

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]**Reported case of Fraud in CTO, New Delhi**

*163. PROF. MADHU DAN-
DAVATE†:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RA-
WAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in June, 1986, a fraud was reported in the Central Telegraph Office, Eastern Court, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been enquired into by the CBI or any other agency; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the details of action taken thereon?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-
TIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a)
to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In May, 1986, Accounts Officer, CTO, New Delhi, while signing the bills of unpaid wages, noted some discrepancies and then preliminary investigations were started. The Accounts Officer submitted his report in July, 1986.

Analysis of the preliminary investigation report revealed involvement of 68 officials (all non-gazetted) and the Competent Authority decided to issue major penalty charge-sheet to nine (9) officials and minor penalty charge-sheet to fifty-nine (59) officials. Five (5) RIP officials were also in-

involved in this fraud and their services were discontinued forthwith.

(c) The matter was first investigated by the departmental agency and then it was also referred to the CBI.

(d) The CBI have not yet replied to our reference and the CBI has been reminded on 30th September, 1988, and 6th March, 1989.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In part (a) of the Question, I had enquired whether in June, 1986, a fraud was reported in the Central Telegraph Office, Eastern Court, New Delhi and your reply is—Yes, Sir. That means you concede that it is a fraud and though you have conceded that it is a fraud and the fraud was reported, strangely enough in part (b) of the reply you have stated:

"In May, 1986, Accounts Officer, CTO, New Delhi, while signing the bills of unpaid wages, noted some discrepancies and then preliminary investigations were started..."

If it was a fraud, then merely saying that there were some discrepancies in the bills of unpaid wages does not give a proper reply to part (b) of the question, where I had asked— if so, the details thereof.

Therefore, before I ask my supplementary, I would like you to give a proper reply to my questions asked at part (a) and (b), in which I wanted to know, if it was a fraud, what are the details thereof.

Cursorily saying that there were discrepancies in the bills of unpaid wages is not sufficient to tell the House about the facts. Therefore, please first reveal the facts of the case.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, a

proper reply has been given to the question asked. It has been stated that fraud has been committed. The Accounts Officer while signing some bills of unpaid wages had noted that several bills were presented in the same name which covered long periods of time and then preliminary investigations were conducted in which fraud and discrepancies were revealed. Thereafter, all this action was taken.

In reply to Part (a) of the question, it has been stated that in May, 1986, Accounts Officer, CTO, New Delhi, while signing the bills of unpaid wages, noted some discrepancies and then preliminary investigations were conducted. The Accounts Officer submitted its report in July, 1986. It is true that fraud was committed which was revealed in the investigations and action was taken on it subsequently.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask my second supplementary question, I want a clarification on the first one. The hon. Minister has stated that preliminary investigations had revealed that different vouchers were prepared for the same bill and attempts were made to get them signed which indicate fraud as mentioned by him. The question is that if he was satisfied with the report of the preliminary investigations he would not have referred this case to the CBI. Their decision to refer the case to the CBI shows clearly that Government was not satisfied with the results of the preliminary inquiry. What were the reasons so overwhelming which made it necessary to refer this case to the CBI?

This is my first supplementary question and I will ask my second one subsequently.

MR. SPEAKER: How many times will you ask your first question?

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: It is true that fraud was revealed in the report and action has been taken against the persons involved in it but in two cases we faced difficulties in tracing the vouchers and some employee were also hesitating to sign which

caused delay in this matter. All this revealed that this fraud involved more than Rs. 20 thousand and consequently it was referred to the CBI on the recommendation of the Chief Vigilance Officer. It is also true that the preliminary investigations were properly conducted and all the facts were revealed. Certain cases in which there were some doubts and which needed further investigations were handed over to the CBI.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The reply given by the hon. Minister... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I had told you about it earlier. Had I not raised this question. I would have connected it with my first supplementary question. Had you not permitted me, I would have asked it at that time itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Since you are Professor, I will excuse you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I do not want professional opportunity for the weaker sections. He has rightly said that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Sir, this will give start to a new chapter. We have also raised important questions several times... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You are interrupting. I will not allow you. You are talking unnecessarily.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is clear from the reply of the hon. Minister that Government was not satisfied with the report of the preliminary investigation and there were doubts about several points and that is why the matter was handed over to the C.B.I. I want to know the date on which this case was referred to the C.B.I. CBI has not submitted its report so far. In this connection, I want to know whether the interim report has been submitted? If so, what are their findings? I also want to know that when the CBI personnel are competent in handling sensitive issues and are able to combat terrorism effectively as a result of which they have been granted extension, why have they not

been able to submit this report so far? If their final report has not been received; some interim report must have come by now...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said something in favour of CBI.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are a wise person, Mr. Professor.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am only strengthening my case that our CBI machinery is very strong, very powerful and very competent and with such a competent machinery...

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you don't explain all these things.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I have only submitted that if the C.B.I has not submitted its final report, then some interim report should be there.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come straight to the question.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The final report of the CBI has not been received, but if some interim report has come, the findings thereof should be presented in the House.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, the matter was first investigated by the Departmental agency and all the facts came to light. This case was handed over to the C.B.I. on 6.4.88, though it was detected in 1986. Ac-

tion has been taken in certain cases but some cases are still pending. The Officers of the Department wanted this case to be referred to the C.B.I. All the cases are not complicated. It was in certain cases that CBI investigation was felt to be necessary. The CBI report has not been received so far. We have reminded them to submit it at the earliest so that early action could be taken on it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has not stated whether the interim report has been received or not. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

Pension Scheme in Coal Industry

*164. SHRI KAMAL NATH†:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce pension scheme in the coal industry;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposed scheme;

(c) the financial implications thereof; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (d). Coal India Limited is working on a retirement benefit scheme for its employees. The details of the Scheme are yet to be finalised.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, one of the policies of the Coal Department of the Government has been to replace physically unfit workmen and this has been announced and pronounced by the Ministry on various forums. Unless there is a Pension Scheme this replacement of physically unfit workers is