

as they were in a foreign country, there was the impossibility of performance.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : In view of the growing unemployment in the country, what is wrong if these people resign and take up some other jobs? I want to know what is wrong in this. (*Interruption*) Any one who is employed in Government is free to resign. Now if these people have resigned and have taken up better employment, what wrong the Government see in this? (*Interruption*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They were to come back to India. They violated the terms of contract.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : The utmost that Government can do is that they can demand the ticket fare. Why should they come back to India? I want to know what is the policy of the Government in such matters? Do they propose to call those employees back to India and then compel them to go back or will they accept their resignations to enable them to take up better employment there? (*Interruption*) There is no question of America. I am talking in general terms. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. There should be some limit..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. C. GFORGE : Regarding the broader question I will not be in a position to answer, but I will limit myself to the terms of employment and there they have violated the terms of employment. We consulted the External Affairs Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry was of the view that there are not enough grounds for repatriation of these employees to India and refused the grant of ordinary passports to them under the Passports Act of 1947.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I would like to know from the Minister, particularly in view of his last reply as to what was the non-performance of the contract. If they had contracted to you to perform a particular function for a particular period of time, if that period has expired, where is the non-performance of contract? If any thing, these employees have saved you the expense of repatriating them.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I do maintain that they have violated the terms of employment.....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They have to come back.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : You may not agree with me that they have violated the terms of employment because they were deputed and appointed on specific terms that on the expiry of the term they have to return.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I didn't ask whether they violated it or not, I asked as to what was the non-performance. I could understand if you had sent them for a three-year period and if they resign after one year, then there is non-performance. But here it is after the expiry of the contracted period. Just because they do not want to come back, you want to penalise them? How many of you would like to come back.

SHRI A. C. GFORGE : We view this as a mal-practice because such precedents may be misused by others also.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I want to put a specific question, Sir.

गवर्नमेंट गलत कामी करती है, गलत बताती है।

Increase in Price of Coal

*445. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have agreed to increased the price of coal ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much money Railways will have to pay more annually due to the increase in price ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase is meant to compen-

sate the collieries for the rise in the cost of production

(c) The additional expenditure to the Railways is estimated at Rs 16 crores per annum approximately

SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA In his answer the Minister has said that the Railways are giving Rs 16 crores to compensate the higher cost of production incurred by the colliery-owners. But I would like to know whether it is a fact or not that in the past one or two years the collieries have been making enormous profits and they are creating an artificial scarcity because they complain that the wagons are not available for transportation of coal. I don't know then how the Government can compensate this by spending Rs 16 crores from the public exchequer.

SHRI K HANUMANTHAIYA This question was gone into most scientifically by the Bureau of Costs and Prices. They examined all aspects of the matter including the production costs and including dearness allowance that has been increased, and wagon loading. After taking all these factors into consideration, they came to the conclusion to increase the price and we have accepted more or less their recommendation.

SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA I understand that the Government go by certain recommendations of the committees, but the question is whether it is justifiable that Rs 16 crores had been given to colliery owners who were making enormous profits during the last one or two years. In this context, I would like to ask the question as to how many of these colliery-owners were private-owners and how much of the money had been given to them.

SHRI K HANUMANTHAIYA I have not got the figures readily to give the share between the private colliery-owners and the public collieries. It is true that there are publicly owned collieries and they have demanded a higher price and, therefore, it was referred to the Bureau of Costs and Prices.

Subsequently it was examined by a committee of secretaries of all the Ministries and finally it was approved by the

Cabinet. I share the anxiety of the hon. Member that we should not pay to either the private collieries or public collieries any more than their due, but all these factors are taken into consideration and it is only then that the rate has been arrived at.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY The public sector has calculated their cost of production. Their cost of production is higher because they have to pay higher wages to their workmen. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that 50% production comes from the public sector and 50% production comes from the private sector. The public sector is paying higher wages to women whereas the private sector is not implementing the wage board award or paying higher wages to workmen. Therefore will he restrict this increase only to the public sector and those private collieries only who have implemented wage board awards and paid higher wages to workmen?

SHRI K HANUMANTHAIYA That point was also considered in the three levels. It was ultimately decided that coal prices need not be different and need not be linked with the scheme of variable dearness allowance by collieries. The Ministries of Railways and Labour should take appropriate measures to get wage board awards implemented by collieries. There is a separate Act there is a separate Ministry to safeguard the interest of labour, we are only called upon to pay whatever price is fixed.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY Will the Minister advise the Railways not to place the order on the collieries who have not implemented wage board awards?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I hope the Minister will tell us whether this is a fact or not. Previously a decision was taken by the Railways not to place railway's coal order on those collieries which did not implement wage board awards. If that is so, what steps are being taken or have been taken to see that orders are placed on those collieries only who have implemented wage board awards? Secondly, the total increase on this account to the Railways is not Rs 16 crores, it is upto Rs 1.8 crores.

SHRI K. HAMUMANTHAIYA : To my knowledge, no such decision was taken so far as the Railway Administration goes. So far as payment of wages according to the Act is concerned, we will also cooperate, but this is primarily the function of the Labour Ministry. The cost difference is Rs. 0.2 crores, it is a matter of opinion. I don't say this figure of Rs. 1.6 crores in the exact point. It is only an estimate.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : It has come out in the Press. There is a Press report that the Cabinet which decided this question also discussed how to make implementation of wage board awards by those collieries which have still not implemented them. This is a press report.

MR. SPEAKER : He is contradicting it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : He is escaping the issue.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I am helping you much more than you think.

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN : The Minister said about various implications and loss to the Railways on this account. In respect of the Southern Railway, what would be the extra expenditure involved on this account, in view of the increase of the price of coal? Will this increased amount be given by the Railway Board or subsidised? What is the position?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I have not got the figure separately for each Railway for this question. It depends upon the supply of coal. I may inform him that the Southern zone has taken certain steps to reduce the consumption of coal within three months and therefore they will not come for any trouble on this account. So far as the figures regarding consumption in each zone are concerned, they vary. If the hon. Member wants the figures, I shall furnish him these figures.

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN : May I know whether this extra expenditure, if any, incurred by the Southern Railway, would be met by the Railway Board or by the Southern Railway.

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : The cost is not met that way. The total budgetary figures will determine all these things.

SHRI PILOO MODY : That will increase the railway deficit.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : The clamour of the colliery owners for an increase in price has been there for a number of years. In 1967-70, when they demanded an increase of Rs. 2 per tonne, only 85 paise were given to them. Last year, there was no increase. During this year why should there be an increase? Why should the railways agree to an increase? What is the total off take of coal from the collieries by the railways?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : I would have been very happy not to pay increased prices. In fact, that was my case also. But when there was a claim from the other Ministries also which owned the coal mines, it naturally went to an impartial authority like the Bureau who determines the price. So, it has been examined how far and to what extent those demands have to be conceded.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : What is the total total off take of coal from the collieries?

MR. SPEAKER : He should not expect to get answers to so many questions at one time.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : He has to answer this.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर मैं न रोकूँ तो एक ही क्वेश्चन चलता रह सकता है।

दक्षिण बिहार में सिंचाई की अवस्था
सुविधाएं

*446. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या सिंचाई और बिज्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि दक्षिण बिहार में सिंचाई की पर्याप्त सुविधाएं नहीं हैं ;