

the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is likelihood of a hike in the prices of electrical steel sheets ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) how far it will affect the steel industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) The prices of electrical steel sheets were last revised in February, 1987.

(b) The price is fixed by the producers themselves after taking into account factors like the cost of production, marketability and the landed cost of comparable imported materials.

(c) It will assist the steel industry to neutralise the increase in its input costs.

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Sir, a number of small units are manufacturing and trading in stainless steel articles in India. They are on the verge of closure because of high incidence of sales-tax. At some places like Tamil Nadu and Bihar sales tax including surcharge is as high as 18 per cent whereas it is 3 per cent in Pondicherry, 7 per cent in Kerala and 6 cent in Andhra and Maharashtra.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister why there is so much of difference among the States. Will the Union Government take steps to initiate this matter with State Governments ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, I did not quite follow the question. I think he was asking about the stainless steel whereas this question relates to electrical steel sheets.

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Actually the main question was regarding the electrical steel sheets. On this problem also I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. It is written in the reply that—

[*Translation*]

The price is fixed by the producers themselves after taking into account the

factors like cost of production, marketability and the landed cost of comparable imported materials. In reply to part (a) of the question, it has been stated that the prices of electrical steel sheets were last revised in February, 1987. How is it possible that the price is fixed by the producers themselves ?

[*English*]

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, the price of steel items is divided into two categories—those which are determined by the J.P.C. and those which are left to the steel producers themselves. In February 1985 there was a general revision in steel prices. At that time prices of steel sheets were also revised. This was one of the items which was left to the steel producers themselves to revise, and they have revised it twice and the latest revision is in February 1987. February 1987 is now just a month or two months ago. So, this is left to them and they have to revise it. Actually the fact is that the landed cost is the basis and 95 per cent of that is CRNO price. That is how it was determined. And the price increase is not much, it ranges from about 7 per cent to 11 per cent. So, it is not a large increase in prices.

#### Bonded Labour

\*456. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey had been conducted to ascertain the number of bonded labour in the country ;

(b) if so, when the survey was conducted and the number of bonded labour identified in each State ;

(c) the steps taken to get them free from their employers and rehabilitate them ; and

(d) the provision made under the 20-Point Programme for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of

bonded labour rests with the State Governments. They have conducted surveys from time to time to identify bonded labour. Identification of bonded labour is a continuous process and the State Governments have been advised to continue and intensify their efforts to identify bonded labour.

A statement regarding the number of bonded labour identified is given below. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour, assistance worth Rs. 6,250/- is given to a released bonded labour for his rehabilitation. The State Governments have been advised to integrate the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with other anti-poverty programmes.

(d) Point No. 6 of New TPP-1986, *inter-alia*, envisages full implementation of the law relating to abolition of bonded labour and involvement of voluntary agencies in the task of identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour.

#### Statement

S. No.	State	As identified and released by the State Govts., as on 31-12-1986
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24788
2.	Bihar	11729
3.	Gujarat	62
4.	Haryana	295
5.	Karnataka	62689
6.	Kerala	823
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5627
8.	Maharashtra	904
9.	Orissa	44931
10.	Rajasthan	6897
11.	Tamilnadu	33180
12.	Uttar Pradesh	22917
	Total	2,14,842

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, even though my question is, how many bonded labours have been identified and how many of them have been released, the hon. Minister has only told about those who are identified and released. May I know from the hon. Minister, how many bonded labours have been identified in the country and out of them, how many of them have not yet been released ?

My supplementary would be, the hon. Minister in his answer has told that 2,14,842 bonded labourers in the country were released. But may I know how many of them have not been rehabilitated and by which time, all of them would be rehabilitated ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, this question was elaborately discussed last month also and I had given the full figures.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know, how it has come !

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation estimates the total number of bonded labours as 3.45 lakhs. The State Governments have identified 2.14 lakhs and out of them, 1.80 lakhs have been rehabilitated.

MR. SPEAKER : The same answer for the same question. I do not know, why it has come again.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The amount allotted by the Centre is Rs. 6250 for each bonded labour for his rehabilitation but this is not adequate. Therefore, some of the State Governments have requested the Centre to increase the amount. I would like to know which are the States which have requested the Centre to increase the amount on this issue and what is the reaction of the Government ?

Sir, you being a renowned farmer, you might be knowing that one pair of small bullocks would cost Rs. 5,000. So, rehabilitation of bonded labours has to be provided with bullocks or some type of small scale or cottage industry etc., which would cost much more than Rs. 6250. But the State Governments are not paying the amount

from their State exchequer for the rehabilitation programme. May I know, what is the reaction of the Government on this issue ?

**SHRI P.A. SANGMA :** The amount has been increased recently to Rs. 6250/- on the request of the State Governments and as I have informed the Huse House earlier, Rs. 6250 is the matching grant that the Government of India give. An equal amount has to come from the State Government. Therefore, the total amount available for rehabilitation of a bonded labour comes to Rs. 12,500 which we feel is quite adequate.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI :** Sir, the Central Government, on the question of bonded labour, I think, has taken a very unreasonable stand, in the sense, on the one hand it says, under the 20-point programme, the abolition of bonded labour is a national commitment. But on the other hand, it says the identification of bonded labour is the State subject and it is for the State Government to do and the Central Government has nothing to do with it. We pointed out on the last occasion that in Haryana 296 bonded labours were identified. But from the record it seems, there is no more bonded labour. If it is a national commitment, the Central Government cannot take this position that on the matter of identification, the Central Government has nothing to do. And, therefore, I would like to know from the Minister, to identify the bonded labours, particularly in those States where it has proved to be an acute problem, as the matter has gone to the Supreme Court, whether the Central Government has its own agency to identify and will it see that in those States where it is a problem and it has not been tackled properly by the State Governments, the Central Government should play its role ?

**SHRI P.A. SANGMA :** I do not agree with the hon. Member that the Central Government has been unreasonable in this matter. In order to identify bonded labour, you require a machinery. Government has their own machinery. It is primarily their problem. We have always been giving whatever assistance they wanted. I myself made

it clear last time. The money required for their rehabilitation is not a problem.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is incumbent on them. They are responsible to the people. The people should throw them out then.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact is that the Central Government has not been able to ascertain the number of bonded labourers in the country.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has just now given the figures.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM :** No sir, the figures which he has quoted here are only figures on paper ; these figures are useless, baseless and have no substance.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You give him the correct figures.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM :** Yes sir, I am ready to give him the actual figures if he so desires. If he does not have the material, we can provide him the required material, but the way they pass on the responsibility to the State Governments, it is not going to solve any problem. He has put the figures of released bonded labour at 2,14,842, but does he have the figures of those bonded labour who after having been released became bonded labour again because they did not have any other option ? Many of them were forced to lead a life of bonded labour again *(Interruptions)*..... Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that Government assistance worth Rs. 6,250 is given to a released bonded labour. Does he know by how much the prices have risen in the market and what can be purchased with this money ? This amount is not enough even to purchase a pair of bullocks. What then the bonded labour would do ? He will have to go to the same moneylender and take loan from him and thereafter when he will not be able to repay the loan, the money lender will take away his bullocks and plough, etc. Therefore, I would submit that instead of giving baseless figures,

the hon. Minister should do something solid for them.

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI V. TULSIRMA : I would like to know whether Government would take some constructive steps to ensure that once released, the bonded labourers are not forced to become bonded labourers again? Is there any scheme before the Government in this regard? No attention is paid to them after they are released. It does come in the records that so many bonded labourers have been released, but they are forced to lead the life of a bonded labourers again.

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : It is not a fact that Central Government has not done anything. I have repeatedly made a statement that the National Sample Survey Organisation which is under Planning Commission has estimated the number of bonded labour.

On the basis of that, State Government are identifying the bonded labour and identification is a continuous process. In fact, the hon. Member comes from Andhra Pradesh and I am sorry to say that a number of bonded labourers identified have not been fully rehabilitated by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of bonded labour is very serious indeed. As the Central Government has left the work of identification of bonded labour to the State Governments, I want to tell you about my own district Mirzapur which is a backward and Adivasi area. An assurance was given to rehabilitate all the identified bonded labour, but if it is proved that even 25 per cent of them are bonded labourers, I am prepared to resign. What the State Government machinery is doing is that the servants of some big people the shepherds and other such people are collected and forcibly given money, 50 per cent of which is pocketed by the officials themselves. There is no

question of any shame. I would like the hon. Minister to get a survey conducted in Dugadhi tehsil of Mirzapur district and let us know the actual figure of the bonded labour released there. As a target has been fixed under the 20 Point Programme and the Government has announced to give first prize to the State that shows the best results, a sort of competition has started throughout the State between the D.M. and the Labour Department and they are sending concocted figures and, in fact, in stead of giving assistance to the bonded labour, they are obliging the big people. For instance, you can get a survey conducted in our Dugadhi tehsil to find out how many persons were given assistance there, when this assistance was given and how many of them were actually bonded labourers. Will the hon. Minister give assurance in the House for conducting such a sample survey?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think it is a submission and not a question at all. (*Interruptions*) If the hon. Member has got any specific case of misuse of that money where the State Government has, instead of giving the money to the bonded labours, given it to somebody else, as he has alleged, he may give me the details. I will look into it.

#### Encouragement to Palm Cultivation

\* 460. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to encourage palm cultivation in the country ; and

(b) the programme envisaged and the area surveyed therefor .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The following steps have been taken to encourage oil-palm cultivation.

(i) Oil palm plantations have been taken up in Kerala and Andaman &