

sale on a large scale. Many hon. Members have suggested the appointment of a parliamentary committee. The Health Minister has said that this subject concerns the Ministry of Industrial Development. But, I would like to put a pertinent question. In view of the fact that there is controversy in regard to this, that this Coca-Cola and other soft drinks are sold in adulterated forms, will the hon. Minister take steps to see that the sale of Coca-Cola and other soft drinks is totally banned in this country, till such time a Committee is appointed and it submits its report? I would like to know, whether he would impose a total ban till such time the enquiry is completed and the correct position known?

DR. KARAN SINGH: We are not contemplating a total ban.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, in view of what has come to light, with regard to this Fanta grape drink—I am not familiar with the name—may I know, in the interest of protecting the health of the population—I believe several million bottles of these drinks are consumed every year—does the Minister not consider it necessary and desirable to have a chemical analysis made of the other allied drinks also made by this same company, namely, Fanta Orange and Coca-Cola, which may have colouring material, injurious colouring material?

DR. KARAN SINGH: As far as my information goes, we have been doing chemical analysis of these drinks and it is only in this Fanta grape flavoured that certain colouring dyes, according to our analysis, were used, which are not permitted. Any drink, which is on the market, should be looked into to ensure that it is up to the mark. We shall certainly look into this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I wanted to know, whether analysis has been made of the other two drinks made by this particular company, which is found to be using this injurious material. To be on the safe side, should we not have an analysis made of these

local products also, Coca-Cola and Fanta Orange?

DR. KARAN SINGH: It will be done.

### श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के लिए मजूरी बोर्ड

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\*831. श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी

क्या श्रम मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे

कि :

(क) श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के वेतन, सेवा की शर्तों और अन्य सुविधाओं में परिवर्तन करने के बारे में सिफारिश करने के लिए तैयार सांविधिक मजूरी बोर्ड गठित करने का विचार सरकार ने सर्वप्रथम कब किया था ; और

(ख) तब से अब तक इस दिशा में हुई प्रगति का विवरण क्या है।

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHR RAGUNATHA REDDY): (a) Demands for the Third Wage Board were received towards the end of 1972 and the matter was discussed by the Labour Minister in meetings with the representatives of employers and employees in February, 1973.

(b) Government have decided to set up the Wage Board. The Board is likely to be constituted shortly.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी: मजूरी बोर्ड गठित करने की मांग 1972 में हुई थी। 1973 के फरवरी महीने में दोनों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ मन्त्री महोदय ने बातचीत की। आज अप्रैल 1974 का अन्त आ गया है। इसको एक साल हो गया है। अब मन्त्री महोदय कहते हैं कि जल्दी बोर्ड का गठन किया जाएगा। जल्दी का मतलब क्या है यह मेरी समझ में बिल्कुल नहीं आता है। इसका यह स्पष्टीकरण करें।

कीमत बहुत बढ़ गई है। इसको ध्यान में रखकर वकिंग जर्नलिस्ट्स की प्रतिनिधि संस्थाओं ने यह मांग की है और इसको दोहराया भी है कि अन्तरिम राहत के रूप में उनको

कम से कम चालीस प्रतिशत की मात्रा में वेतन में बढ़ोतरी मिलनी चाहिये। अभी हाल ही में पी० टी० आई० कर्मचारियों के बारे में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक फैसला दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसको भी ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार कौन से कदम उठाना चाहती है ताकि उनके साथ न्याय हो सके? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अन्तरिम राहत की उनकी मांग का वह कैसे कार्यान्वित करेगा?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:**

With regard to the constitution of the Wage Board, several representations were received from November 1972 and meetings were also held with the representatives of the working journalists and also with the representatives of employers. After discussion with all those bodies, taking necessary advice, the Government had decided to set up a Wage Board. But under section 9 for constituting a Wage Board two representatives of the Working Journalists, two representatives of the employers and three people of whom one would be a sitting or retired judge of the High Court or Supreme Court, and two independent members would be required. The details are being gone into. Things like whether it should be serving or retired judge etc have to be sorted out. There are other aspects also which have to be gone into. After a decision is taken in this matter, it would be announced.

**SHRI JAGANATHARAO JOSHI**

What about interim relief?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** I have not read the judgment. As soon as I get a certified copy of the judgment, I will look into it. As far as interim relief is concerned, as soon as the Wage Board is constituted, Government can consult the Wage Board with regard to interim relief, according to the provisions of the law.

**श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :** पिछली जूलाई महीने में जब मन्त्री महोदय जब उड़ीसा गए

थे उस समय उन्होंने जरनलिस्ट्स की जो एक एसोसिएशन है उसके बारे में पक्षपातपूर्ण रवैया अपनाया था। मैं आश्वासन चाहता हूँ कि आगे चलकर जब बोर्ड का गठन होगा उस समय जो बर्निंग जरनलिस्ट्स की असली प्रतिनिधि सस्या है उसी को उस में प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाएगा और कोई पक्षपातपूर्ण रवैया नहीं अपनाया जाएगा?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** The decision would be taken on merits.

**श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :** प्रखबारों में यह बात आ चकी है। वह कर्सी भी पत्रकार सस्या के बारे में अपना मत रख सकते हैं। लेकिन जब बर्ज बोर्ड के गठन का सवाल आया, उस में प्रतिनिधित्व देने का सवाल आया तो जो पत्रकारों की असली प्रतिनिधि सस्या है उसी का आप उसमें प्रतिनिधित्व देगे यह आश्वासन मैं चाहता हूँ।

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** The decision would certainly be taken on the merits of the matter.

**SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL:** I am very happy to know from the Minister that the Government has decided to constitute the Third Wage Board. May I know from the Minister whether all the recommendations of the first and second Wage Board have been implemented by all the newspapers? I know there are many newspapers in 1, 2 and 3 which have not implemented the recommendations of the first and second Wage Board. Yet, the Government have not set up any machinery to see that those recommendations are implemented. In view of that, I would like to know whether it would not be advisable and desirable to see that those recommendations of the first and second Wage Boards are implemented before the third Wage Board is constituted?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:**

With respect to those recommendations which were not implemented by some small newspapers etc. we have drawn

the attention of the State Governments, which are the authorities which have to take action in the matter.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** The hon. Minister has stated that the organisations of employers and the organisations of the trade unions of journalists had been consulted. May I know the organisations which had been consulted? Would he specifically tell us whether the organisation called the National Union of Journalists had been consulted? Are there some objective criteria on the basis of which recognition or representation is given to the trade unions or the trade unions live on the charity of the Government, or on the subjective satisfaction of a Minister, who has got a particular political colourisation in the matter? ?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY.** I do not carry any dark colour with me; I carry only light colour.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** Your colours are quite visible.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** The National Union of Journalists had sent a memorandum on 4-11-1972, the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, Chandigarh on 25-11-72, the Indian Federation of Working Journalists on 5-12-72 and 6-12-72, the Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists on 6-12-72, the All India Newspaper Employees' Federation on 20-1-73, and the Indian Federation of Working Journalists on 24-2-73. The representatives of the working journalists met the Labour Minister on 24-2-73, the All-India Newspapers' Employees Federation met on 24th; the representatives of the I.E.N.S. met on 27th; the Indian Language Newspapers Association met on 30-3-73 and so on. A number of organisations have been consulted.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** I want to know specifically if consultations have been held with the National Union of Journalists which has got the largest number of journalists on it. I

ask a very specific question and I want an answer to that. Whether consultations have been held with that organisation and, if not, why not.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** I have mentioned that the National Union of Journalists have sent their memorandum on 4-11-72.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** That is different.

**MR. SPEAKER:** His simple question was whether they have been consulted or not. Say, yes or no.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** They were not called for discussion.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** Why not? (*Interruptions*) He said earlier that consultations have been held with the trade unions of the journalists. I wanted to know whether consultations have been held with that particular organisation and, if not, why not.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** They have sent their very elaborate memorandum on 4-11-72. All their cases are before us.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** Why they have not held consultations with the largest body... (*Interruptions*). Do the trade unions live on charity? The motives of the Minister are quite apparent.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I do not come.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** In the First Wage Board and in the Second Wage Board, the Working Journalists Federation was allowed two Members to be filled from the working journalists. On 4-11-1972, the National Union of Journalists has sent their memorandum. If we find it necessary to consult them, we will certainly consult them.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** The hon. Minister, while replying to the main

question and the supplementaries, has said that he has held consultations with the various organisations and the people who have sent their representations before constituting the Wage Board. He has also said that the question of representation from the side of the employees will be considered on merits. May I know what will be the criteria, whether it will be the all-India character as recognised by the Government for the association of workers or whether it will be the membership. So far as we know, the National Union of Journalists have got the largest membership in many States. (Interruptions. Specially, they have the largest membership in Punjab. They have got their branches all over the country, in West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and other States. At present, their membership is in the neighbourhood of 1500. (Interruptions) Bogus members call other members bogus. (Interruptions). My question is what will be the criteria to determine inclusion of the representatives of the organized labour. Will it be on the basis of the all India character of the organisations recognised by the Labour Ministry itself, or whether it will be on the membership basis of these organisations? Because, today the Government is being accused by one section of the workers of having a partisan attitude. This is reported all over. Therefore, I want to know what will be the criteria—whether it will be on the basis of the membership of the organisations or it will be on the basis of all India character of the organisations—in giving representation to the Working Journalists on the Wage Board.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** The requirement of law is that two persons representing Working Journalists must be members of this Committee. The term 'Working Journalist' is defined in the Act itself. Therefore, Government will have to take a decision which persons in this country who fit the description of Working Journalists would represent the body

of Working Journalists and such persons will be taken as members.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** The organisation of Working Journalists has got its membership also. Will that also be taken into consideration?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** All relevant factors which the hon. Member has been pleased to mention would certainly be borne in mind in coming to a judgment.

**SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAI-NULI:** The hon. Minister has stated that the small newspapers have not implemented the First and the Second Wage Boards Awards. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he includes in small newspapers the Indian Express which, I think, has a number of mofussil and stringer correspondents? Secondly, I would like to know whether he gives parity to those journalists who represent the proprietors' interests and whether he has received any representation from the Working Journalists' Federation and if so, what steps he has taken to meet the demand.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:**

With respect to the question that has been put about the Indian Express, I cannot immediately answer. If the hon. Member gives me some facts, I will verify and tell him.

With respect to representation on the Wage Board, the Working Journalists' Federation has made it very clear that they would not be willing to join the Committee if the National Union of Journalists is also given representation.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** Now the Minister cannot escape giving representation to the National Union of Journalists

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Before putting my question I must congratulate him for his firmness in dealing with the question.... (Interruptions).

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** This is how he is exposing his bogus character.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** The collusion is clear.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Banerjee, Why do you expose the Minister?... (Interruptions). Please ask your question The Minister is there. Here, everybody is a Minister.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I would like to know whether after going through the recent judgment of the Supreme Court regarding PTI journalists, some action will be taken in this session itself to undo the harm done to the PTI employees by the Supreme Court judgment and whether this particular Wage Board which has been appointed or is being appointed, will also cover the non-working Journalists because they have the same problems as the working Journalists.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** With respect to the question of the Supreme Court judgment in respect of PTI employees, as I submitted, I do not have a copy of the full judgment. Unless I go through it, I cannot indicate what the Government would like to do.

With respect to the other matter of non-working journalists it is under consideration of the Government whether it would be necessary to amend the Working Journalists Act also to facilitate the appointment of a Wage Board for them also. It is under consideration.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** In that connection, do not bring in the bogus organization.

श्री सरकार ब्याल सिंह : भ्रमजीवी पत्रकारों का ऐसा मामला है जिस के प्रति सभी सदस्यों की सहानुभूति रही है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की नीति रही

है कि छोटे पत्रों को अधिकसे अधिक सहायता दी जाये, इस सम्बन्ध में बहुत से ऐसे पत्रकार हैं जो किनी यूनियन के सदस्य नहीं हैं तो उन के प्रतिनिधित्व और उन की बात को जानने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** I will have to implement the spirit of the Act as it is.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** I want to know from the hon Minister whether it is known to him that on 8th August 1973, according to a Gazette Notification, the Press Council of India recognized the Indian Federation of Working Journalists, the National Union of Journalists, the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference and the Press Associations as accredited organizations of the journalists. If it is so that the Press Council recognised the representative character of the National Union of Journalists, I want to know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister when he visited Bhubaneswar on 17th July, 1973 in a meeting of the journalists categorically asked a question whether there was any representative from National Union of Journalists and whether he categorically said there that he was not going to recognise their representative and whether he also said that he wanted to dissuade Mr. Gujral not to attend the meeting, convened by the National Union of Journalists and whether it is also a fact that he wanted to persuade Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray not to open and attend a meeting of West Bengal National Union of Journalists for which President Giri also sent a message and lastly I want to know whether a number of representations were made to the Prime Minister as well as to the hon. Minister and whereas the Prime Minister acknowledged and replied to the memorandum of the National Journalists Union but not a single letter of the National Journalists' Union was even acknowledged by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question now....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am coming to the question now. All this shows that birds of the same feather flock together, Sir. The hon. Minister is flocking with the same colour.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask a question..

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is a question of the freedom of the press, it is a question of the right of the journalists whether the recognition given to Press Council should be taken cognisance of by the hon. Minister or not and whether the representation in the Wage Board should also be taken cognisance of, even if some other person threatens you not to participate (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please Why don't you allow the Question Hour to proceed?

SHRI RAGHUNATHAHA REDDY: A number of representations have been sent by the National Union of Journalists and in the very first sentence of my answer I have pointed out the position that they had sent the representation. With regard to the Press Council, as per the Press Council Act, they might have been nominated. This is one of the considerations that may have to be taken into account.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: What about the other Journalists? I have raised a number of questions. Why the Minister takes up a partisan attitude? Let him deny it. I can give you all the records..

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am not in favour of the one or the other I am for fair-play, I am for fair representation of workers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down Shri Mahajan.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If Minister takes sides of a certain organisation, what will happen?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: He will be impartial do not worry.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: He is a Minister of certain political standing.

MR. SPEAKER: What happen to this country if you do not play the game?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: He is acting in a partisan manner. He is deprived of his right to be a Minister. He should resign.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, Shri Mahajan.

SHR VIKRAM MAHAJAN: There is a lot of confusion over the issue and I for one would like the Minister to give the impression that justice is being done to all the journalists. The Wage Board is being appointed for the benefit of journalists and not for the benefit of any individual or particular union. Therefore Government should not get involved in any controversy as to which trade union should be represented and which should not be represented. What I submit is this. The main object of the Wage Board is to benefit the journalists. Therefore, some criteria should be established which should be acceptable to all. One of the principle is, you define who is a working journalist and hold an election. They should get representation in the Wage Board. That is ones system. Or, you should call all the Journalists Unions and ask them to give a formula which is acceptable to all of them so that a representative character of the Wage Board is established and you are not accused of partiality.

Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to give an assurance in this House that there would be elections and all the Unions of Journalists will be given the chance which will be acceptable to them.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** As already submitted, with regard to the representations, they will be taken up on merits having regard to all the considerations which the hon. Members have mentioned.

**Funds to Andhra Pradesh for National Programme**

\*834. **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Health Department of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Central Health Ministry for additional funds for the centrally sponsored national programme for 1973-74; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU).** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

The State of Andhra Pradesh was allocated Rs. 116.95 lakhs as cash assistance and Rs. 18.56 lakhs as assistance in kind for the Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes in 1973-74. The State Government represented to the Central Government on the 12th December, 1973 that they had already spent Rs. 118.15 lakhs up to 31st October, 1973 and that their anticipated requirement for 1973-74 was Rs. 280.76 lakhs. Again by their letter of 23rd February 1974 the State Government indicated that they had incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 146.20 lakhs by the end of December, 1973 and wanted sanction of additional funds to the extent of Rs. 150.52 lakhs so as to reach their estimated requirement of Rs. 280.70 lakhs. In March 1974, the Finance Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh wrote to the Finance Ministry enclosing the details of expenditure incurred in res-

pect of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the various sectors. A part of this related to medical and public health sector. In this letter they indicated that their total anticipated expenditure in the medical and public health sector would be Rs. 133.51 lakhs. The Actual Central assistance released for 1973-74 amounts to Rs. 116.75 lakhs in cash and Rs. 27.33 lakhs in the form of material and equipment totalling Rs. 144.08 lakhs.

This is a provisional amount which has been released to the State Government and the actual expenditure incurred by the State Government in accordance with the prescribed pattern in respect of all the Centrally Sponsored Programme in the Health sector would be reimbursed to the State Government after receipt of the final accounts prepared by them.

**SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** In the statement laid on the Table of the House the State Government in December, 1973 anticipated a certain expenditure whereas in their letter in March 1974 to the Finance Ministry they have given a different figure of anticipated expenditure. Their estimated requirement is Rs. 280 lakhs whereas in their letter to the Finance Department they have given the anticipated expenditure as Rs. 130 lakhs. How do you explain this? There seems to be some confusion.

**SHRI A. K. KISKU:** In the matter of accounts there cannot be any confusion whatsoever. The Centrally sponsored schemes are on the basis of an approved pattern. In this particular case of Andhra Pradesh, we have given an assurance already that after scrutiny of the accounts whatever be their dues that will surely be given to them.

**SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** My second question is: whether the Government will give an assurance that they are prepared to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the State Government.