

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 1, 1972/Agrahayana
10, 1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rationalisation of Pay Scales of Coffee Board Employees

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*261. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA:

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISH-
NAN:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN
TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees of Coffee Board have submitted a Memorandum to the Deputy Minister in his Ministry in Bangalore requesting him to take a decision on rationalisation of their pay scales before the verdict of the Pay Commission; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Govern-
ment thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
(SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for rationalisation of scales of pay of the employees of the Board will be taken up at the time of implementing Third Pay Commission's recommendations. The anomalies if any in the present pay structures of the Board will be taken care of at that time.

SHRI PAPPAN GOWDA: The question is rationalisation of pay scales before the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, not at the time of their recommendations or afterwards. I think the question is not properly answered.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I think the reply has been given. If the hon. member feels some more clarification is needed, there are complaints from the employees of the coffee board that in comparison to other government employees and comparable government agencies and semi-government institutions there are some grades where there are anomalies and inequalities. Their contention is, if the new pay scales are implemented afterwards, these anomalies and inequalities will be carried forward to the Third Pay Commission's recommendations. We have given the assurance that such cases will be individually examined.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN I want to know whether his ministry is convinced that there are anomalies. The reply is "anomalies, if any" will be taken care of. These are vague terms. Is the ministry convinced that there are anomalies, if so, what are they and what is his attitude?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The coffee board, with a view to keep proper industrial relations with its employees, whom I would like to commend on this occasion—our relations are exemplary—appointed a pay scales sub-committee, about which the hon member is more aware than I am. The recommendations of that sub-committee were examined by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and we were prepared to accept some of them. But the hon. member knows there are some restrictions on implementing

new pay scales before the implementation of the Third Pay Commission's recommendations. So, these anomalies will be rectified at that time.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि काफ़ी बोर्ड के जो कर्मचारी हैं क्या सरकार ने उनका न्यूनतम वेतन कम से कम वेतन निर्धारित करने की कोई पालिसी बनाई है और जीवन आवश्यक वेतन और इन दोनों में कितना अन्तर रखने का सरकार का विचार है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The point that has been raised is not regarding the minimum wage. They have been given fair wages. The complaint that is under discussion is regarding comparable inequalities with other governmental agencies. We have assured them that we will rectify them soon.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है। मैंने पूछा था कि न्यूनतम वेतन जो आवश्यक है जीवन में वह काफ़ी बोर्ड के कर्मचारियों के लिये सरकार ने कितना निर्धारित किया है ? जीवन आवश्यक वेतन और उनके वेतन में कितना अन्तर सरकार ने रखा है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिमम लिविंग वेज अगर हो तो बतलाइये।

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We have not fixed any minimum living wage. We give them a fair wage.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is a well-known fact that the employees of boards like Tea Board or Coffee Board do not come within the terms of reference of the Third Pay Commission. After the publication of the report of the Pay Commission, will there be any negotiated settlement between the Boards and their employees for the implementation of the Pay Commission scales or it will be done *suo motu*?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We do not propose to implement it *suo motu*. There will certainly be negotiations

between the elected representatives and the Board.

Nationalisation of Foreign owned Plantations

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*262. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY:

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE;

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for nationalising, without compensation, foreign-owned tea, rubber and cardamom plantations in Kerala and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to take over foreign-owned plantations in India. However, a draft ordinance from the Kerala Government in this regard is still under examination.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY: Government have made a very simple statement that there is no scheme for nationalisation of the foreign-owned plantations. In view of the fact that these plantation owners, particularly the foreign-owned plantation owners, have looted us millions of pounds sterling as profit from this country and in view also of the fact that not even a fringe of these profits have been re-invested in these plantations, may I know what are the hindrances in the way of government nationalising this industry? Secondly, have government taken any statistics which will show that the foreign-owned plantations are not modernising their industry which will provide more and more employment potential in these industries?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as the takeover of these plantations is concerned, we have decided it as a policy.