

that this is likely to lead to industrial unrest and would he kindly hold the Interim Relief sanctioned for the officers at least in abeyance until the Interim Relief question is settled for the workers also?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: Sir, I will seek the cooperation of the hon. Member, who is a very eminent trade union leader, for maintaining industrial peace in the country because that is in the interest of workers also and in the interest of the nation also. As regards the Interim Relief to officers, it has been overdue. I will clarify under what circumstances we had to grant this Interim Relief. So far as the salaries of workmen are concerned, revisions take place religiously after every four years. In the case of officers, as you know, there has been paucity of really good executives and we have failed to attract really talented people in public sector for want of better scales of pay and better career prospects in course of time. Their scales of pay may be revised for quite some time. The existing scales of pay were very poor and there was distortion also. In many public sector undertakings the executives were getting very poor salaries. So, keeping these in view, we decided to give them Interim Relief. This is not a revision of their scales of pay because this also is ultimately linked with the final recommendations of the High-Powered Pay Committee. The workmen have got a separate package according to the standing understanding between the Government and the unionised workforce. Therefore, I think it should not cause any heartburning in the workforce.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But is he aware of the heartburning or not?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: Yes, I am. That is why I took this chance to clarify that they are two separate issues. Therefore, no confusion should be created, no agitation should be built up on an issue which is non-existent.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, this is a very important item. If

you permit me, I will ask one supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Sir. There is rule for only one supplementary Mukhopadhyay Ji.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri H.B. Patil, Shri R.P. Suman, Dr. A.K. Patel, Shri Digvijaya Singh, Shri Narsing Suryawanshi. This is a very large number. I think there is no special protest today.

[*English*]

Is there a protest against the Question Hour?

[*Translation*]

Shri H.G. Ramulu, Shri Radhakanta Dugal, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, this pinches me.

[*English*]

I feel so very sad. We spend so much of time, money and energy. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

Contract for gas based power project

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* 829 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, as a sub-contractor of a West German Company, Kraftworks Union, was interested in getting National Thermal Power Corporation's contract for its proposed gas-based power project to be located at Kawas (Gujarat);

(b) whether the Kraftworks Union could secure the contract;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the

extent to which it affected the interests of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF K K TEWARY) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) A final decision in regard to evaluation of offers and award of contract has not yet been taken

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA Well, at least, I am glad to know that the final decision has not yet been taken. But I would like to know whether the negotiations which have been going on about awarding this contract for this gas base power project at Kawas has been with three foreign companies—one being Mitsubishi of Japan, the other being Elston G E of France I think, and then this German firm Kraftworks Union. Is it a fact that when tenders had been invited for the contract, then the lowest and cheapest bid was first of all made by this German firm Kraftworks Union. Interest for us is that Bharat Heavy Electricals is a sub contractor or wants to be a sub contractor in this project with the Kraftworks. If Kraftworks gets the contract, then the public sector concern BHEL would get a substantial share of the work which is estimated to be of the value of several hundred crores. The question I would like to ask is whether after the lowest bid was made by Kraftworks which would have benefited BHEL there is some attempt being made to change the magnitude of the tenders, the bid by some Evaluation Committee? I want to know who are the Members of this Evaluation Committee, as a result of which Kraftworks instead of being cheapest bidder has now become the highest bidder? Has World Bank also appointed one Consultant called Abasco who is also favouring some company other than this — Kraftworks Union. We know the World Bank's policy. They want you to give contracts to all the foreign multi-national companies and not to give any part of the work to our Indian firms public sector particularly. So, you have not yet concluded the

contract but I want you to re-assure the House that the interests of Bharat Heavy Electricals, the public sector company of our own, will not be sacrificed for the sake of pressure by the World Bank in favour of these other concerns in which case our BHEL will lose share of this work

PROF K K TEWARY From the supplementaries which I have just heard, it is very clear that this part referred to by the hon Member does not come under my Ministry. This concerns Energy Ministry

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA Sitting in front of you

PROF K K TEWARY Global tender or decision about this has to be taken by the Ministry of Energy

I am only concerned with BHEL getting a share. So, any detailed information about the project, decision making process, parties involved, all these are to be referred to the Ministry of Energy. But for the information of the hon Member, I can tell him that this project is a large project involving a cost of about Rs 1500 crores at three places. They are taking up three gas-based power projects. Kawas is one of them and Kawas cost is about Rs 324 crores. Because of qualifying requirements—it is a new technology area—BHEL very much want to participate in it because they gain experience plus they get orders for the company. So, BHEL subcontractor of Kraftworks Union is a participant and Kraftworks Union is the prime participant in the tender. The whole matter is under the consideration of the Government. Evaluation is a process which has to take place and the Ministry of Energy have specifications and parameters. So, while decision is firmed up and finally taken, all the matters will be taken into account. BHEL as an indigenous power equipment manufacturing unit may get its share both in terms of participation in a new technology venture and also in terms of orders for manufacture indigenously.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Government is one. Is it not so?

MR. SPEAKER: That is why he has said something like that.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Somebody has got to answer my question.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, Shri Sathe is also there.

[*Translation*]

There is a saying but I will not quote it.

[*English*]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: I have said it very clearly that the evaluation is taking place. No final decision has yet been taken.

So, any fear on the part of the hon. Member that indigenous capacity will not be taken into account, the fear that indigenous capacity is not properly utilised, will not be taken into account, is unfounded and therefore I can say that at this stage since a decision has not yet been taken finally by the Ministry of Energy. In the Ministry of Industry we have made our point of view very clear and definitely the Government is one, and therefore Government will take a decision which goes in favour of Government objectives including utilisation of the installed capacity.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are disturbed very much because it is reported rightly or wrongly that the Energy Ministry and the Industry Ministry do not see eye to eye on this question. There is a serious matter which may lead to destabilisation of the Government. That will be very bad.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): Sir, that is not correct. We are not quarrelling.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard about Tobesco but here we have Abasco.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Who are the people in this Evaluation Committee who have been given the job of final evaluation? Secondly, I would like to know whether the World Bank appointed consultant by the name of Abasco is on the job and if so, we have our own concern about it because we know about the World Bank policy. The World Bank would like to elbow out our public sector company. Therefore, we are feeling a bit apprehensive about it. Madam may kindly throw some light on that.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Although the question was not addressed to us—that is why I was trying to keep quiet—now my hon. colleague as also everyone has said, the Ministry of Energy is dealing with it. We are dealing with it. All these proposals are being examined. It is true that in consultation with the World Bank, a consultant was appointed by the NTPC, not the World Bank, but by us.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Suggested by the World Bank.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There was a panel from which we selected Abasco. They were the consultants. Sir, NTPC Board prepared a whole criteria of terms to be filled up by various parties; six parties filled up their tenders, they have been evaluated, the NTPC Board, the Committee, is evaluating the various tenders, it is in the process of evaluation at present.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Who are the Members of the Board?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which Members?

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Members of the Board.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: NTPC Board Members—I don't have all the names with me here.

Therefore, as I have maintained, we always take care of national interest. What is supreme and uppermost in every decision that the Government takes, whether of this Ministry or any other Ministry is national interest and that will not be sacrificed.

Postal Transactions Through Private Contractors/Agents

*832. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of stamps through contractors has since been discontinued ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether booking of registered articles by licensed private agencies has been introduced ;

(d) if so, whether some other types of works of postal transactions have been given to such licenced private agencies; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the safeguards taken to ensure that these agencies function without any kind of malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (e) A statement is given below

STATEMENT

(a) For sale of postage stamps and Stationery three Schemes have been introduced by the Department at different points of time. These are as follows:

(i) A scheme was introduced in 1969

for sale of postage stamps and stationery through private agencies. This scheme was suspended in 1979 due to the then prevailing shortage of these items. However, the scheme was re-introduced with effect from 1.9.1983. The rate of commission allowed is 1½%. Licenses under this scheme are granted to ex-servicemen, P & T pensioners, dependents of deceased P & T employees, educated unemployed and physically handicapped.

(ii) The second scheme was introduced with effect from 26.6.1980 for sale of postage stamps and stationery through licencees in hilly, backward and tribal areas at substantially higher rates of commission which are as follows:

(a) upto Rs. 100/- per month—5%

(b) Rs. 101 to Rs. 200 per month—7½%

(c) Rs. 201 and above—10%

(iii) The third scheme of licensed postal agents (LPA's) was introduced with effect from 16.8.1985. Under this scheme also postage stamps and stationery are made available to members of the public through licenced agents. A commission of 3% is paid on sale up to Rs. 1000 per day and 1½% beyond Rs. 1000. Under this scheme licenses are normally issued to social institutions/voluntary agencies/women's organisations/Co-operatives and the like. War widows and physically handicapped persons are also considered preferentially. All the three schemes are in force and none has been withdrawn.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of