

pointed out and these particular undertakings are sued and it is always the endeavour of the Government through the meetings of the Labour Ministers through our own agencies to see that this is implemented.

Auction of Indian Vessel 'Alexandra'

229. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian ship, the "Alexandra", was proposed to be put up for auction at London Docks for recovery of unpaid wages of the crew, amounting to Rs. 25 lakhs;

(b) whether Government intervened to save the ship from distress sale and the crew from being deprived of their wage-arrears;

(c) if so, the latest position; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the shipping company concerned?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The vessel was put for auction pursuant to order of sale passed by Admiralty Court in U. K. for non-payment of the wages and other claims of the crew.

(b) to (d). Director General of Shipping negotiated the settlement between Nilhat Shipping Company and the officers and crew. Subsequently, the sale order passed by Admiralty Court, London, has been revoked. Nilhat Shipping Company has since deposited requisite amount with Shipping Master Calcutta and furnished bank guarantee to Shipping Master Bombay for settlement of dues and claims of the officers and crew in terms of provisions contained in Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister

for taking prompt action to save the ship. Otherwise it would have been a blot on India's prestige if the ship is auctioned abroad for non-payment of the wages and salaries of the crew. May I ask the hon. Minister as to what are the reasons for the non-payment of salaries....

MR. SPEAKER: They have been paid.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The salaries have not been paid earlier. So, what are the reasons for the non-payment of these wages and salaries of the crew? Is it due to the bureaucratic red-tapism or procedural wranglings?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, it is a private company and it did not pay the salaries and wages of the marine officers and these officers have filed a suit through the International Transport Federation in Admiralty Court in London and there the ship was arrested. As soon as it was brought to our notice, we took steps. The D. G. Shipping took steps, and the payment has been arranged. The court was approached, and it has revoked the decision. The ship is free, and very shortly it may be coming to India.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: May I know whether the Shipping Development Fund Committee is going to purchase this ship?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: There is no question of purchasing the ship. It was because our interests were also involved that we took prompt action. If the ship was in distress, we might have lost our money also. But there is no question of selling the ship now. It is going to work, and as usual, the SDFC loan will be secured, and it will be realised from this company.

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी, जो हमने (डी) में सवाल किया है और पूछा है कि दोषी अधिकारियों के खिलाफ क्या कानूनी कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं, इसका मंत्री महादेव ने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पूछिये आप ।

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : मैं पूछता हूँ कि आप दोषी अधिकारियों पर कौन सी कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं जिनकी ढिलाई के कारण यह जहाज नीलामी पर आया ?

दूसरे यह कि जो नीलामी की स्थिति हुई उसके लिये और कुछ अधिकारी दोषी पाये गये हैं ? यदि हाँ, तो उनके आप नाम बतायेंगे ? और जो समझौते के अनुसार रुपया जमा किया है उसकी कल राशि क्या है ?

श्री ए. पी. शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अधिकारियों के दोषी ठहराने का तो प्रश्न है ही नहीं । यह प्राइवेट शिपिंग कम्पनी है, इसने अपने काम करने वाले लोगों को पैसा नहीं दिया था इसलिये उन्होंने लन्दन कोर्ट में मुकदमा किया था जिसकी वजह से शिप अरेस्ट हुआ था । तो यह शिप कब छूट गया इसलिये कि उन्होंने पैसे जमा कर दिये हैं । इसमें इन्होंने 5 लाख रु. जमा किया है और 10 लाख रु. की बैंक गारन्टी दी है ।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But the total amount of arrears was Rs. 25 lakhs. He must clarify this.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Rupees five lakhs have been deposited in cash, and Rs. 10 lakhs bank guarantee has been given. For the rest, they are negotiating for an agreement.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that very often shipping companies are not implementing the rules and regulations regarding benefits to the workers, and that this creates implements in cargo moving? If so, may I know what steps Government are proposing to take?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Wherever the shipping companies do not follow the rules and do not pay the wages of the workers, necessary steps are taken to see that they make the payment.

Updating existing Labour Laws

*230. **SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH:**

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether many MPs. have stressed the need to update the existing labour laws;

(b) whether there is also demand for bringing legislation on the service conditions of the unorganised sector; and

(c) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Suggestions have been received for amendments of the various labour laws and also for bringing in legislation for regulating the service conditions of labour in the unorganised sector.

(c) The suggestions are under consideration.

श्री सतीश प्रसाद सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो श्रम कानून पहले से बना हुआ है वह इस परिस्थिति में कारगर नहीं है और उसके द्वारा जो फायदा लोगों को होना चाहिये वह नहीं मिल रहा है । वैसी हालत में क्या सरकार उसका नवीकरण करने की ओर सोचती है ?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: Yes, sir, we are going to amend the laws. We are going to amend the laws which we find to be inadequate.

श्री सतीश प्रसाद सिंह : जिस एरिया में संगठन नहीं है, संगठित एरिया नहीं है, उसके लिये कोई लैजिस्लेशन लाने का विचार है ?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: He has put the second question about bringing forward a Bill for unorganised labour. I have already promised the House