

depends upon the extent of expediency shown by the State Government in their reply. Then the Government of India takes action accordingly.... (*Interruptions*)

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we prepare bit projects based on loans from the World Bank and these projects always have a share of the State Government. But in fact, what happens is that we construct colonies for irrigation projects at the cost of crores of rupees and open up our offices there. Then this money gets blocked and remains unproductive for years together and no action is taken on those projects. Similarly, on one such project in Apra in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh and several other projects, crores of rupees have already been spent but no action has been taken on them till today. Are some direction issued to the State Governments by the Central Government for taking further action on them. Thousands and crores of rupees are spent up on such fruitless projects. What action is taken in such cases?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: I would like to point out that it has no relevance with this question... (*Interruptions*) The question of the hon. Member may be read out. He has mentioned that the Chief Minister of Karnataka had sent several suggestions in regard to the National Water Policy. That is the main point of the question. He has also desired to know about the guidelines to be issued to the State Governments and if these have been issued to them. As regards, guidelines, we always issue them because programmes cannot be implemented without guidelines. Irrigation is the State subject but Government of India always issues guidelines. (*English*)

Lockout in Hindustan Lever Sewree Factory

*436. **DR. DATTA SAMANT†:**
SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total excise duty loss to Government because of prolonged lockout in Sewree factory of Hindustan Lever Ltd. in Bombay.

(b) whether Government have given permission to this multinational to get the products manufactured by giving contracts to other companies; and

(c) if so, the excise duty recovered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Rs. 40 crores approximately during the current financial year.

(b) No such permission is required under Central excise law.

(c) Does not arise.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, this is the concrete example of how the multinationals in this country are ruling and the Government is working under their thumb without making any inquiries.

Sir, coming to the point, in respect of Hindustan Lever Factory in Bombay, the lock-out is for 10 months and daily there is a loss of Rs. 15 lakhs of excise duty to the Government. The turnover of the Hindustan Lever Factory went up by Rs. 88 crores in that particular time i.e., from 1987 to 1988, from Rs. 934 crores to Rs. 1022 crores. The profit went up to Rs. 94 crores.

Sir, the Unilever factor which started with Rs. 28 lakhs capital about 20 years back, now its assets are Rs. 334 crores and Rs. 58 crores were transferred to Britain as royalty there. Per Life Buoy in the Sewree factory which costs Rs. 3/-, Rs. 3.08 p. is our wage and for Rexona Rs. 3.09p. is the wage bill. Sir, you can imagine how very minimal, not even 5 percent wage is paid to these workmen and the wage bill is 6.4 percent and the profit is 32 percent. Sir, going through all these details, I know what the hon. Minister

is going to tell. I am coming to that point.

MR. SPEAKER: He knows everything.

(Interruptions)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, the very important point is....

MR. SPEAKER: I have assured the hon. Minister that you know everything.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, this multinational is telling us—I am the leader of 4000 workmen like this. He is telling us that before the Government lay down anything, "I want to link total wage, dearness allowance, and house rent with agreement and the wage structure must be linked with productivity." The Labour Commission stated that this is absurd and that they do not want this to be done. They want to redeploy the workers as per to choice of the management because of rationalisation and new machinery. The workers and the Mathai Board must give in writing to Government that they must act as per the management and that is why they have put this lockout. They have put nine conditions. Government is losing Rs. 50 crores. Are you going to advice the Hindustan Lever that they must correct themselves and see that such type of things do not occur?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: We have got all sympathy with the workers and we do not like that there should be lockouts. If there is a cordial agreement between the management and the workers, it would be a very ideal situation. To get the lockout lifted is within the purview of the State Government. I have informed the State Government Labour Minister and he is holding many meetings but he management and the workers did not come to terms.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: The management is putting conditions for talks like total wage linked with productivity, redeployment etc, and that the Government has to give an undertaking.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I am not aware what are those terms and conditions. But I would only say that we are also not happy because we are losing revenue because of the lockout. Therefore, I would like that you also adopt pragmatic stance as you are heading that union.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: They want to link total wage with productivity and give 3 np as wage bill. That is their policy. You cannot adopt policy. You cannot do that. They have put nine conditions before they will have talks. Otherwise not.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I do not know what terms and conditions they would put but I would urge upon you to extract the maximum benefit for the workers for which we are there. Our moral support is there. (Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: There is no necessity of having a licence to get the manufacturing done by the contractors. That is the law. You kindly also see that the lockout is lifted. Don't be very much offended in your stance.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: I am not satisfied with the reply. This shows how the rules of the multi-nationals are. I am coming to second question. No such permission is required under the Central Excise law. Rexona Company is getting sub-contract from the foreign company. There are other companies like the Ultra Marine Pigments and Products Ltd, Madras and the Kerala State Detergents and Chemical Ltd., Kuttipuram, Prokage Industry Ltd, Pimpan, the Cyborb Ltd, Bangalore and the Bombay Soaps, Rexona. There are eight companies. My point is they are getting the same products from the contract outside. Here the question arises that in spite of it, their turn over went up by Rs. 88 crores. Your Excise comes because of the lockout of this factory. The turn over is down by Rs. 30 crores. These managements or subsidiaries from where they are taking, they are getting more production done by sub-contract. These are the list of various companies. This management

must be cheating, getting products done by sub-contracts outside and not paying you the excise. Is the Government aware of such things? Is it making enquiries and, if they are doing it, then why not you prosecute them and make detailed enquiries?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: As per our information, even if the products which are being manufactured either by the contractors or by other units, excise wherever it is payable it is being paid.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What about MRTTP Companies?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Anyhow, we would not like that anybody should evade Excise and, therefore, this suggestion we would bear in mind and made a tight scrutiny.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the loss of revenue to the Government is about 40 crores of rupees because of the closure of factory in Sewree about which Shri Datta Samant has also made his points. Out of the total loss of Rs. 40 crores, the Government of Maharashtra has sustained a loss of Rs. 10 crore, whereas remaining loss amounting to Rs. 30 crores has been sustained by the Central Government. Neither Shri Datta Samant nor Hindustan lever Ltd. has suffered any loss. It is labourers who have been suffering due to the strike prolonging for the last ten months.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is not because of strike but because of lock-out.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: I know it is due to lock-out. The Hindustan lever Ltd. claims that they pay the most handsome wages to their employees. This leads to resentment among the workers in other units of Bombay. I would like to urge upon Shri Datta Samant to initiate action to hold talk with the Finance Ministry to find out ways and means for early withdrawals of lock out in the factory, so that the labourers could be

benefited and their union also continued to function (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Would you give reply?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I do not have any reply to this question.

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I do not know what is the diversion that is taking place to other units. Maybe there is some diversion and the Hindustan Lever may be getting manufactured all these things by diversion. Maybe, there is evasion of excise duty. I do not know the position. But one thing is definitely happening for which I am grateful to Dr. Datta Samant. Due to the lock-out of the factory which they have declared, they have shifted some part of their production to my District. I would like to pose a question to the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*) By their ingenious devices and by his skill he has been able to raise the salary of the workmen. That is a good thing and we can also demand it in our District. There is no problem. My question arises out of the diversion of the production. Production has been diverted because of the lock-out of the Bombay factory. I would like to know as to what is the increase in revenue collection of that production in Chhindwara District. Will the Minister reply to my question? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I cannot answer this question at present because I do not have the facts now.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I can get your tangle resolve. You go on producing in your unit and also get the lock-out withdrawn in this factory.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There is no factory in my area. a factory maybe set up there.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Shri Datta

Samant is behind the loss of Rs. 40 crores. He may therefore, be requested. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

Pending Cases In Lower Courts in Delhi

*437. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of divorce cases, the cases of grant of maintenance allowance to the spouse and to children in divorce cases pending in Delhi lower courts to date;

(b) year-wise break up of such cases in the year 1987 and 1988;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to have these pending cases cleared; and

(e) the oldest cases relates to which year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). As 1-3-1989, 2596 divorce cases were pending; of which 494 and 1269 related to the years 1987 and 1988, respectively.

The information relating to the number of cases of grant of maintenance allowance to the spouse and to children in divorce cases pending in lower courts in Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The pendency is due to several complex factors like increase in the number of cases instituted from year to year.

(d) Besides increasing the strength of Judicial Officers, recommendations passed by the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held in 1985 and the recommendations of 77th Report of the Law Commission in this regard have been sent to Delhi High Court and Delhi Administration for implementation. Ten family courts have also been sanctioned for the Union Territory of Delhi under the Family Courts Act, 1984.

(e) 1980.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: The answer to the basic aspect of the question has not been found in the statement made by the hon. Minister. The reason is best known to him. He has stated that the information is being collected and it would be laid on the Table of the House. The purpose of putting the question is, therefore, defeated. Nevertheless, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. While replying to the question regarding the number of divorce cases, he has stated that all the cases are increasing enormously in our country. But that is not supposed to be a healthy sign to our custom, culture, conventions and all that. I would like to know whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the chief factors and basic causes which are responsible for the increase in the number of divorce cases in our country and if so the details thereof.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We have not done any survey for the increase in the number of divorce cases and the maintenance cases pending in a court of law. But the fact is that with the advent of the Western onslaught of consumerism on the Indian culture, the very Life-style is changing with the developmental activities both in respect of education and urbanisation. These are the factors which have changed the very life-style of the people and mode of living and the attitude to life.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: The number of cases in which maintenance has not been granted or rather inordinate