

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 30, 1978/Chaitra 9,
1900 (Saka).

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

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[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

सरकारी एजेन्सियों द्वारा भारतीय श्रमिकों
का विदेश भेजा जाना

* 513. डा० महावीरक सिंह शाक्य :
क्या संसदीय कार्य तथा अन्न मंत्री यह बताने
की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय श्रमिकों को विदेश
भेजने में व्याप्त गम्भीर अनियमितताओं और
व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार को ध्यान में रखते हुए,
सरकार का विचार यह कार्य किसी सरकारी
एजेंसी को सौंपने का है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो प्रस्ताव की मुख्य
बाने क्या ? , और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसमें क्या कारण
हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) to
(c). A statement is laid on the Table
of the House

Statement

(a) to (c) According to a policy
decision taken by the Government in
June, 1976, no firm or organisation
or individual shall engage in the rec-
ruitment of skilled, semi-skilled and
unskilled workers from India for being

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taken for employment abroad unless
registered and duly approved for the
purpose by the Ministry of Labour.
Foreign firms and organisations are
not eligible for registration but they
may engage an Indian company or
organisation registered with the Minis-
try of Labour to act on their behalf.
Indian Firms or organisations engaged
in consultancy or execution of works
on contract or sub-contract basis, are,
however, allowed to recruit directly
without going through recruiting
agency their own requirements of
skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled
workers for service abroad on the
terms and conditions of employment
to be approved by the Ministry of
Labour. An official Committee has
recently been appointed to examine
the whole question of overseas recruit-
ment and to streamline the procedure
for registration of recruiting agents,
deployment of workers, etc. One of
the terms of reference of this Com-
mittee is to suggest ways and means
of deployment of workers on Govern-
ment to Government basis. On receipt
of the recommendations of this Com-
mittee, the question will be further
examined by Government and a deci-
sion taken

डा० महावीरक सिंह शाक्य : अध्यक्ष
महोदय, मुझे बड़ा खेद है कि मंत्री महोदय ने
जो उत्तर दिया है वह मेरे प्रश्न से परे दिया
है। मैंने जो प्रश्न किया है उस का कोई
भी स्पष्ट उत्तर इस सत्र में नहीं दिया है।
मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि—

“क्या भारतीय श्रमिकों को विदेश
भेजने में व्याप्त गम्भीर अनियमितताओं और
व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार को ध्यान में रखते हुए,
सरकार का विचार यह कार्य किसी सरकारी
एजेंसी को सौंपने का है।”

मंत्री महोदय ने अपने पूरे स्टेटमेंट में यह कहा नहीं बताया है कि इस प्रकार का व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार है, इस का कहीं जिक्र नहीं किया है। मंत्री महोदय ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उस में यह बताया है कि कोई भी विदेशी संगठन, व्यक्ति या फर्म तब तक इस प्रकार के कार्य नहीं कर सकती जब तक कि वह भारतीय फर्म जो पंजीकृत है उन से स्वीकृति न लेने और सरकार द्वारा—अथवा मंत्रालय द्वारा—उसका अनुमोदन न कर दिया जाये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या आपने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई जांच कराई है कि कैसे इतने विदेशी व्यक्ति और संगठन कार्यरत हैं जो न आपसे अनुमोदित हैं और न पंजीकृत फर्मों से स्वीकृति प्राप्त कर चुके हैं ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I am sorry that the hon. Member is sorry; he does not find the answer to his question in the statement.

||| एक प्रश्नोत्तर सत्र : हिन्दी में उत्तर दीजिए ।

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: This question has been raised in the House and the Chair has ruled that, according to the rules, a Minister can choose the language of his reply. He can listen to the translation.

The question of the hon. Member is 'whether the Government propose to assign this work to some Government agencies', and in my answer we have pointed out the existing system for registering recruiting agencies, and we have also said that, in view of the fact that in spite of this process and procedure for registration there are cases which are brought to light of irregularities or complaints about living conditions or injustices to our workers deployed elsewhere, we have appointed a Committee to go into all aspects of this question to streamline the existing procedures and to examine among other things, the steps that we have to take, both on the governmental plane and in regard to regula-

tion of non-governmental agency to ensure that there is no injustice done to our workers.

डा० महावीरक सिंह शाक्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसी प्रकार का एक प्रश्न पहली मार्च, 78 में उठाया गया था और उसमें ममय अपने स्टेटमेंट में आपने कहा था कि गैर पंजीकृत भर्ती एजेंटों के द्वारा अनधिकृत रूप से भर्ती करने के सम्बन्ध में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं—यह आपने स्वयं स्वीकार किया था तो आपने उनका सम्बन्ध में अभी तक क्या किया ? आपको कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं और जो व्यक्ति इस प्रकार से अपराधी पाये गए हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में क्या किया है ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: There are two aspects of this question. One is about what the hon. Member says, that there are individuals who have not registered themselves and who, in spite of the fact that they have not registered themselves, are recruiting for the purpose of deployment or employment in other countries. It is obvious that this is done without the cognizance of the Labour Ministry and in spite of the fact that the Government's decision in this regard clearly stipulates the necessity for registration. It is not possible for the Government to say who are the people who are illegally recruiting. If it comes to our knowledge that somebody is illegally recruiting persons, of course, we take such action as we have to take against him. Therefore, if the hon. Member expects me to furnish a list of the people who are illegally recruiting workers for deployment elsewhere, I am afraid this is not possible because whatever information we have, we use it to take action against such people.

The second point is about cases where there have been complaints about registered agencies. Wherever there have been complaints about registered agencies, we have taken

action. I do not think it is possible for me to give all the instances. All I can say is that, in such cases, what we do is to make enquiries through our Embassies in these countries, through intelligence and through all other means available to the Government, and where the cases are such that we deem it necessary to send a team from here to make an on-the-spot inquiry, we send a team from here to make an on-the-spot inquiry. Therefore, whenever complaints are received, we take action. There are cases where the registration of firms has been cancelled because such irregularities have come to light. I can assure the hon. Member and the House that whenever any such reports are brought to our notice, we take action on those reports.

श्री उग्रसेन : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि इस बारे में एक समिति का निर्माण किया गया है, जो तमाम अनियमितताओं को देखेगी और आगे के लिए सुझाव देगी। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि उन्हें उन रजिस्टर्ड एजन्सीज के विरुद्ध भी शिकायत मिली हैं, जो यहाँ से लोगों को रेक्यूट कर के बाहर भेजती हैं। मैं उनसे यह स्पष्ट रूप से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह भ्रम मंत्रालय में कोई ऐसा विभाग खोलेंगे, जो बाहर से सरकारी स्तर पर कोई मांग आने पर यहाँ से सरकारी स्तर पर लोगों को रेक्यूट कर के बाहर भेजेगा। इससे बीच में होने वाला भ्रष्टाचार और दंर भी खत्म हो जायेगी। उन लोगों से पांच पांच हजार रुपये वीसा के लिए ले लेते हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस काम के लिए कोई सरकारी विभाग खोलेंगे या इसे किसी एजन्सी के जरिये करावेंगे ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The hon. Member is near the truth of the matter when he says that in the Labour Ministry, there is a Cell which deals with this question. It is the Overseas Employment—Cell of the Labour Ministry. The work of this Cell is to see that those who want to recruit Indian workers for deployment elsewhere on behalf of foreign companies

are registered. They supply to the Ministry the terms of contract under which these workers are recruited so that the Ministry has a chance (1) to enquire into the antecedents of the employers abroad, (2) to enquire into the antecedents of the recruiting agent, (3) to look into and scrutinise the conditions of employment and (4) then to communicate with our Embassies in these countries to ensure that these terms of the contract are not violated.

The second part of the hon. Member's question is about the advisability of having a governmental agency for the purpose of recruitment. I would like to state in answer to this question that we have already nine public sector agencies which are also recruiting workers for deployment elsewhere and two State Governments have also formed Corporations of their own one, the Kerala Government and the other, the Orissa Government for recruitment for deployment elsewhere.

The next question that arises from what the hon. Member has said is whether the Government thinks it necessary at this stage to have a monopoly for the recruitment and deployment of workers in other countries. This is a matter which has been examined and which is under examination. We do not feel that at this moment, the objective of making full use of opportunities of employment elsewhere can be served by monopolising the recruitment.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: I can very well understand what the hon. Minister says. We know that so many people are going abroad for employment. Why not consider to have an Overseas Employment Corporation so that this sort of mal-practices could be rectified.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I have already stated that this is one of the ideas being considered.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO WALIA: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through

you, to something which happened before June 1976. In Punjab and some other provinces, some unauthorised agents recruited thousands of people for employment outside, brought them to Delhi and then gave them tickets and sent them to Amritsar or Bombay. Thousands of people have complained that they were cheated by unauthorised agents and they have been mulcted of thousands of rupees.

Will the hon. Minister assure the House that he will set up an inquiry committee to inquire how many agents looted and cheated innocent people in the country so that a proper inquiry is made to find out who is primarily responsible and necessary remedial measures taken?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The hon. Member referred to something that has happened before 1976. There are many things that happened in 1972 and 1974 also prior to 1976. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: They are angels.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It is precisely because such reports came to the knowledge of the government and the happenings that the hon. Member referred to came to the attention of the Government that in 1976 a decision was taken that recruitment should be through registered agents.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Just now the Minister has said that he has constituted a committee to go into the details of all these affairs. I want to know the names of the members of this committee and what are its terms of reference? And does he intend to include one or two members of Parliament, especially from the Opposition in it?

MR. SPEAKER: And especially Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I am well aware of the keen interest that

the hon. Member takes on this subject. So I am not quite sure whether the hon. Member is unaware of the terms of reference of the committee or its composition. It will not be, I think, possible in the limited time at my disposal to read out its terms of reference....

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. You may lay it on the Table.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I shall lay it on the Table because it is quite a long thing.

But, as far as the composition of the committee is concerned, I must say that it is a committee consisting of representatives at Joint Secretaries level from the Ministries that are concerned and involved including the Labour Ministry, Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Home Affairs and this committee will get the opinion of all those who are interested, including organizations of registered agents, trade unions and others who have expressed their interest on this subject and who have stated that they have suggestions to make for streamlining the whole thing.

CHOWDHURY BALBIR SINGH: Mr Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 511—
Shri Saughta Roy Ahsen

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): I am to answer his question but the number is absent. Sometimes hon. Members table their questions but they are not present to put their questions. They make us do the home-work but they do not come. There must be some provision to penalise them.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What about Ministers?

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: What about the Ministers who are not ready with their answers?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: They are at least present.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: But there are many **MINSKERS** who do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 515—
Shri Subhash Ahuja.

बैलाडिला में लौह अयस्क पेलेट-संयंत्र

* 515. श्री सुभाष आहुजा : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लौह अयस्क के पेलेट बनाने के लिए संयंत्र स्थापित करने की सरकार की कोई योजना है, क्योंकि बैलाडिला क्षेत्र में यह अयस्क प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या बैलाडिला में पेलेट बनाने का संयंत्र स्थापित किया जायगा ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस संयंत्र को स्थापित करने में कितना समय लगेगा ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). The proposal for setting up a pelletisation plant for utilising Bailadila iron ore fines is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) Construction of the plant is expected to take about 3 to 4 years after investment decision.

श्री सुभाष आहुजा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि बैलाडिला से निकलने वाले लौह-अयस्क के चूरे का उपयोग करने के लिये एक कारखाना लगाने का सरकार का विचार है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा—सरकार ने इस संयंत्र को स्थापित करने के लिये किन-किन स्थानों का सर्वे किया है तथा किस स्थान पर

इस प्लांट को स्थापित करने का सरकार का विचार है ?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have said that it is under the active consideration of the government. What more does he want to know?

श्री सुभाष आहुजा : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्थानों का सर्वे कब तक किया जायेगा और आप कितने समय में इस कारखाने को लगा देंगे ? मध्य प्रदेश सरकार की तरफ से आप के पास ऐसा प्रस्ताव आया है कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार इस कारखाने को स्थापित करने के लिये तैयार है, वह इन कारखाने को नेशनल डेवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन की सहायता से स्थापित करना चाहती है । क्या मध्य प्रदेश में इस कारखाने को लगाने की सम्भावना है ? यदि सम्भावना है तो कब तक लगा सकेगे ?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK The hon. member is giving information. I do not have that information

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked by what time you are likely

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: After the decisions are taken, it will take three to four years

MR. SPEAKER: Are you willing to entrust it to the Madhya Pradesh Government?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK There is no such proposal.

SHRI VEERABHADRAPPA: When will the pelletisation plant at Donawah commence?

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise from this. This is only about Bailadila Plant.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: The location of Bailadila is such that it is almost a loss to transport this ore as it is, I think, through Vizag to