

that an issue. The fact is this that the gravest misuse of the media was done during the Janata regime against the rules of the law, against the provisions of the Act, against the law relating to the defamation and all kinds of baseless allegations were levelled against the Congress leaders, even when no FIRs were registered relating to the same. So, I do not want to get into that again. Let us forget about it.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in the last Panchayat elections in West Bengal, the Chief Minister addressed only one meeting and that was not covered by the Door-darshan. I would also like to know whether it was a fact that all the meetings addressed by the Congress leaders were covered by the media like Door-darshan, A.I.R., etc.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : This question was discussed in the Rajya Sabha in detail. I do not, at the moment, remember whether the Chief Minister's speeches were covered by the TV or not but what I know is that the Chief Minister's speeches were covered by some media. I had said it clearly. I do not recollect whether TV had covered his speeches or not. Now, regarding the injustice being done to the CPM Party, I would like to submit that that question was gone into at length and according to the information available with me, I would certainly say that no injustice was done to the ruling CPM Party in West Bengal in regard to the coverage of Panchayat elections.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : I want to know whether the hon. Minister would assure us that all these points would be considered.

MR. SPEAKER : He will go into that.

Export condition for FERA drug Companies

*3. **SHRI BANWARI LAL :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the export conditions imposed in

respect of regularisation of capacities of the FERA drug companies ;

(b) whether these are too harsh and unrealistic as described by the affected units and whether it would not be in the interest of exports of drugs to make the export conditions more liberal ;

(c) whether exports are more important today than sticking to the notion and norms of capacity regularisation ; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider to change the policy in the matter, if necessary, taking a practical view of the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R.C. RATH) :

(a) to (d). In the case of bulk drugs, wherever considered necessary, export obligations ranging between 10% and 25% of the additional capacity regularised/recognised have been imposed. On formulations, the export obligation generally imposed is 50% of the actual production beyond the highest actual production level during the three years ending 31st March 1977 or the licensed capacity whichever is higher. This has been done in view of the Government decision that wherever considered necessary, a suitable export obligation will be imposed on FERA and MRTP companies in respect of the whole or part of the additional bulk drugs or formulation capacity recognised/regularised. Although a drug industry Association and a few FERA drug companies have represented on this matter, no proposal to change the Government decision is there at present.

श्री बनवारी लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का कैटेगोरिकल जवाब नहीं आया। माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया यह बताने का कष्ट करें कि क्या कारारों की कठिनाइयों और दिक्कतों को देखने के लिए संसद की कोई कमेटी बनी थी ? यदि बनी थी तो उन्होंने क्या रिपोर्ट दी और उनकी क्या सिफारिशें थीं ?

SHRI R.C. RATH : Sir, this export obligation has been there to protect the

indigenous industry both in the private sector and the public sector. This export obligation is there for such items where we have self-sufficiency to meet the domestic consumption and this is being done with the purpose to protect the industries both in the private sector and the public sector who are new entrants.

श्री बनबारी लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने यह जानना चाहा था कि क्या फेरा की कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए संसद की कोई कमेटी बनाई गई थी, यदि हां, तो उसकी क्या रिपोर्ट है ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री वसन्त साठे) : संसद की ऐसी कोई कमेटी नहीं बनाई गई है। इस मिनिस्ट्री की जो कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी है उसका एक ग्रुप इस मामले को देख रहा है। अभी उन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट नहीं दी है। जब वे अपनी रिपोर्ट देंगे तो कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी की लेब्रल पर उस पर विचार होगा।

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : What I have understood from the reply given by the hon. Minister is that they want to give special protection to indigenous manufacturers. If I am right, with the present provisions of FERA, the major investment is of the Indian nationals. Secondly, one more point has to be taken into account ; there are several factories and companies of Indian people which are working abroad also. Can there be a discrimination on the point whether one is a FERA and another is a non-FERA company ? Or should the criteria be whether the viability of the particular unit to make profits and to make good exports is there. This is a matter of principle which should be decided. Secondly, what was the report of the technicians in this connection, as to what sort of criteria should be there for export ?

SHRI R.C. RATH : This is not done only to protect the Indian sector, but this is being done in regard to the items where we feel that Indian sector is able to meet the domestic consumption, and therefore suitable export obligation is there. The word 'suitable' is there for such of the items where the local producers are able to meet the indigenous needs,

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : I can understand that, but how do you fix up the percentage ? It is 25%, 30%, 40% and 50% in some cases.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The policy regarding production of drugs by various sectors, as the House is aware, the last time it was formulated and announced, was during the Janata regime when hon. Shri Bahuguna was the Minister. We are continuing with that policy. The guidelines etc. are all well laid down. Now a new Advisory Council under the IDR Act for drugs and pharmaceuticals as recommended by the Hathi Committee has been announced and established by the Government. We have formed groups of that larger body. They are going into details of the entire policy since 1978 onwards, and when they come up with their recommendations, we will be in a position to place new policy guidelines to encourage indigenous industry, small scale industries, curb the multinationals etc. All these things will be gone into at that time.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Because of certain malpractices by the multinationals and in order to protect the indigenous drug industry, the Government of India appointed Hathi Committee and during Janata regime, the Hathi Committee recommendations were accepted and a policy statement was laid on the Table of the House. We are guided and the Government is also guided by the Hathi Committee recommendations as laid in the House. I don't think that the Government can deviate from that policy. There are pulls and pressures which are brought on the Government. May I, therefore, request the Minister whether he would assure the House that the Hathi Committee recommendations as put before the House would be completed in letter and spirit and there will be no deviation in the name of export obligations ?

SHRI R.C. RATH : There is no question of deviation and there is absolutely no scope for the dilution of the Hathi Committee Report, as accepted by the Government.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : What I asked is an assurance that you should not succumb to pressures and pulls,

SHRI R.C. RATH : As you know in democracy pulls and pressures are part of it. But we are not going to succumb to any pressures and pulls.

SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : From which corner are they there ? Who are the people who have exert those pressures on you ? Please name them ?

SHRI R.C. RATH : These are at the corner from the other end.

(Interruptions)

Legislation for Construction Labourers

*4. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a legislation in the present session of Parliament for the improvement of working conditions of construction labourers scattered all over the country ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and steps taken so far in the matter of improving working conditions of construction labourers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Sir, the answer given by the Hon. Minister is within two lines. But, Sir, if you go through the sorrows and miseries that are being undergone by the Indian construction workers inside as well as outside the country, particularly in the Gulf countries, the answer will not be completed even in one hundred crore of lines. So, I would like to know when the Hon. Minister is expected to get the details and before completion of the details, will he consult the trade unions like the AITUC and others which are pressing hard for it ?

श्री धर्मवीर : अध्यक्ष जी, जैसा कि मैंने उत्तर

दिया कि बहुत शीघ्र ही इसके बारे में लैजिसलेशन सदन में लाने वाले हैं और उसकी पूरी तैयारी हो चुकी है। जहाँ तक मजदूर यूनियनों से बातचीत करने का प्रश्न है, उनसे बातचीत करने के बाद ही ड्राफ्ट बनाया गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि निकट भविष्य में बहुत शीघ्र ही हम इसे लेकर माननीय सदन में उपस्थित होंगे।

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Sir, how much time will be taken ? Please give specific time.

श्री धर्मवीर : मान्यवर, यह बताना तो सम्भव नहीं होगा, लेकिन हम प्रयास करेंगे कि इस सेशन के अंतिम समय तक इसको ला सकें।

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Sir, I welcome the step taken by the Government. Nevertheless, I would like to submit that any legislation should not be an obstacle or hindrance to the mobility, migration and immigration of casual workers. What I have in mind is that recently we had a bitter experience of such a legislation in the matter of nurses and para-medical personnel, who wanted to go abroad, specially from Kerala. Therefore, my first submission is that if a Legislation is brought in, it should not be an obstacle to the very mobility of these workers.

Second point for submission is that in Kerala, there is a novel scheme embarked upon and I would like it to be incorporated in the Legislation. It is Kettidam Nirmala Tozhilali Scheme—Self-financing Insurance Scheme. I would like to know whether that will be incorporated when this legislation is brought in ? This is very vital, Sir. Therefore, will I get a reply from the Minister on these ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION : (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : Sir, the Hon. Member has put a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it a suggestion or a question ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, the Hon. Member is under the impression that