

a majority of them are not working to their full capacity, etc. About putting up more plants, we are putting up more plants in the fourth plan in the public sector.

Implementation of Recommendations of Electricity Wage Board in Uttar Pradesh

*1716. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has amended recommendations of the Electricity Wage Board ;

(b) if so, whether they took consent of the Union Government ;

(c) whether majority of the workers in Uttar Pradesh in State Undertaking have been deprived of certain benefits ; and

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to undo this injustice ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) :
(a) Yes, Sir. The recommendations, in their application to the State of Uttar Pradesh, have been amended in the matter of gratuity, payment of arrears etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). According to the State Government, except for gratuity Scheme recommended by Wage Board all other benefits have substantially been made available to the workmen under the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board. The State Government have added that if any case of alleged injustice is brought to their notice it will be looked into.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am surprised that the Minister does not know that even today there is a strike going on by the Kanpur electricity workers numbering about 2,000 and there is a threatened strike by all the electricity workers of UP because of the decision of the UP Government not to implement certain recommendations of the Wage Board and abnormal delay in the implementation of some recommendations. I would like to know whether the Central Government have really contacted the State Government and asked for

the reasons for not implementing the award to the entire satisfaction of the workers.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : We have no information regarding the strike, or the threatened strike. So far as the implementation of the wage board award is concerned, excepting in relation to gratuity and some minor matters where some modifications are necessary, the other recommendations have been implemented. So, it is not correct to say that they have not implemented the award. If a specific question is asked in regard to which part of the award is not implemented, I am ready to reply about it. Moreover, I would like to emphasize here that the UP Government had a tripartite consultation before taking this decision.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Is the hon. Minister aware that a committee was appointed, in which the employees were represented, and that committee has submitted its report recently, in May ? On the question of fitment from one scale to another there is difference of opinion with the result....

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly ask the question straight without such a long introduction.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, how can I put the question straight ? I can put it only through you.

MR. SPEAKER : Just tell me. I can put it briefly on your behalf.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : May I know whether the strike is mainly due to the fact that the fitment into the various pay scales has not been done, as promised by the UP Electricity Board, and if so whether the hon. Minister is likely to intervene in the matter and suggest some measures to avoid a general strike in UP ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As the hon. Member has admitted, there was some discussion with the representatives of the Union. I have no information as to what transpired there. So far as fitment is concerned, while implementing the award it is done according to some formula. If the hon. Member has some information, he may supply it so that we can pass it on to the Government concerned.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am giving that information.

MR. SPEAKER : I am glad he has admitted that he is giving information and not asking for information.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I have to give the information while putting the question. A serious situation has developed there. Shri Khadilkar is well known for his patience and persuasion. That is why I am requesting him to intervene in the matter.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I will try to get some more information, if there is a dispute. Beyond that I cannot say anything. At this stage I cannot promise intervention.

SHRI R. N. SHARMA : The hon. Minister has admitted that excluding gratuity and wages the award has been implemented. If the recommendation relating to gratuity and wages have not been implemented, what are the other portions which have been implemented and how has the award been amended by the State Government ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It is not correct. I said that excluding gratuity all the other portions are implemented. The only question is about arrears, which are to be paid in a phased manner without any amendment of the wage board award.

श्री एन० एन० पांडे : क्या मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने यूनिन के तमाम नेताओं को कुछ दिन पहले बुलाया था, जैसा श्री बनर्जी कह रहे हैं, बात करने के लिये, जिससे सारा मामला हल हो जाये ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई कांफ्रेंस चल रही है और इस तरह की वार्ता चल रही है जिससे यह मसला मेटल हो जाये और स्ट्राइक न हो। क्या यह सूचना मंत्री महोदय के पास है ? अगर है तो उसको सदन के सामने रक्खा जाये।

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : He has given some information. I welcome it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This wage board was a Central wage board and the recommendation made on the issue of gratuity

is applicable to electricity situated units in all the different States. If any State Government chooses on its own to modify or alter that Central recommendation and do as it pleases, what is the responsibility of the Central Government in the matter of seeing that the uniform implementation of the Central wage board's recommendations in all the States is ensured ; or, has it no responsibility ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : This award was a non-statutory award and the hon. Member knows that the Centre can only advise or persuade the States.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : They never consulted the Centre.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : After going through their process of implementation they have stated that they have similar benefits already existing. So, even if they do not accept a part of the award about gratuity, workers are not put to a loss. If a case is made out that there is a wide gulf, we will examine it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Did they take your approval for that ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The question of approval did not arise.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They did not even consult you.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : बिजली मजदूर सभी प्रान्तों में है। जितने भी ये काम करने वाले हैं उन सभी के लिए सभी राज्यों में समान कानून हो, उस में कोई अन्तर न हो, इसका भी आप कोई उपाय करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Except for journalists all wage boards were non-statutory. After the wage board recommendations are placed, it is left to the State, because it is a concurrent subject, to implement them. Beyond this the Centre cannot compel them to implement it.

Arrest of Secretary of Hindustan Steel Employee Union

*1717. **SHRI B. K. MODAK :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether police has arrested the Secre-