

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): Sir, myself, in the company of the hon. Member, Shri B. K. Daschowdhury, happened to visit this place and inspected a number of buildings and various plots in this area. During the inspection we came across a very tragic case of one Shri B. C. Mukherjee, allottee of plot No. 328 in Chittaranjan Park. It was one of the filled up plots for which he had spent a lot of money for raising the foundation. With all the sympathy for this old gentleman, I tried my best to get him some relief but, under the existing rules, I found that it was not possible at all to make any departure from it as it would mean opening the floodgates to various other claimants. Therefore, I expressed my inability in the matter notwithstanding the fact that it is a case which needs a lot of sympathy. But, the rules do not provide for compensation by way of money. The only offer I can make is to make some contribution for this purpose. Beyond that, the rules do not permit.

MR. SPEAKER: Was not this an inspired question?

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Appreciating very much the appreciation or the sympathy shown by the hon. Minister towards these poor allottees, I would like to know whether the matter would be still kept open or pending and taken up further with the Ministry of Finance in order to ask for additional finances to grant the petty sums that are required, which the hon. Minister is not in a position to do under the existing rules, and whether he will go to the extent of changing the rules and show his sympathy further to some of the allottees at least, if not all?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I must say with the greatest respect that every effort has been made, but under the existing rules and procedures, it is not possible.

AN HON. MEMBER: Then, let him change the rules.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: If the hon. Minister finds that the rules stand in the way of ameliorating the condition of a certain person or group, would he change the rules or leave them as they are?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I would only submit that though it is a very hard case, the hard case should not lead us to making wrong rules.

चीनी उद्योग के श्रमिकों द्वारा धरना

*27। श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या चीनी उद्योग में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों ने 17 जुलाई, 1973 को उनके निवास स्थान के सामने धरना दिया था ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो इसके क्या कारण थे; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (c). The workers were persuaded not to hold the demonstration and a meeting was held with the delegation of the Akhil Bharatiya Sugar Mill Mazdoor Sangh on July 18, 1973. The workers' main demands related to the appointment of a Third Wage Board, payment of gratuity and lay off compensation, etc. They were advised to take up the matter with the concerned State Governments, in the first instance.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जिन चीजों को ले कर मजदूर संघ के लोग धरना

से बात करने आये थे वे सारे विषय आप से सम्बन्धित थे और आप ने जानबूझ कर उनको टालने का प्रयास किया है और कहा है कि राज्य सरकार से वे बात करें। श्रेयुटी का किल आपने पास किया है, कमेटी बनाई सब किया और उसके बाद यह जो मजदूरी बोर्ड का सवाल है यह भी आपसे सम्बन्धित है, छुट्टी का विषय भी आप से सम्बन्धित है। केन्द्र इसके बारे में नीति बनाता है। आप ने टालने के लिए उनको राज्य सरकार के पास भेजा है। जब ये विषय आप के हैं तो क्यों नहीं आप इस सम्बन्ध में कोई निर्णय लेते और उन की उचित मांगों पर आप क्यों ध्यान नहीं देते ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHU-NATHA REDDY): The Akhil Bharatiya Sugar Mill Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) to which the hon. Member has referred had written a letter to me on the 28th June, 1973 saying that the conditions of about 2,50,000 labour families employed by the sugar industry were very bad in comparison with those of other workers in this country. They also said that they would start a hunger-strike in front of the office of the Union Labour Ministry on the morning of the 17th July, 1973. Their demands are:

- (a) appointment of a third wage board;
- (b) payment of gratuity at par with the other employees as against present practice of gratuity to sugar industry workers for only seven days;
- (c) payment of lay-off compensation for the lay-off period at full rates instead of the existing practice of payment of retention allowance.

As far as gratuity is concerned, not only the BMS but also the INTUC and the HMS also have made similar demands and made representations. But since the main question has been confined only to their hunger-strike

or the threatened strike either before my residence or before the office of the Labour Ministry, therefore, the reply also has been confined only to that. As far as the question of gratuity is concerned, the question is under the active consideration of Government, and an appropriate decision will be taken in course of time.

As far as the appointment of the third wage board is concerned, I suggest that the matter may first be discussed, because we shall have to take into consideration the views of the State Government also. Even if a decision is to be taken, it is not as if a wage board can be appointed as a statutory wage board like the wage board for working journalists, but here the parties must be brought together and the employees and employers will have to agree to this kind of procedure, and then only the wage board can be appointed.

Therefore, I suggested to them to take it up with the State Government, because the State Government would also have its say in the matter. So, I suggested to them to discuss the matter with the UP Government which was the concerned authority and which had a great deal of say in the matter, especially the question of the implementation of the second wage board's decisions and also the necessity for appointing a third wage board. The leaders who met me were satisfied with this and I thought that they were happy and went back.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि महामंडल पहले राज्य सरकार से बात करे। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह केन्द्र का विषय है। आज की मंहवाई स्थिति को देखते हुए यह केन्द्रीय सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह तीसरे बजट बोर्ड की स्थापना करे, लेकिन उसने इस मामले को राज्य सरकारों पर डाल दिया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार महामंडल को कहने की क्या

इस सम्बन्ध में स्वयं राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत और विचार-विमर्श क्यों नहीं करती है जहाँ तक छुट्टी का सम्बन्ध है, अधिकांश श्रमिकों को सीजन के समय काफ़ी लोगों को भर्ती किया जाता है और दो तीन महीने काम करने के बाद उन को हटा दिया जाता है। उन लोगों की स्थिति दयनीय है। कुछ गिनती के लोगों को ही श्रमिकों में रखा जाता है। यह बड़ी विचित्र नीति है कि वे एक तरफ तो कुछ लोगों को रोज़गार देना चाहते हैं और दूसरी तरफ कुछ लोगों का रोज़गार छीनना चाहते हैं। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार यह महसूस करती है कि यह उमका अपना विषय और ज़बाबदारी है और इसलिए उस को इस बारे में स्वयं निर्णय करना चाहिये? क्या वह सभी सम्बन्ध पक्षों को विश्वास में लेकर राज्य सरकारों से सलाह-मशवरा कर के इस समस्या का कोई स्थायी हल निकालेगी।

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I think I have answered this question very elaborately while answering the previous question

MR. SPEAKER: His question is: instead of sending them to the State Governments, why don't you take it up direct yourself with the State Governments?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The Central Government is not abdicating its responsibility in this respect. What I suggested was that while the Central Government will certainly deal with this matter, because we will have to get the opinion of various State Governments, I requested them also to discuss with the State Government of UP so that the State Government of UP may also be apprised of it. It is not as if the Central Government is not moving in the matter. It is deeply concerned

with this matter and it is aware of its responsibility; at the same time, I also suggested to them to discuss with the UP Government.

श्री रघुनाथ चन्द कठुबाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा है कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत करेगी। वह महासंघ पर छोड़ने के बजाये स्वयं राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत क्यों नहीं करती है? उम ने महासंघ को कहा है कि वह राज्य सरकार से बात करे, जब कि यह केन्द्रीय सरकार की ज़म्मेदारी है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे इस प्रश्न का जवाब दिलाया जाये कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं राज्य सरकारों से बात करने के लिए तैयार है। मैं आप की रक्षा चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आप से रक्षा चाहता हूँ।

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: With your permission, I would like to assure him that the Central Government would take appropriate action at the appropriate time.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the All India Trade Union Congress that the Wage Board recommendations are not being implemented either by Government or by industry and so they have suggested a bi-partite agreement, a negotiated settlement, after bilateral talks. If so, has a decision been taken by Government to see that in the sugar industry also there should be revision of wages and service conditions after bi-partite talks?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: That is one of the important reasons due to which we could not hazard a decision immediately because now the trade unions are more inclined to have bilateral negotiations with the management than going in for a wage board. So a decision can be taken only after proper discussion with the trade unions and the managements.