural labour and the poor peasantry who constitute 70 per cent of the rural population are in acute distress due to absence of effective and genuine land reforms, lack of job opportunities abnormal rise in prices of essential commodities and other social and economic injustice and recommends that—

- (a) adequate job opportunities for the mbe created with regulated working conditions,
- (b) a reasonable minimum wage rate to meet their daily necessities be fixed and effectively implemented,
- (c) supply of food and essential commodities at reasonable rates be made available to them, and
- (d) effective land reforms throughout the country be made without any further delay"

The motion was adopted

The Resolution, as amended, was adopted.

17.52 hrs

RESOLUTION RE GOVERNMENTS WAGE FREEZE POLICY

MR CHAIRMAN The discussion on this Resolution was to conclude at 16-30 hours but, because of the anxiety of the Members to discuss it, this has been extended almost by 10 minutes to six The House has also taken a decision that it will permit Shri Shyamnandan Mishra to move the third Resolution The House has already decided to have one hour for the second Resolution. We shall have to sit for some time more

After all, we have taken some time more for the consideration of this

important Resolution The decision of the House is there I hope that the House will not object to sitting for some more time It has already been decided to give one hour for Mr Panda's resolution

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore) This is such an important Resolution Is only one hour allowed for this? We should be given some more time

श्री मधु लियये (बांका) . री प्रस्ताव करता ह कि दाना को मोका मिल सके इसलिए सदन का समय बढ़ाया जाए।

श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा (पाली) छ बजे के बाद सदन को आप स्थगित करे और अगली बार लाए।

MR CHAIRMAN Private Members' Business gets only 2½ hours Still in order to accommodate Members we have decided to sit more I do not think with regard to Private Members' Business we do by way of formal motion Let us not go into it Let Mr Panda's Resolution be concluded in one hour Then we will take up Mr Mishra's Resolution Let us go on and we will see at that time

श्री मधु लियये : आप लोग हम से सहयोग मांगते है और हम आप से सहयोग करन है। अगर आप इस नीति को अपनाएंगे तो इसके नतीजे अच्छे नहीं निकलेंगे। एक दिन पूरा निजी सदस्यों के कार्य का समय सरकार कार्य के लिए लिया गया था। अगर आज एक डेढ़ घंटा हम लोग बैठने और पंडा जी के रेजोल्यूशन पर पूरी चर्चा करने के बाद श्याम बाबू को प्राप्ता मिनिट दे देंगे तो कोई आपत्तमान पटने वाला नहीं।

MR CHAIRMAN Let us not start this controversy Let the discussion start and we will see.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar):
I beg to move the following Resolution:—

"This House disapproves of the new features of the Government's wage freeze policy which are anti-working class and repugnant to well-established and universally accepted principles of minimum need-based living wage, full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living and determination of wages by free collective bargaining and calls upon the Government to revise this policy in the interests of labour and in consultation with the trade unions."

17.54 hrs.

[SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI in the Chair]

Sir, there are certain new features which are to be noted in the recent policy of the Government with regard to the labour. They have first begun by freezing wages by an ordinance and then by a Bill. It is a mistake to call it wage freeze, it is actually not a wage-freeze but a wage out. It is enforcing of a wage decline on the workers especially when there is galloping price rise in the country. There is 38 per cent price rise in essential commodities like wheat and so on. They have given up control on certain items and this has added to the price rise. In such a situation they are freezing the wages of the workers. In the name of curbing the inflation this Wage Freeze Bill was brought in and passed. That gives an indication in which direction the labour policy of the Government is moving.

Before I speak with regard to the Wage Freeze policy of the Government I would like to indicate here the concept behind this wage freeze. The concept behind this Wage Freeze Bill is the so-called secret report as has been stated by the Labour Minister on 26-7-74 in the Rajya Sabha.

That interim report known as 'Chakravarti Commission's Report' is the basis of the concept 'wage freeze.' What does this interim report contain? I think in this House the

Communist Members had demanded that it should be placed on the Table of the House. It should not be treated as a secret document. Already the full text has been published. Therefore, Sir, I demand that it should be placed on the Table of the House. There was a debate on 8-8-74 wherein we found that the Minister replied that the Government was considering this Report at various levels and certain decisions were being taken. One of the decisions, based on this report, was the appointment of a Wage Cell. What I wanted to emphasise was this. This is an interim report—Chakravarti Commission's Report—which has already been acted upon by Government. And it is already being implemented at least in part as far as wage freeze is concerned. Therefore, the Government cannot be allowed to say that it is any longer a secret report. Therefore, I demand that that report may be placed on the Table of the House. It is known to everybody as to what is contained in this Report. Therefore, I want to say that the concept of the need-based minimum wage was accepted all these years since the All India Labour Conference held in 1957. That concept of the need-based minimum wage has been completely given a go-by by this Wage Freeze Bill because of this interim report.

Secondly, the compensation was the increase in the cost of living index by of Dearness Allowance. That should be hundred per cent to the lowest way of Dearness Allowance. That should be hundred per cent, to the lowest level and it should be reduced to the higher level. The real effect is that the wage of the lowest level goes on decreasing. Now, they have fixed the poverty line also. And if a particular worker can be given a wage above this poverty line, the industry is not going to be affected. The very increase in wage above the poverty line wage will be given only in phased manner. All these implications that are contained in the interim report go totally against the principles, the ideological phases,

which the 1957 Indian Labour Conference had decided. Therefore, what I want to say is this. In 1957 what has been decided is this. On page 22, with regard to the minimum wage fixation, it was agreed that the minimum was the need-based wage which is to ensure the minimum human needs of the industrial workers irrespective of any other consideration. To calculate the minimum wage, that Committee explored the following norm and recommended that it is for the wage fixing authority including the Minimum Wage Committee, Wage Board, Adjudication etc. to decide about it. I need not go into this. It is on page 22 of the proceedings of the Indian Labour Conference. So, from this concept of the minimum need-based wage there is a departure in this very interim report and as a result of the action has been taken regarding wage-cut. So, in the name of curbing inflation when this policy was declared by the Government in the form of an Ordinance it became clear as to its very basis. The basis is clear after this Report has come to light.

18.00 hrs

The poverty-line in 1961-62 was Rs. 20/- per month and for 1971-72 it will come to Rs 40 - and three units mean four members. As such, Rs 160/- becomes the poverty line. In so many industries like cement, coal mines and steel the workers have reached somewhere beyond Rs. 300-. It is because of the struggle of the working class that could force the Government to accept this wage even beyond Rs. 300/- in certain cases. That is the achievement of the working class because of their organised movement. Now, the Government wants to fix the minimum wage at the poverty level. That means there would be total wage-cut and this is going to be forced upon the working class.

Before coming to the very basis of wage-freeze and its effect I would like to say a word about collective bargaining. Now, there will be National

Board and the Government will intervene through the Board and the Wage Board system which had been rejected by all the Central trade-unions is now going to be reintroduced. That is, the power of collective bargaining which the workers had achieved, namely, bipartite committees, etc. are going to be given a goodbye.

Therefore, this basic concept has to be opposed by all trade-unionists and all persons and Members present in this House as for the wage-freeze is concerned.

Sir, I cannot finish today. It is already six O' clock. Are we continuing up to seven O'clock?

सभापति महोदय : मिस्टर पंडा, आप को मालूम है कि आप के इम रेजोल्यूशन के लिए एक घंटा मुकर्रर है। आप बोल रहे हैं, आप अपनी स्पॉच जारी रखिए। जिस वक्त चेयरमनसिब समझेगी, इस के बारे में हाउस की भी राय ले लेंगी।

श्री इयाज नन्दन सिन्ध (बेगूसराय) : जरा जल्दी खत्म करिए जिस में हम को भी अपना प्रस्ताव रखने की बजाइश हो जाय।

सभापति महोदय : मिथा जी, मैं आप को यकीन दिलाना हू कि हाउस उठने से पहले आप का रेजोल्यूशन जहरा जा जायगा।

SHRI D. K. PANDA: I would like to re-emphasise this point again. As far as minimum requirements of food, housing education etc are concerned, the reduction of minimum wage to this poverty level, is a real disaster to the main productive force, that is the working class, in the country. If we hit this productive force, then, we are going to suffer the worst.

Now, it was agreed in the 57th Indian Labour Conference—all the trade unions including the INTUC who participated in that conference agreed—that the minimum wage should be need based and should ensure the minimum human needs of the industrial workers. But, in spite of all that, now, we are going for below it and throwing the working class as a whole

[Shri D K Panda]

into inhuman conditions, unbearable conditions. Now, how will this national minimum which is fixed under this so called secret report, interim report, namely, the Chakravarty report, be worked out? How will it be worked out? It will be worked out in a phased programme. Everywhere, the industrial magnates and the employers say that some wage increase will definitely affect the industry and by virtue of which, the industry will not be in a position to produce. In the name of production, in the name of viability they want to reduce the wages of the workers and they want to attack the workers. Now, even after 1967 there has been a consistent policy on the part of the Government to sabotage this need based minimum wage policy. It has been declared several times, it has been proclaimed to the world that we are going to pursue this need based minimum wage policy but on several occasions, it has been sabotaged. In 1967 Shri B K Mahanti, Chairman of the Committee on the framework of Wages and Income policy made an attempt to sabotage this concept of need based minimum wage. Then, there was the interim report. When the Pay Commission was going to fix the wages Government also brought pressure on them so that they also gave a go by to this very policy, this need based minimum wage policy. However, in spite of all these things, over all these years the working class has put up heroic battles and as far as iron, steel, cement etc. industries are concerned, before the negotiating committee, they have been able to achieve some of their demands and their wages came nearer to their need based minimum. Now, the cat is out of the bag. The position has become very clear now. In 1967, the basic concept was to provide need-based minimum wage.

सभापति महोदय - जी वल्लभ इस रेडोल्यूशन पर प्रमोवमेंट भी मूव होनी है

SHRI D K PANDA: I have to speak for 30 minutes. The Mover of

a Resolution usually takes 30 minutes. I cannot be deprived of my time.

सभापति महोदय: मुझे को अभी गवर्नमेंट के चीफ क्लर्क ने बतलाया है कि इस के लिये अगर हाउस का वक्त एक घंटा बढ़ाया जाय तो उन्हें कोई ऑब्जेक्शन नहीं होगा। इसलिये अगर आप ज्यादा बोलेंगे तो हाउस का वक्त बढ़ाने के लिये मुझे हाउस की राय लेनी होगी।

SHRI D K PANDA: Whatever that may be, the Mover of any Resolution will get 30 minutes, and I must get that time. I have not finished my speech yet.

सभापति महोदय - मेने बतलाया है कि अगर ज्यादा वक्त लिया जायगा तो मुझे हाउस का राय लेनी होगी। अभी दूसरे मेम्बरान को भी बोलना है।

SHRI D K PANDA: My appeal to the Chair will be that the House may sit up to 8 p.m. or even more. I have no objection. I shall support Shri Shyamnandan Mishra's moving his resolution. So, let the House continue up to 8 p.m. even.

सभापति महोदय - लेकिन वक्त बढ़ाने के लिये मुझे हाउस की राय लेनी होगी। आप 15 मिनट बोल चुके हैं मेरे पास अभी तक चार नाम बाये हैं जिन का अभी इस पर बोलना है, इस पर प्रमोवमेंट भी मूव होगी।

SHRI D K PANDA: My appeal will be that let the time be extended. I would not go beyond my time, and I shall take only 30 minutes.

सभापति महोदय - वह तो ठीक है, लेकिन जो वक्त मुझपर दिया गया है उस में खत्म नहीं हो सकेगा। आप 15 मिनट से चुके हैं।

SHRI D K PANDA: The House has not decided to go beyond 8 p.m.

but we are already going on beyond 6 p.m. So, let the House continue to sit up to 8 p.m.

सभापति महोदय इस के लिये हाउस की राय लेनी पड़ेगी।

SHRI D. K. PANDA: That is all right. I am within the time allowed for the Mover of a resolution

सभापति महोदय यह तो ठीक है, लेकिन आप खुद इस बात को मुनासिब नमस्ते कि दूसरों का भी अपनी राय जाहिर करने का मौका मिले।

SHRIMATI PARVATI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): I think there is misconception about the resolution itself. This resolution is a very major resolution, because time and again in the newspapers and everywhere else we are told that the Cabinet is seized of a new wage structure etc. It is a serious subject which Government never bring up before the House. But you are trying to cut short the time. Is this policy going to serve the working class?

सभापति महोदय मैं डम, पडा जी अपने बान को बहुत अच्छी तरह से कह रहे है। मुझे उम्मीद है वे खुद इस बात को मुनासिब समझेंगे कि इस रेजोल्यूशन पर दूसरे लोग भी बोलें, यह न हो कि खुद ही बोल कर रह जाय।

SHRIMATI PARVATI KRISHNANA. Kindly extend the time. The House can be magnanimous enough. Why should we not ask the House to be magnanimous enough to the working class by extending the time?

सभापति महोदय ऐसी हालत में मुझे हाउस की राय लेनी होगी।

SHRI D. K. PANDA: The second ordinance was aimed at wage freeze. I shall come to the ordinance presently. But what are the facts? Everybody knows that it seeks to res-

strict the distribution of profits by companies; this is so far as the first ordinance is concerned, the second ordinance is against the working class, it is meant not only to freeze but it actually effects a wage-cut. The Bill which has been passed here already is really an attack on the wage or earnings of the working class, and it has gone to the extent of depriving them of their very essentials. It is not a question of there being a deposit of their wages and the payment of interest on the same at the rate of 11 per cent. But we know that the rate of increase in inflation is 11 per cent. So, actually in terms of commodities and articles and in terms of value, it is meaningless whatever they deposit will also get reduced in value in course of time, and the workers will be deprived of even that deposited amount so far as the value is concerned.

So, the worker is now put to two kinds of odds and difficulties. Firstly, he is deprived, for the present, of the essentials. Secondly, even the deposited amount is going to get reduced in value after two years. Therefore, it is a two-pronged attack on the working class and their wages.

As far as inflation is concerned, how are we to curb it? The causes of inflation have already been declared by several economists. For instance, the *Economic Times* says:

"Inflation in India has not been caused by rising wage-costs".

So, let us be very clear. Wage-push or wage increase is not the real cause of inflation. To that extent, the economists and the *Economic Times* and other papers have given their verdict. The paper further says:

"In the absence of wage-push influence, inflation in India cannot be controlled by pegging wages and salaries."

These are the views of economic papers and economists. They have been telling us times without number

Policy (Res.)

[Shri D. K. Panda]

that the root cause of inflation lies somewhere else and not in wage increase.

Why should those who produce wealth, who produce different commodities, be given the first blow by Government? It is these people who are the worst hit by inflation and price rise. Yet Government has selected this very working class, who are the victims of inflation and price rise, for attack. This policy is ridiculous.

What are the causes of the present situation? The profit element is a constituent cause. Then there is black money that is in circulation. Thirdly, the lack of any effective policy of internal procurement direct from peasants based on a graded levy. There is a defective policy followed with regard to agriculture and industry. You are leaving the upper strata the upper brackets from these taxes. Something like Rs. 833 crores have been left only with these people. Now you are going to kill these workers by this wage freeze policy. By this you are getting only Rs. 450 crores. This is nothing compared to the tax arrears and penalties realisable which come to Rs. 833 crores

The AITUC has already given a detailed picture of how Rs. 2000 crores can be realised by way of arrears left with the monopolists, hoarders and tax evaders and others who are in the wholesale trade and other things. Then are you making any effort to recover the arrears in the shape of electricity dues which come to Rs. 146 crores? A sum of Rs 450 crores has been pumped into the rural sector and these electricity dues are lying pending as arrears with the kulaks and zamindars who are using power for their pump sets and agricultural operations. This has to be collected. Rs. 400 crores have been given as loans to co-operatives. These can be collected. Who are dominating these co-operatives? The kulaks and rich landlords.

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There are ways of collecting these amounts. But unit is not being done because Government are pursuing a policy which only helps the monopolists, hoarders and vested interests. Unless Government gives up this policy which is based on the Interim Report, things cannot be improved. Therefore, Government has to make a departure from its present policies. We demand a reversal of this policy. Whenever there is a wage demand, wherever the working class wants more wages, we have seen as in the railway strike that you come out with suppressive measures. After the railway strike, the way you are dealing with the railway workers is something which is barbarous. It is shamelessly done. All sorts of barbarous atrocities are perpetrated on these railway workers. This is in spite of the President's clear advice to them not to be vindictive. The President's advice has to be respected and implemented and all those people against whom there is absolutely no charge of sabotage or violence should immediately be taken back.

Another thing is that the incomes and prices policy announced by the Government is a hoax. Here I would just quote a great economist.

"Wage push pull theory of inflation is a fashion with Tories and Gaullists and Nixons for decades Phillip Curbes has discovered a wonderful gimmicky coefficient called the correlation between wages and prices. From this the Government has come out with the policy prescription to prevent price rise and wages to be pegged. To keep wages pegged, they suggest to maintain unemployment as a tolerance limit."

These are the things said by great economists and these have come out in several periodicals and magazines including the *Economic Times*.

I submit that this so-called interim report must be placed on the Table for discussion and Government must take a decision to completely throw

into the ditch all those recommendations in that report which is anti-working class and against all universally accepted principles of labour. All these arrears have to be collected and there should be demonetisation to bring out black money. We have given several suggestions several times. Wage freeze ordinances should be withdrawn. There should be nationalisation of all essential industries like sugar, vegetable oils, cotton and textiles so that private profiteers do not play with the production of essential commodities to mint money and inflict misery on the poor. The wholesale foodgrains trade should be taken over and there should be distribution of foodgrains through shops at all industrial units and depots in villages under popular committees. The peasant producer should be guaranteed a remunerative price. Speculative credit by banks and financing institutions should be totally prohibited. All non-developmental advances to the States Governments should be stopped.

Coming to Orissa, even the wage board recommendations of 1969 have not yet been implemented for sugar workers. Coal mine workers and iron ore mine workers are even today under contract labour and the wage board recommendations are only partly implemented. Another part has not yet been implemented. All the wage board recommendations as far as the 75,000 electricity workers and other workers are concerned should be fully implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"This House disapproves of the new features of the Government's wage freeze policy which are anti-working class and repugnant to well-established and universally accepted principles of minimum need-based living wage, full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living and determination of wages by free collective bargaining and calls upon the Government to revise this policy in the interests of

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labour and in consultation with the Trade unions."

There is one amendment by Mr. Daga but he is not here.

इस में एक अमेंडमेंट श्री डागा का है। श्री डागा यहाँ नहीं हैं।

एक बात में बता दूँ यह हाउस सात बजे के बाद नहीं चल सकेगा। मेहरबानी करके इस में जो चार नाम हैं, इन लोगों से मेरी दखलत है पाच पाच मिनट से ज्यादा न लें।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरैना) :
सभापति जी, यह जो प्रस्ताव पड़ा जी ने रखा है, वैसे तो मेरे और उन के विचारों में बड़ा अन्तर है, परन्तु जो बात इस प्रस्ताव में कही गई है वह वास्तव में मजदूरों के हितों से सम्बन्ध रखती है और हम भी चाहते हैं मजदूरों को उन के हक मिलने चाहिये। परन्तु सरकार का कुछ ऐंमः नं ति रहा है कि उसने सभी जगह मंहगाई भत्ता बढ़ाया उसका प्राधा जबरन वाट लिया। इस प्रकार उम की जो बेतन स्थिरकरण का नीति है वह मजदूरों के हित के विरुद्ध जाती है। कल मैंने यहाँ पर श्रम मंत्री जी का उत्तर सुना तो उन्होंने कहा कि यह तो वित्त मंत्रालय ने किया है हमारा श्रम मंत्रालय इस में क्या कर सकता है। कम से कम प्राप सिफारिश कर सकते हैं कि आज की बढ़ती हुई मंहगाई में मजदूरों को अधिक बेतन देने के बजाय, उम को जो बेतन मिलने जा रहा है उस का भी काट लेना कहा तक न्यायोचित है उम पर विचार करें। आज दिन प्रति दिन मंहगाई बढ़ती जा रही है। अधिकतर चीज मार्केट में गारब होती जा रही है, पैदा होने के बाद भी चीज मिलती है। इसी प्रकार जो आप की वितरण की व्यवस्था है वह ठीक नहीं है। बड़े लोगों ने जो मोनों पौली बना रखी है, जो चीजों का सग्रह करते हैं उन के खिलाफ प्राप ने कान से कठोर कदम उठाए हैं ? पड़ा जी ने सरकार को जो सभी चीजें अपने हाथ में लेने की बात कही है उस का मैं विरोधी हूँ। मैं उन की इस बात से सहमत नहीं हूँ। सरकार ने अनाज का व्यापार

[श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय]

किया लेकिन आज दिल्ली में कहीं भी जाइये सभी व्यक्तियों के राशन कार्ड नहीं हैं, बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जो बाजार से अनाज लेकर खाते हैं लेकिन आज बाजार में उनको अनाज नहीं मिलता है। आप की सरकारी दुकानों पर मिलेगा लेकिन बाकी जगहों पर नहीं मिलेगा। इसलिए सरकार व्यापार को अपने हाथ में जब से जबकि व्यापारी अधिक मुनाफा लेने लगे। और जो ब्राह्मण हैं, जो मजदूर हैं, उनको उचित दाम पर सामान न मिले। एक और तो आपकी दुकान हो जहाँ में मजदूरों को उचित दाम पर अनाज मिले लेकिन दूसरी और जो ऐसे लोग हैं जो वहाँ से नहीं खरीद सकते, जिनके राशन कार्ड नहीं हैं वह बाजार से भी खरीद सकें। इस प्रकार में यदि कामि-टीशन होगा तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा।

इसके साथ ही माघ जबरिया बेतन जमा करने की जो नीति था, ने अपनाई है इस सम्बन्ध में यदि मजदूर संगठनों में बातचीत की जाती तो अच्छा फल निकल सकता था परन्तु आप ने जिना उनसे बातचीत किए हुए इस नीति को अनायास है जिसका आज सारे देश में विरोध हो रहा है। आज महगाई इतनी भयंकर बढ़ती जा रही है कि जो बेतन उसको मिलता है उससे उनका गुजारा नहीं हो रहा है जिसके कारण उनके मन में नाना प्रकार के विचार आते हैं, वह सोचता है किस प्रकार में उसको पैसा मिले। वह सोचता है क्या पत्तर की फाड़ने का रास्ता और जिसका काम है उसे अधिक पैसा से—इस तरह के विचार उनके मन में पैदा हो रहे हैं। अष्टाचार इस हद तक पहुँच गया है कि लोग उनको सच मानने लगे हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। मेरे एक मित्र श्री नौ बहन की सगाई के लिए निकले। खूब लडके लूँगे लेकिन कोई नहीं मिला। बाद में उनको दफ्तर में काम करने वाला एक लडका मिल गया और उससे सगाई कर दी। मैंने उनसे पूछा

लडका क्या करता है तो उन्होंने कहा दफ्तर में क्लर्क है। डेढ़ सौ रुपये महीना तनख्वाह है? लेकिन उसको ऊपर की आमदनी हो जाती है। 4-5 सौ रुपए उसको ऊपर से मिल जाते हैं। यह देख कर श्री नौ बहन से उसका सम्बन्ध किया कि तनख्वाह तो डेढ़ सौ है लेकिन ऊपर की आमदनी हो जाती है तो इस प्रकार की मनोवृत्ति समाज में बढनी जा रही है। अष्टाचार के तरीके में जो पैसा लिया जाता है उसको भी जायज माना जाने लगा है और ऐसे व्यक्तियों को डेढ़ कर रिपेन्ट नय किए जाते हैं। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि आने जो प्रतिबन्ध लगाया है उसको समाप्त कीजिए। आज सारे देश में इसका विरोध हो रहा है। आप का कहना है कि जबरिया बेतन जमा करा लेने में सतर्क नहीं बढेगी। लेकिन आप का यह विचार सही नहीं है। पैसा इकट्ठा करने के आगे पास दूसरे तरीके भी हैं। बेतन या आयकर का पैसा आगे लेना है उसको आ। नीजिए, जबदस्ती लीजिए। और भी दूसरे तरीके हो सकते हैं। बड़े नोट्स का चलन आप बन्द नहीं करना चाहते हैं, पता नहीं उसका क्या कारण है। कारण यह हो सकता है कि चलते-चलते आपका वाला धन मिलता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यदि आप बड़े नोट बन्द कर देंगे तो निश्चित रूप में काफी वाला धन बाहर आ जायेगा। लेकिन आप उसका करना नहीं चाहते हैं। और इसलिए इस प्रस्ताव में जो भावना है उसका सम्मान करना है और आपसे प्रार्थना करना है इस सगाई को देखते हुए बेतन और भत्ता बढ़ा दें। आपका महगाई भले का जो तरीका है वह अन्य देशों की तरह की प्रणाली है और नीति महीने में रिपोर्ट आता है, जब कि मूल दर एक महीने में कहा से बड़ा पहुँच जाते हैं। इसलिये इस प्रणाली को समाप्त करे और बेतन तथा महगाई की नीति में सुधार करे। मैं चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी मेरी बातों को ध्यान में रखें और उनपर विचार करेंगे।

SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cauchar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Resolution moved by my colleague, Shri D. K. Panda, is a very important one

As you are well aware only recently the House had an opportunity to discuss the Ordinances which were promulgated by the Government to check the inflationary situation in the country. The whole Opposition and also certain Members of the ruling party showed very clearly that these Ordinances, specially, the Additional Emoluments Bill and the Compulsory Deposit Scheme Bill were not meant to curb and fight against inflation but these Bills were meant to curb the wages of the working class, the workers, in the country. These Bills were directed against the interests of the working class as a whole in the country.

Only a few days back, my colleague, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, had placed on the Table of the House a Report given by Prof. Chakravarty, the Panel of Economists That Report very clearly shows the mind of the Government as to in which direction they are going. This Report has not seen the light of the day officially. In that Report, it has been stated that the worker should not get a wage which is below the poverty level wage. Who is to determine the poverty level? According to Prof. Chakravarty, Rs. 40 a month, if October, 1972 prices are taken, is the criterion to determine the poverty line. According to Prof. Chakravarty and his team of experts, a worker with a family of five members should get at Rs. 200 a month, taking October, 1972 prices.

You are well aware, after decades of strenuous struggle with all the sacrifices made by made, they extorted from the employer as well as from the Government Rs. 200/- at least as a wage. If that criterion is accepted, it is clear that in 1974, a worker with a family of five members should get at least Rs 240/-. That is clearly mentioned in the Re-

port. This is a very important document as far as the working class and the working movement is concerned.

In his report there is no talk about freezing of profit, about control of profit. This House is well aware that, in today's India, at least there are 100 families, big monopolists, who have been looting the country day in and day out and who have amassed hundreds of crores of rupees.

Government have not come out with measures, Government have not come out with any Ordinance, Government have not come out with any Bill, for curbing the monopolists' profits or the looting and exploitation by the monopolists of the labour and the working class of our country.

This Government, including the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, often sheds tears for the unemployed youth. Today the number of the unemployed, officially, is about 80 lakhs, unofficially, the total number of the unemployed is four or five crores. They often shed tears for the unemployed and talk loudly about the agricultural labour and the poor peasantry of our country. But we know their lot. Today we have discussed the lot of the agricultural labour. In the name of raising the standard of living of the agricultural labour, in the name of giving employment to the unemployed youths and other sections of the unemployed people, this Government is trying to attack on the living standards of the working class, their wages, their salaries, which they have been able to obtain from the employers and the Government after a long struggle.

In today's conditions we demand of this Government that they must change their policies. There is no question of tackling inflation by reducing the wages of the workers, there is no question of tackling inflation by giving less and less amount of money to the workers and the working class people. The most question is,

[Noorul Huda]

In our country, today inflation is being created by the wrong policies, 27 years of wrong policies, pursued by the Government which we term as pro-monopolists, pro-landlords and pro-rich people. These policies must be changed. The working class people have started fighting. Only the day before yesterday, about 2,000 delegates from all over the country had assembled in Delhi to fight against the wage freeze policy of this Government. That is the only way.

I support this Resolution moved by Shri D K Panda and I would demand of this Government to change their policies. If they do not change their wrong policies, their anti-labour policies, their anti-working class policies, they will face stiff resistance from the working class all over the country as they had faced in May last. We have seen the united struggle of 17 lakhs of railwaymen, they have shown the way, the LIC employees have shown the way, the organized working class all over the country have shown the way. Unless this Government changes its wrong policy, unless the Government gives up the policy of wage-freeze as enunciated by Shri Chakrabarty and his team of experts, they are doomed to failure, and the working class will have to wrest power from this Government, the Government of pro-monopolists, the Government of pro-landlords.

बीमती रीखा देवा बांडे (बम्बई मध्य)
सभापति महोदय माननीय मंत्री जी ने, जो रिजोल्यूशन यहाँ पेश किया है उस को मैं स्पॉट करती हूँ। रिजोल्यूशन बहुत सीधा सादा और बहुत बड़ी मांग भी नहीं है। मांग तो सीधी है कि मिनरम नौड बेज लिबिंग बेज मजदूरों को मिला। ताकि वह जल्दा रहे और कहा है कि डी० ए० का फुल न्यूट्रलाइजेशन हो जाए।

डी० ए० जो आप ने देना शुरू किया वह इसीलिए कि महंगाई बढ़ी। मजदूर के

हाथ में अगर ज्यादा नोट गए, तो क्या आप समझते हैं कि उस का भला ही गया? उस नै वे नोट जा कर बाजार में फँक दिए। इसलिए अगर कहना यह है कि महंगाई बढ़ी जो डी० ए० का तो सबाल प्राया और उस के बाद ही आप डी० ए० देते हैं। डी० ए० भी क्या आप समझते है कि इमानदारी से देते हैं। आप देखिए कि बम्बई शहर में कीमते क्या है और डी० ए० की केल्वूलेशन किस बिस्म में होती है। जो डी० ए० मजदूरों को मिलना चाहिए वह उनको मिलता नहीं है हम ने कहा कि फुल न्यूट्रलाइजेशन कीजिए, तो मजदूरों को डी० ए० की जरूरत नहीं है। महंगाई बढ़ेगी, ता ही उस का डी० ए० मिलेगा। हम कहते हैं कि आप उस को नेशनल मिनिमम बेज दीजिए ताकि इस देश का मजदूर जो पश्चिम कर रहा है वह रोटा, खा सके। वह महला में बैठ कर खाना नहीं मागता है। उन को आपनी कैमनीज को जिन्दा रखने के लिए जितना मिनिमम बेज चाहिए उतना उन्हें दे दीजिए लेकिन इस का आप मानते नहीं है। हम लोगों ने जो मुझाव दिए थे, वे मुझाव भी आपने मजू नहीं किये। हमने कहा था कि जो 75 मानीसली हाउसेज है, उन को आप माफ कर दीजिए मोनोसनी हाउसेज को आप काम कर दे तो बहुत ना काम हो सकता है। प्राइवर ब्लैक मनी वं में पैदा होती है, सुपर प्रॉफिट्स में ही तो पैदा होती है। यह सुपर प्रॉफिट्स आप बन्दोल नहीं कर सकते और न इनको आप बन्दोल कर रहे हैं और इन्फ्लेशन बढ़ाते जा रहे हैं। आप डिमानेटाइजेशन भी नहीं बनेंगे ताकि इन्फ्लेशन कम हो। यह तो बढ़ता ही जाता है। आप मजदूरों को मिनिमम बेज नहीं देंगे और डी० ए० भी कम देते हैं।

आज देश में जिस तरह से बेकारी बढ़ रही है उस में लोग सबसुच में भूखे रहते है। मेरे घर के सामने, मिनिस्टर साहब, मैंने देखा है कि एक श्रावनी मिट्टी खा रहा था। मैं आप को बताऊँ सभापति महोदय, कि धरती 22 गारीश को जब मैं बम्बई में थी, तो एक श्रावनी

अपना तोलिये मुंह में सामने रख कर गीली मिट्टी खा रहा था। जब हमारे बच्चों ने यह देखा तो वे भाग कर आए और कहा कि मां, एक आदमी मिट्टी खा रहा है और हमें रोटी दो ताकि वह रोटी खा ले। यह आप के बच्चेई शहर में होता है, तो फिर हम देश के देहातों में तो क्या होगा और जब इन देश का मजदूर खड़ा हो कर कहला है कि हमें जिन्दा रहने के लिए मिनिमम बेज दीजिए, तो आप उस को सुनते नहीं है। आज आप को खदानों में, आप को माइम में और आप के टी-प्लान्टेशनम में, हर जगह ही मजदूर काम करते हैं और चीजों का उत्पादन करते हैं। इसलिए आप को उस को जिन्दा रहने के लिए, नेशनल मिनिमम बेज देने में कोई आबजकशन नहीं होता चाहिए। लेकिन आप तो उस पर हमला करना चाहते हैं जो आप का काम करता है और आप मोनो-पोलिस्टों पर हमला नहीं करेगे। न आप मुना-फाखोरों को पकड़ेगे और न काला-बाजारियों को ही पकड़ेगे चाहे वह हाजी मस्ताफा हो या कोई हो। अब तो हमारे इस दिल्ली शहर में भी ये लोग घूम रहे हैं और हो सकता है कि वे यहाँ पर आ कर अयत काम करे लेकिन आप को उन का पता नहीं लगेगा। आप को तो मजदूर ही मिलते हैं और आप तो इन मजदूरों को ही पकड़ सकते हैं। गरीब किसानों को पकड़ सकते हैं लेकिन काला-बाजारियों का आप नहीं पकड़ेगे। ये जो मुनाफाखोर हैं जो डेर सारा अनाज अपने गोदारों में छिपा कर रखते हैं और हम देश की जनता को भूखा मारते हैं लेकिन उनको आप नहीं पकड़ सकते। आप तो मजदूरों को ही पकड़ते हैं क्योंकि इन का खाना आप के हाथ में है। आप उन को नेशनल मीन-वेस्ट मिनिमम बेज दे दीजिए, फुल प्रोटेक्शन दीजिए, तो उनको डी०ए० नहीं चाहिए। आप इस देश की प्रगति करना चाहते हैं, इस देश की तरक्की करना चाहते हैं तो आप को मजदूरों की सहायता लेनी होगी और अगर आप इस की सहायता नहीं लेंगे, तो आप तरक्की नहीं कर सकते हैं। ये मजदूर आप का पूरा साथ देंगे

लेकिन अगर आप उन की गर्दन मारना चाहते हैं, तो ममम लीजिए कि अगर उन की गर्दन चली, गई, तो उस के बाद कोई हाथ आप के पाम काम करने के लिए नहीं रहेंगे। इसलिए मे मिनिस्टर भाइव से वरुगी की यह जो रेजोलूशन है, इस को वे केवल मजूर ही न करे बल्कि यह भी देखें कि यह जल्द से जल्द इम्पॉर्ट हो ताकि मजदूरों को भी सुविधा मिले और सरकार को भी कुछ रोजनी मिले और यह देश जिन्दा रहे और प्रगति करे।

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to one important factor in this resolution and that is, at the end, what does it say? It says: 'Calls upon the Government to revise this policy in the interests of labour and in consultation with the trade unions.' Now, Sir, there is a feeling in this House that the question of wage freeze has been talked out. Well, the issue of wage freeze may have been discussed on that Bill on wages and emoluments. I am not going into all those things. While you say so many things about wages and dearness allowance etc. what we find is that no action has been taken against black-marketeters I would like to remind this House that as far back as in May 1971 the Prime Minister put before trade unions on the move that wages will be frozen and what was the reaction of the trade unions in this country? A unanimous resolution was passed saying, please discuss the whole question of wage-structure and wage policy with the trade unions. It is not only a question of grant of national minimum wage. It is not only a question of rise in prices. It is not only a question of whether you are taking action against this black-marketeter or that blackmarketeter. Today the persons to suffer are the labour which has contrived to whatever little advance that is there in the country, and for the increase in the GNP. That labour today is being

[Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan]

thrown into the waste paper basket. Certainly it is the Labour Minister's responsibility for industrial peace in this country, for relations with the trade unions in this country. Therefore what are asking is this. Have a democratic process, call upon the accepted representatives of the working class, have discussion with them on the question of wage policy and wage structure in this country, not some intellectual sitting there and with whatever statistics he has, distorting them and coming out with some kind of a document which is given to the Planning Commission which is a most unplanned organisation in this country, which is bereft of all planning, but call upon the trade unions and carry out that assurance given by the Prime Minister as far back as in 1971 that the working class will be consulted, taken into confidence, for bringing about a reasonable wage structure. Today you have this anomaly where in respect of people doing identical work one is being paid Rs. 400 and another is being paid Rs. 200. Is this fair in a country which is known throughout the world as a welfare State? I am not going into the question of wage freeze at all. We are strong enough, we will fight it out; it has been fought in other countries of the world; Nixon tried the wage freeze and Watergate has caught up with him; wage freeze that is coming here is going to get up with the Government here also. It is there in the arsenal of the working class; it is there in the arsenal of democracy in this country that any undemocratic measure will be fought by democratic means, by fair means and the workers will get their justice. But certainly the Labour Minister can take up this proposition, have conference with trade unions, discuss with them the wage structure and wage policy in this country. Why should he not do it? Why could he not discuss with them? This is the question which I want to put before the hon. Minister. Thank you.

श्री सतपाल कपूर (पटियाला) वेज फ्रीज आर नीड बेस्ड वेज के बारे में जो बिहार रखे गए हैं उनसे डाई एंड लार्ज में एग्री करता हूं। आप किसी देश में नहीं देखेंगे कि वेजिज तो फ्रीज हो—लेकिन प्राइसिस फ्रीज न हों। लेकिन, वह रोजोव्यूशन मामूल नहीं है। इस में काफी डिफेक्टस है। इनको दूर करने की जरूरत है। सरकार को अपनी वेज पालिसी एनाऊंस करना चाहिए। जो हमारे देश का पैटर्न है उसमें ट्रेड यूनियन लीडर्ज की भी कुछ जिम्मेदारियां हैं। वेज फ्रीज, डी. ए. फ्रीज अगर आप करते हैं लेकिन प्राइसिस फ्रीज नहीं करते हैं तो आपकी पालिसी कभी कामयाब नहीं होगी। लेकिन ट्रेड यूनियनज भी रिसर्पासिविलिटीज है। उसकी कोई नहीं है और गवर्नमेंट की ही है अगर यह कहा जाए तो वह भी गलत होगा। अपनी रिसर्पासिविलिटीज का उनको निर्वाह करना चाहिए। हम बैक्सिमम डिमांडतो करते हैं और उसके लिए फाइट भी करते हैं लेकिन मिनिमम रिसर्पासिविलिटीज लेने के लिए भी हम तैयार नहीं हैं—

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Sir, he cannot treat the working-class like this.

श्री सतपाल कपूर: वकिंग क्लास के साथ मेरी सिमपथीज शायद आपस ज्यादा है उसके लिए फाइट करते हैं मेरा-कॉट्रीव्यूशन शायद अप से ज्यादा रहा है। लेकिन जहां क्रिटिसिज्म करने में मैं आपके साथ हू। मैं यह भी चाहता हू कि पोलिटिकल एक्सप्लाइडेशन भी जो होता है उसको भी कम कना हमारा कर्तव्य है। आप रेलवे स्ट्राइक को लें, वह बेवक्त थी। उसके लिए स्त्रोगन देना ट्रेड यूनियन लीडरशिप के लिए ठीक नहीं था, यह एक्सप्लाइडेशन वाली बात थी, मैच्योरिटी न होने की बात थी, पोलिटिकल परपज के लिए वकिंग क्लास को एक्सप्लायट करना था। इस चीज को भी आपको छोड़ना चाहिए। देश में एन्कॉन्स पैदा करने की जरूरत है, नीड बेस्ड पे और रिसर्पासिविलिटीज दोनों के लिए

किसरीदा करने की जरूरत है। इस काम में सर्वमैट, आगे आए और उसमें पार्टीज और ट्रेड यूनियन को साथ ले कर दाना बाना का कसिहर करके उसका चर्हि कि वह पालिस बनाए। साथ ही साथ जरूरत इस बात की है कि मुक्त में एक फूल मुक्त बंज पालिसी द्रोड्युज इन करे।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVINJ VERMA), Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Resolution tabled by Shri D K Panda is as follows:-

"This House disapproves of the new features of the Government's wage freeze policy which are anti-working class and repugnant to well-established and universally accepted principles of minimum need-based living wage, full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living and determination of wages by free collective bargaining and calls upon the Government to revise this policy in the interests of labour and in consultation with the trade unions."

I am grateful to the hon. Members who have expressed their views on this Resolution. I have listened to them very attentively and they have made certain points which I shall try to explain to them in due course of time.

Time and again, it has been mentioned here that Government have tried to freeze the wages and that this action of the Government is anti-working class. Sir, Government has not announced or enforced any policy which can be regarded as wage-freeze or against the working class. The action which has been taken by the Government is a part of its anti-inflationary drive. The Government promulgated Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Ordinance, 1974 and the Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Ordinance, 1974 on the 6th July, 1974 and Com-

pulsory Deposit (Income-tax Payers) Ordinance on 17th July, 1974.

Evidently, Mr. Panda is referring to the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Ordinance, 1974 and is very critical about it. Sir, one will have to admit that this Ordinance has not been introduced with a view to freeze the wages. I am happy that he has corrected himself and in place of 'wage-freeze' he has used the word 'wage-cut'. Sir, it does not prohibit any future increase in wages and it also does not put any ban on determination or revision of wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or through collective bargaining, conciliation, arbitration or adjudication. The ordinance merely requires a part of additional emoluments to be deposited in a special fund and the deposits will carry simple interest at a rate which will be two and a half per cent over and above the prevailing bank rate. Such a high rate of interest was never offered before. Even the Employees Provident Fund does not give more than 6½ per cent interest. To the extent money circulation is reduced, the rupee will gain in its value and such compulsory savings increase the purchasing power of the rest of the pay-packet. The Ordinance recognises that this compulsory deposit scheme should not be enforced in the case of workers whose earnings are very low. So, Sir, we are also very much concerned about it. In the case of those workers whose earnings are very low, we are not going to tax them in any way or impose restrictions on them or compel them to deposit a larger part of their income in the bank. The ordinance to limit the dividend to 12 per cent should also be welcomed. It will help the ploughing back of a larger part of disposable profits for development.

19 hrs.

Sir, I would now like to explain the rationale which is behind these Ordinances. The main reason which prom-

[Shri Balgovind Verma]

pted Government to promulgate these three Ordinances, mentioned above, has been that the country is in the grip of severe inflation which has been brought by the imbalance between the aggregate demand in the country and the availability of essential goods and services, which are needed to meet that demand and there is an urgent need for correcting this imbalance. The imbalance has been created by a rather unusually large supply of money in the country, the factors which contributed to the expansion of money supply being deficit financing by Government, rise in wages and non-wage increase unrelated to availability of goods, money supply coming from unaccountable, illegal sources, which is the result of evasion of taxes, both direct and indirect etc Government has not been able to control the situation by selective credit control. As the Finance Minister explained in the Lok Sabha on 24th July, 1974—here, I would like to quote the Finance Minister—he said:

“We have issued these Ordinances not because we believe that wages are going to increase the prices. We have done this to prevent possible inflationary pressures on the run-away prices. I really do not know what could have been the size of the inflationary pressure if we had allowed things to go as they are and not taken any steps to prevent them.

We never claimed that by the issue of these Ordinances, immediately there is going to be some fall in prices. We never claimed that. Then, these are not the only steps which ultimately will give us that result. We will have to take a series of steps. This is the first package we have given in the form of three Ordinances.

It is really speaking a package in order to reduce the monetary supply and reduce the inflationary pressure on demand.”

Then, he further added:

“I quite agree that it is a rather extraordinary step that we have taken. But, when we face an unequal situation we have to take unusual steps.

In a package, when one item has to be enacted through an Ordinance, the others become inevitably linked up with that.”

Sir, the implications of the Ordinance of 6th July were also explained by the Prime Minister, in detail, while replying to the No Confidence Motion. I would like to quote her here in order to dispel the misapprehension in the minds of hon. Members:—

“Government proposes not a wage freeze as the hon. Members have said—a wage freeze would mean a ban on negotiations or on revision of the wages. Now, this is not what we have done. What we have done is, not to impose any embargo on negotiations for wage revision either in the public or in the private sector. What we have done to enforce through these Ordinances is that workers become entitled to some increase in the emoluments, such increase should be deposited in a special account carrying a special rate of interest.

The Ordinance only asks the labour to save the increase in their emoluments for a certain limited period so as to give some respite to bring the inflationary situation under control. The amount saved by the workers is theirs and it will not be used by the Government, even temporarily, either for its current expenditure or for industries.

This has been actuated by patriotic motives, and in the past they have loaned money to the Government under various schemes. There is the small savings scheme; there is the pay roll savings scheme, the cumulative time deposit scheme and so on to meet the emergencies both

of war and of influx of refugees and so on."

Then, again, she has said:

"The idea of compensating labour for increase in the cost of living through periodical adjustment of dearness allowance was evolved during the Second World War. How has this system really provided an effective safeguard? This is the question which arises. Several said that they were well aware that an increase in dearness allowance is often only an invitation to traders to push up their prices. It is a spiral or vicious circle; as soon as dearness allowance is given, the prices rise and more dearness allowance is demanded."

Again, she has added:

"There are many factors contributing to rise in prices, and all these have to be tackled together, and you cannot just look at only one side of the problem.

One of the problems again mentioned was that in recent months it has been an inflationary psychology that has been building up. Traders and hoarders profit in such an atmosphere. Because people expect prices to rise continually and since income can only rise partially, they can never catch up with this rise in prices. So, such a psychology has to be effectively countered. Slowing down the process of continuous injection of money into the economy is one of the important steps by which we can hope to defeat the expectations of traders and hoarders. This steep reduction in expansion of money supply has been accompanied and is going to be followed further by other energetic measures such as curtailing unnecessary Government expenditure and by augmenting production in strategic sectors of our economy. Now, the House will perhaps remember that this is not the first time that either a part or the whole of the dearness allow-

ance has been impounded in the form of contributions, of provident fund or otherwise. Many State Governments have also done likewise for several years. The Government of India also took similar steps in 1967-68 when we were just recovering from an unprecedented drought."

Again, she said:

"So, all that we have done now is to extend this so as to cover the employees in the private sector in the interests of parity of treatment. This is the only new thing that has come about here and the amount deposited into the special account may be retained for some longer period than in the case of the scheme enforced in the past. But at the same time, if the period of retention is longer, the rate of interest is also appreciably higher."

My purpose in quoting the speeches of the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister was to show that we were not going to do anything which was likely to harm the interests of the working class, and it might have become clear by now that our intention is not to freeze the wages; and certainly as Shri Sat Pal Kapur has said, in order to freeze wages, we must try first to freeze the prices. So, we are taking steps. These Ordinances are there to bring about this salutary check and change.

Now, I may clarify some other points also which hon. Members have raised. Time and again, the question is being raised, and hon. Members have raised that question during this debate also, of fixing a need-based minimum wage. We have made it clear over and over again on the floor of the two Houses that wages in the organised sector are nowadays being settled generally through bipartite negotiations, in which case it is for the parties to consider the question of need-based wage with reference to the circumstances in the concerned industry.

[Shri Balgovind Verma]

The capacity of the industry to pay has got to be taken into consideration for the fixing of wage. So bipartite negotiations between the employers and employees have either taken place or have been in progress in some industries like steel, cement, HEL, HAL, HMT, BEL etc. We have never tried to stand in the way of these negotiations, but we have encouraged them. The hon. members know that we have called the representatives of the labour class as well as the employers and have tried to bring them round a table so that they may settle their wage fixation matters amicably.

A reference was made to collective bargaining.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: The collective bargaining process will continue?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: It is being continued.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: May I know whether the secret Interim Report is going to be thrown out?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I think he is referring to the Committee on Wage Policy. He wants the report of that Committee to be made public. I may tell him that we have received an Interim Report and it is under consideration of Government, to understand the implications of the recommendations before deciding whether the report should be made public or not. This is our policy. We are not concealing anything. Only it is under consideration. That is why we have not made it public just now.

He has mentioned—previously also he said this—that the Sugar Wage Board's recommendations were not being implemented in Orissa. I would request him to bring this to the notice of the Chief Minister. He knows that she has progressive outlook. In case there is any reservation on her part, he can write to us and we will take up the matter with the State Govern-

ment. We want that all the Wage Board recommendations must be implemented and if there is any industry which is not doing so, we would take up the matter to see that these are implemented.

Thus, Sir, there is no wage freeze. Government has neither banned revision of wages through collective bargaining, conciliation or adjudication nor issued any directives for modification of any accepted principles for the determination of wage policy.

In view of the position I have explained, I hope the hon. Mover will kindly withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: It is becoming very clear that workers are being asked to work harder and more and they are to get only less. I want that this policy should be reversed, because I find you are surrendering to the hoarders, monopolists, and blackmarketeers more and more. I need not go over this and repeat what I have said. But I want that Government should reverse this policy.

The Minister in charge, Shri Raghunatha Reddy has stated:

"The industrial relations situation will also have to be viewed in the context of the general economic situation in the country. During 1973, the economy was subjected to a severe inflationary pressure and a sharp rise in the cost of living, and the working class, particularly, was under severe strain due to the scarcity of essential commodities and a sharp rise in their prices, closure and lay-off resulting from power cuts and consequent erosion of their incomes and wages".

So I want to know whether Government are going to keep up their promise because the situation has to be viewed from the hyper-inflationary pressure and also the high price rise. Keeping these two things in view, Government have to keep up their own promise because this has been al-

ready stated in 1973. The re-structuring of the wage policy and revision of wages has been decided in 1971 and Government has to keep its promise. In this connection, this secret Interim Report has to be totally rejected because the 1967 Indian Labour Conference has already laid down the basis. There is an apprehension in the minds of the working class that the present wage policy is the offshoot of that report. Therefore, Government should reverse this policy of wage freeze, which has become bankrupt economically and politically. By pegging the wages you are not at all going to curb the inflation and increase production and reduce the prices. So many members of the ruling party themselves, like Mr. Sathé have said they have no faith in this wage freeze policy. It is one of the 10-point package programme. It will only hit the workers who are the real producers of wealth. In consultation with the central trade union organisations, Government has to restructure its wage policy and give up its present policy of repression against the working class. I only request the Government to implement the promises made by the Labour Minister and even the Prime Minister. With these words, I request the Minister to accept my resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"This House disapproves of the new features of the Government's wage freeze policy which are anti-working class and repugnant to well-established and universally accepted principles of minimum need based living wage, full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living and

determination of wages by free collective bargaining and calls upon the Government to revise this policy in the interests of labour and in consultation with the trade unions."

The motion was negatived.

19.19 hrs

**RESOLUTION RE: GROWTH OF
FASCISM IN THE COUNTRY**

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai). Sir, which Minister will attend to my resolution?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS** (Shri F. H. Mohsin). I am here.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: The Home Minister cannot attend to it.

The Prime Minister should attend to it I beg to move

"This House is of opinion that the Government is creating conditions for the growth of fascism in the country and therefore resolves that a Parliamentary Committee be constituted to make recommendations to counteract this dangerous trend."

MR CHAIRMAN: He may continue on the next day

19.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, August 31, 1974 | Bhadra 9, 1896 (Saka).