

by giving preferential consideration to backward areas in licensing industrial projects in the private sector and by implementing the programme of development of 'industrial areas' where infra-structure facilities are provided for attracting industries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The policy to favour and encourage location of industries in backward regions has already been accepted.

Fourth Finance Commission

620. **Shri Wadiwa:**
Shri Chandak:
Dr. Chandrabhan Singh:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the progress made in the examination of general question relating to the indebtedness of the States and the need for standardisation of amortisation of public borrowing as recommended in the report of the Fourth Finance Commission?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): The general questions referred to by the Finance Commission are still under examination of Government and it will take sometime before the examination is completed and decisions are taken.

Rehabilitation of Goldsmiths

621. **Shri M. Rampure:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan that Centre had given to the States for the rehabilitation of goldsmiths so far; and

(b) the number of persons who had been rehabilitated through this assistance?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) A sum of Rs. 10.84 crores has been advanced by the Central Government to various

State/Union Territory Governments as loans for rehabilitation of goldsmiths.

(b) 87,098 persons have received loan assistance so far.

12 hrs.

RE. FIFTIETH REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad has given me notice under rule 377. He might put a question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagapur): Yesterday in reply to my Calling Attention, the hon. Minister of Finance replied:

"The Government has sent its reply to the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee has not yet made its comments on that and, therefore, there is no question of any posting being made until that report is laid before the House."

He further added:

"...Government have made their observations on that, and we are awaiting what the Public Accounts Committee says about it."

In the light of this reply, I would request you to permit me to ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee whether the PAC is examining this case with special reference to Shri Boothalingam's involvement in the case, whether any additional facts have been put before the PAC by the Government, and whether the PAC will consider such additional facts which were not brought to its notice either due to suppression or inadvertent omission.

Mr. Speaker: The latter portion I cannot allow, but the first one I allow, whether the PAC has received the reference from the Government of India and are examining it.

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhunu): The factual position about the matter is that

[Shri Morarka]

The 56th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Third Lok Sabha) regarding Export Promotion Schemes and the allied matters with reference to para 88 of the Audit Report (Civil) on Revenue Receipts, 1965, was presented by me to the Lok Sabha on 26th April, 1966.

Chapter IV of this Report pertains to the Barter Deals dealt with by the Iron and Steel Controller.

The comments of the Ministry of Iron and Steel on the recommendations made in Chapter IV of this Report were received by this Committee on 19th July, 1966.

On 21st July, 1966 (i.e. two days later) the Ministry of Iron and Steel forwarded to our Committee a copy of the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in which the C. & A. G. stated as follows:—

"In view . . . of the fact that a Committee of Enquiry is proposed to be appointed by Government vide para 31 of the Memorandum, it is not considered necessary to examine at this stage, various points taken in these 31 paragraphs. Paragraphs 32 deals with the recommendations of P.A.C. contained in paragraphs 4.34, 4.51 and 4.52 of their 50th Report and the final conclusion reached by Government in the last sub-paragraph of this paragraph is in the nature of administrative judgment. C. & A.G. has no comments to offer on this."

On 26th July, 1966, the Ministry of Iron and Steel requested as follows:—

"I am directed to request that the P.A.C. may kindly convene an early meeting for consideration of the comments forwarded to you by Government."

As will be seen from above, the letter of the Ministry requesting an early consideration of the comments of the Government, has been received only on the evening of 26th July. This

letter will be considered by the Committee in the normal course.

I may add here that so far as our Committee is concerned we have not received any request or any representation from any source whatsoever for examining any particular matter or to give our report. What we have received is in the normal course action taken report from the Ministry. That is how we have treated it and our Committee would examine it in the normal course and submit its report to the House in the normal course.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In the light of this what the Finance Minister said was misleading the House.

Mr. Speaker: Under this clause I can only get that answer now. The other course is open to Members; they can have recourse to that. I cannot allow a discussion at this moment.

Shri Gopalan.

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT-
ANCE

STRIKE BY RUBBER ESTATE WORKERS IN
KERALA

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): I call the attention of the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

Strike by the rubber estate workers in Kerala.

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Sir, a Central wage board consisting of an independent Chairman...

Mr. Speaker: How long is it?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is small.

Mr. Speaker: There are about four pages, I find. If copies have been placed in the Notice Office.....