

the factory numbering about 2000 for two years. The workers are going from pillar to post to ensure their wages and employment. May I know whether the Government would consider the desirability of taking over this project? May I also know whether there is any possibility of a Bill for this purpose being introduced in the current Session of the Lok Sabha?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Member is already aware of the fact that the main reason for the Government getting into the investigation of this particular factory is for the cause of the workers. It is only because of the question of employment and resentment of the workers that the Government is forced to go into the whole question. As far as bringing forward a Bill before this House is concerned, it is only after the Government has taken a final decision in the matter that the next action will be taken.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I have written a long letter to the hon. Minister with regard to the difficulties of the employees. The employees who had been working in that concern have been thrown out. They have no means of living; their condition is so pitiable. This is all because of the mismanagement of the company by the earlier management and the employees had to suffer. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take some immediate short-term measures to see that the grievances of the employees are redressed earlier than the final decision with regard to the take-over etc. This may be in the form of payment of some money as subsistence allowance in the larger interest of the workers.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The whole case is sub judice. As far as the taking over of the mill is concerned, we are taking immediate action in the matter only in the interest of the workers.

श्री सूरज भाग : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह भी कहा गया है कि दो साल से दो हजार मजदूरों को बतन नहीं मिला है। इन मजदूरों को फौकटी बंद होने से भी एक

साल पहले से बतन नहीं मिला है। उनको बतन दिया जाए और जो मजदूर दो साल से भुके बैठे हैं, उनके लिए आप क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The decision with regard to the payment of arrears for the period when the employees were on the roll of the factory will be taken only after the decision,—whether it is liquidated, whether it is taken over—is finally taken. After that, a Commissioner of Payments will be appointed and he will decide about the payment of claims etc. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that in the priority schedule of payments, number one priority is given to the payment of due of the workers.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 420.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): Sir number 13 is usually kept as No. 12A or 12B ... (Interruptions). I am simply requesting the hon. Speaker who runs this House so beautifully and also the hon. Members who participate so well, that No. 420 may in future be put as Ne. 419A. May be, this question of Siemens has been in the newspapers in a very prominent manner... (Interruptions).

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: In Japan, the unlucky numbers of the floors, in fact, are not listed in the lifts at all.

News-item "Bhel's new bid for deal with Siemens".

*420. **SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:**
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item "BHEL's new bid for deal with Siemens" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 23 February, 1981;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposed deal; and

(c) how far it will help in the promotion of research and development of various products for which BHEL will get the Siemens' know-how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following three product-wise proposals have been forwarded by BHEL to Government for consideration and approval:—

(i) for manufacture of SF 6 and vacuum circuit breakers with Siemens;

(ii) for manufacture of AC and DC motors with Siemens;

(iii) for enlarging the scope of the existing agreement with Kraftwerk Union for the manufacture of turbo-generators of lower rating below 200 MW.

These proposals are under examination by the Government.

(c) Promotion of research and development in these areas is an aspect which is always taken into consideration. The collaborators, namely Siemens and KWU have expressed their willingness to provide full know-how and know-why in the areas of collaboration and this will facilitate accelerating the indigenous R & D efforts.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Power generation has been given very high priority and importance by our Government. In view of the fact that the newspapers have indicated that a very powerful lobby in the form of a Minister in the last Janata Government had taken interest in this deal, I would like to know whether we have indigenous know-how and R&D available with us, and whether the know-how and technology which we are going to get from Siemen is the latest or not. This is because we know the functioning of the multina-

tion is in this country and abroad and they try to give us second-rate and third-rate technology.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, the hon. Member's question is regarding lobby and former Minister. I would only like to enlighten him on this particular thing that the criterion for selecting or importing a technology is updating our technology. And as the hon. Member has said, it is in view of the importance attached to power generation in the country now, when the world is passing through the energy crisis that we want to be as updated as the world in this technology today is.

Now as far as the strong lobby of the former Minister is concerned, I would like the hon. Member to know that the earlier proposal was that of an umbrella agreement. It is because of the R & D that we are restricting it to the examination or adoption of technology to fill in the technological gap only. It is only the R & D effort, which has in fact, identified three heads, three types of products as necessary as far as the updating of technology is concerned. So, the hon. Member should be sure that the updating of a technology will be done in the interest of promoting this industry in the country.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I wanted to know whether indigenous know-how in R & D is available or not? He has kept silent on it.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I have already replied to the hon. Member's question that an exercise was initiated as far as availability of technology is concerned. While updating technology, we see whether R & D is available or not, and the results of the R & D. The process aims at putting the technology at the latest ladder of technology in the world and that is being done by filling in the gaps of technology for this particular field.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: My second Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Your second question has been answered.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: That was clarification of my first one. I would like to know what is the agreement period; what is the foreign exchange content?

MR. SPEAKER: These are details.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: This is my second question.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, a proposal has just been received and before examining and taking a decision. It is not proper to give these details.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he has done his homework and read the report prepared by a special expert committee headed by Dr. Raja Raman set up during the Janata rule? Not that everything during the Janata rule was bad so you must have.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot appreciate even this!

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I know I am saying something which they should like. Anyway, may I know whether he has seen this Report whether it is a fact that as far as 200 magawatt technology is concerned, the Indian BHEL has managed to win international tenders by providing good technology at cheap prices and whether the Minister would give a guarantee that as far as ratings less than 200 magawatt are concerned, no foreign collaboration would be sought?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, as far as question number one of the hon. Member is concerned, I confirm I have said that we are only filling the technological gap in the 200 magawatt technology. He is one of those persons who objected to the umbrella technology and probably for that reason he said that all the things in Janata were not wrong. As to his second question, as far as the assurance about collaboration is concerned, we are not collaborating. It is

only updating the technology to fill the gaps. There is no total collaboration at all.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: On what basis did you identify these gaps? Was there an expert committee?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Below 200 magawatt we have identified the technological gap even in the process of supplying the 200 magawatts and below generators outside the country. And we have been filling in by importing these parts, so far. But before this, BHEL and the Ministry of Heavy Industry went into the whole question, by identifying these products. It is a technical examination, which brought us to this result, viz., that these three products were needing updating of technology.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expenditure on Refugees in West Bengal

*413. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released from the Central Government to the West Bengal Government towards reimbursement of expenditure incurred for affording temporary relief and shelter to the non-Assamese people who have been forcibly evicted from Assam and are now living in camps in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government are aware that upto the 6th December, 1980, the State Government have incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 34 lakhs; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this matter?