

MR. SPEAKER: He wanted to know the comparative reduction in the last two years.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: There is no reduction. On the contrary, as against the sanctioned strength of 1,53,910 on 31-3-79, this year on 31-3-80 the sanctioned strength is 1,59,565.

SHRI A. K. ROY: That is another way of saying it. They are decasualising and giving us the figure. What was the strength of gangmen, how many retired and how many have been recruited? I am not talking of direct retrenchment, but of curtailment. Supposing every year 10,000 gangmen retire, are you recruiting 10,000 gangmen?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: I said there is no question of retrenchment. Whenever somebody retires, somebody is taken in the resultant vacancy.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Within the last two months, 400 casual gangmen were retrenched in Asansol division and they were offering dharna in the presence of the DRM. Are you aware of it? If so, what are you doing to take them back?

Shri C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The hon. member is asking about a very specific case. I do not know about it. If there is anything like that, we will enquire into it.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Mr. Samar Mukherjee has already raised it in this House.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The will take note of it and enquire about it.

श्री रामाबल्लभ शास्त्री : रेलवे में सब से उपेक्षित और शोषित गैंगमैन हैं, और सब से महत्वपूर्ण काम भी वहीं करते हैं। इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आज भी बहुत से गैंगमैन बरसों तक काम करने के बावजूद कैजुअल मजदूर की श्रेणी में सबूत रहे हैं, यदि हाँ, तो विभिन्न रेलवे जोनों में उनकी संख्या क्या है? अगर यह

सूचना देने में कठिनाई है, तो पूरी रेलवे में उनकी संख्या क्या है? पंडित जी ने कई दफ्ता कहा है कि वह तमाम कैजुअल लेबरर्स को नियमित करेंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कैजुअल गैंगमैन को नियमित करने के सिलसिले में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री कमलपति त्रिपाठी) : कैजुअल लेबरर्स की संख्या तो मैं इस समय नहीं बता सकता हूँ। माननीय सदस्य उसके लिए अलग नोटिस दें। मैं इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि हमारे यहां जो कैजुअल लेबरर्स हैं, उनको जल्दी से जल्दी रेगुलराइज करना चाहिए। रेलवे बजट के सम्बन्ध में बात करते हुए मैंने कहा था कि हम उसकी वेष्टा कर रहे हैं। एक तो यह है कि कैजुअल लेबर का फ़रदर रेक्यूटमेंट बन्द कर दिया गया है, ताकि जितने कैजुअल लेबरर्स हैं, उनको रेगुलराइज करने के बाद नया रेक्यूटमेंट हो। वे बरसों तक कैजुअल बने रहते हैं, यह मुनासिब बात नहीं है। एक स्टेप तो यह लिया गया है। दूसरा यह है कि हम यह बराबर रेगुलराइज करते चल रहे हैं और हमने इसका प्रयास किया है कि रेगुलराइजेशन की जो प्रक्रिया चल रही है वह बहुत जल्दी से जल्दी पूरी की जाय और जितना कैजुअल लेबर है जिन के लिए रूल भी बना हुआ है कि चार महीने अगर वह काम कर ले तो फिर वह रेगुलर कर दिया जाय, इस विषय पर हम लोग विचार कर रहे हैं और बहुत शीघ्र ही इस का फैसला कर लेंगे।

Condition of Indians in Saudi Arabia

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*574. **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:**

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 14 June, 1980, wherein it has been stated that Indians are recruited for Menial jobs to sweep the streets, lanes of Riyadh and to collect garbage from house to house;

(b) whether Government propose to bring such Indian nationals back into country and see that the foreign countries do not exploit the poverty stricken Indians; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In pursuance of a Supreme Court Order dated 20 March, 1979, any Indian national filing with the Protector of Emigrants an authentic copy of the contract of employment with the foreign employer has been allowed to emigrate freely, except in the circumstances enumerated in that order. The said order does not stipulate any minimum terms and conditions for foreign employment before emigration is to be permitted nor does it impose any bar on the emigration of Indian nationals to take up menial jobs abroad. There is, therefore, no proposal to bring Indian national employed on such jobs back to India. However, efforts are being made to ensure that the foreign employers fulfil their contractual obligations towards their Indian employees. A proposal to introduce new legislation on emigration is presently at an advanced stage of consideration by the Government, with the objective, *inter alia*, of exercising a reasonable regulation in regard to the categories and terms and conditions of employment for intending Indian emigrants.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: I would like to know: How did the Supreme Court come into the picture? What are the implications and details of the order? What was the stage at which the Supreme Court came into the picture?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The occasion for the Supreme Court to issue the order was a case which went upto It. The parties are M/s. Lamba Travels versus the Union of India, etc. I presume, the order had been placed on the Table of the House in the past. If it is desired, I can place it on the Table once again. That was in 1979.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: I would like to know whether such contracts that are entered into by the Indians for service abroad are verified by the Government of India here before they are allowed to proceed abroad?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: According to the order, what he has to do is to produce an authentic copy of the contract of employment from the foreign employer. And once that is done, he is free to go abroad.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: The Minister has said that he is proposing to bring forward a legislation on this subject. I would like to know by what time, the legislation will be brought forward? I hope to be able to introduce it in the next Session.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the Indian worker abroad, and particularly in the Gulf countries, is among the most under-paid, exploited and discriminated against. This is to a large extent due to the fact that there are many unscrupulous recruiting agents in India as well as unscrupulous employers in those Gulf countries and I would like to tell this House through you—the Minister is aware of this and he has taken a lot of interest—that work permits have been sold in the main recruiting centres like Bombay and Delhi for a couple of thousands rupees. In view of this, what steps will the Government take to clamp down on these unscrupulous recruiting agents and also to strengthen the staff in our Missions or Embassies in those Gulf countries, so that they are able to protect more effectively the interests of our workers there?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have already given some details in regard to the intended legislation at the time of the discussion on Demands for Grants in this House. Beyond that, I would not be able to add anything because it is still under consideration. The Bill is getting finishing touches, if I may say so. I am quite sure that it will be introduced early and when the Bill comes before the House, I would be very happy to have all the suggestions from hon. Members. Whatever is considered proper and necessary for the safeguarding of the interests of all concerned, and particularly the workers themselves, could be done within

the limits of what is possible by legislative action by us.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Many reports had appeared in the press about the indignities which these workers in the Gulf countries are subjected to. Our Embassies are alive to this and are sending regular reports. Can you detail the indignities they have to suffer or to undergo?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yes, Sir. Our Embassies are in regular touch with the authorities there and they are rendering all possible assistance in these cases whenever they arise.

श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने अभी कुछ दिन पहले विदेश मंत्री जी को शिकायत की थी कि राजस्थान में सीकर जिले से 34 व्यक्तियों को एक एजेण्ट फुसलाकर दुबाई ले गया, उनसे सुबह 6 बजे से रात 11 बजे तक काम लिया जाता है। चार-पांच आदमियों के हाथ तोड़ दिए गए हैं, उनकी हालत खस्ता हो गई है, एक कमरे में उनको बंद किया जाता है, उनको बाहर आने नहीं दिया जाता है और न किसी से मिलने दिया जाता है। उनमें से केवल 10 आदमी भागकर आए हैं उनके लेटर्म मैंने पेश किए हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ उन आदमियों के लिए आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है? क्या उनके साथ इस प्रकार का जो दुर्व्यवहार और अमानवीय अत्याचार हो रहा है उसके लिए विदेश मंत्रालय कार्यवाही करेगा?

श्री पी० वी० बर्रासह राव : आपका पत्र मिलते ही मैंने तुरन्त उसे हमारे एम्बेसेडर के पास भेज दिया है। उन्होंने कार्यवाही शुरू की है, उनके पास से रिपोर्ट आने वाली है। हम आपको पूरी सूचना देंगे जितनी भी जल्दी हो सकेगा।

कुलियों के बीज नम्बरों का अन्तरण

* 575. **श्रीमती ऊषा वर्मा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में रेलवे स्टेशन पर लाइसेंस प्राप्त कुली भारी मुनाफ़ा कमा अपने लायसेंसों को अपने जाली रिश्तेदारों (साले-बहनोई आदि) को अन्तरित कर देते हैं और इसके लिए वे झूठे शपथ-पत्र भरते हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि दिल्ली में रेलवे स्टेशन के अधीक्षक के साथ एक बैठक में यह स्वीकार

किया गया था कि कुलियों के लाइसेंस बीज प्रद्वैध रूप से 5000 रुपये में बेचे जा रहे हैं, और यदि हाँ, तो उक्त बैठक की कार्यवाही के सारांश का व्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या भारी मुनाफ़ा देकर उक्त बीज नम्बर खरीदने वाले कुली यात्रियों से प्रति फेरी 10 रुपये वसूल करके यात्रियों को परेशान करते हैं; और

(घ) उक्त भ्रष्टाचार को समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है और क्या रेलवे कुलियों, खोमचे वालों तथा बैरों के राष्ट्रीय सभ ने भी रेल अधिकारियों का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाया है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Some complaints have been received about transfer of badges of licensed porters on false affidavits for monetary consideration.

(b) This matter was raised by the Uttariya Railway Mazdoor Union in the meetings held by the Station Superintendent, Delhi, on 19-12-1977 and 21-1-1978 but the allegation was not accepted.

(c) A few complaints have been received about overcharging by licensed porters appointed both directly and by transfer of badges. The licensed porters concerned have been suitably dealt with.

(d) Railways have taken the following action to prevent transfer of badges on false affidavits:—

(i) Screening Committee consisting of three officers has to accept the affidavits after cross-questioning the nominee;

(ii) In addition to affidavit, a duly stamped certificate of relationship from the Sarpanch of the village of nominee is also insisted upon;

(iii) The specific complaints of false affidavits are being reported to Civil Authorities and C.B.I.; and