

'have they put it in this form? Now I will put my supplementary. In the answer it has been said that the manual of accounting procedure was under consideration by the trustees of the Poard at their meeting held on 5th December 77. This provident fund organisation is a very important organisation because it is a social security scheme for the workers. A lot of complaints have been received by the trade unions and a lot of accounts have not been settled for 1 to 6 years. When we enquired from the provident fund organisation, we were told that because the staff on the manual side is very less and because of the recent legislation regarding compulsory deposit scheme, family pension scheme and more coverage of workers they could not dispose of the cases immediately or within a short duration.

MR. SPEAKER : Enough of preface. Kindly come to the question.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : In view of the fact that the organisation is now completing the 25th year, will the Ministry come forward to assure this House—because of the inadequacies in the Manual in disbursing provident fund amounts—that they will form a committee to go into its working, particularly into the work norms for employees in the provident fund organization?

DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA : As far as the revision of work norms is concerned, a constant review is made; and as I have already said, the work-load is reduced from time to time after such a review. On the 5th December this year, a sub-committee of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization was formed, and it has gone into its working and is reviewing it. The work-load has been scaled down from time to time.

MR. SPEAKER : He says that because of the defects in the Manual, disbursement has become difficult. Would you rectify it?

DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA : The Committee has made certain recommendations; and all possible steps are being taken to bring the work-load upto-date.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Recently, the employees of the Provident Fund Organization have agitated all over India. They have put forth some demands relating to wage rise, work norms and cash benefits on the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations of that organization. Will the Minister assure us that he will call the employees and initiate talks on this matter and settle them amicably?

DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA : A few weeks ago, I met the representatives of the recognized union, and discussed the problem with them; and we have considered their demands sympathetically. Those demands which we can concede, we are looking into. As far as the question of cash benefits and other things are concerned, there are linked with various other issues; and we will look into them.

President Sadat's Visit to Israel

*434. SHRI G. S. REDDI :
SHRI K. MALLANNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the stand taken by the Indian Government regarding the recent visit of President Sadat to Israel ;

(b) the details regarding the comments expressed by various Arab countries ; and

(c) whether the visit of the President Sadat to Israel has led to the signing of a Peace treaty in Geneva ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE) : (a) The Government of India is watching the situation.

(b) Various opinions have been expressed by different Arab countries regarding the recent developments which have already appeared in the press.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI G. S. REDDI : The Ministry, in its statement on 18th November has welcomed the bold step taken by Egypt and Israel; whereas on the 20th, the same Ministry says that we are watching the situation. The Ministry now repeats that they are watching the situation. The original statement was hailed all over India and the world; and it was said that India was playing a good role, and that welcoming the visit was a bold step. I do not know whether Government has now changed its policy of non-alignment, and is merely watching the situation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJRAYIT : I am sorry to say that the policy of non-alignment is not affected by our stand on the question of President Sadat's visit to Israel. It has been India's policy not to

take sides in inter-Arab disputes. Some of the States have welcomed the visit of President Sadat, while there are other States who are strongly opposed to it. That is why I say that we are watching the situation; and that is the official stand.

SHRI G. S. REDDI : Since the Government of India believe in non-alignment and they do not want to take any side, they should come out boldly and encourage and promote peace in West Asia.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE : What is the suggestion ?

MR. SPEAKER : You should come out boldly in favour of non-alignment.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE : We are prepared to come out boldly on the issues which require boldness. But there are certain issues which required wisdom, and I would request the hon. Member to follow that.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : भारतवर्ष की यह घोषित नीति रही है कि यदि देशों की आपसी समस्याओं को लड़ाई की अपेक्षा आपसी समझौते से मुलझाया जाये, तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यदि अरब कंट्रीज आपसी समझौते से किसी समस्या का समाधान करने हैं, तो क्या भारत इस का स्वागत करेगा या नहीं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर सभी अरब देश मिल कर इजराइल के साथ कोई ऐसा समझौता करते हैं, जो न्यायपूर्ण है, और यह उस क्षेत्र में स्थायी शान्ति के लिए पथ प्रशस्त करता है, तो भारत जरूर उस का स्वागत करेगा।

श्री उदयसेन : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा है कि कुछ अरब देश प्रेजिडेंट सादात के इजराइल जाने के खिलाफ हैं, और इस के कारण उन से नाराज हैं, जबकि कुछ देश उन

के पक्ष में हैं। मंत्री महोदय को मालूम होगा कि कुछ देशों ने, जो प्रेजिडेंट सादात के इजराइल जाने के खिलाफ हैं, लिबिया की राजधानी, ट्रिपोली, में एक कांफ्रेंस की, और इसमें उन्हें रूस की सहायता और समर्थन भी प्राप्त है। रूस हमारा एक मित्र-देश है, हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच इंडो-सोवियत ट्रीटी है और दोनों देश एक दूसरे के प्रति सद्भावना रखते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब रूस ने ट्रिपोली कांफ्रेंस को अपना आर्शीवाद दिया है, तो क्या उस के विदेश मंत्री से इस बारे में कोई वार्ता की; अगर हां, तो मंत्री महोदय ने क्या जवाब दिया।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : इस सम्बन्ध में हमारी और सोवियत रूस की कोई वार्ता नहीं हुई है। पश्चिमी एशिया के बारे में जैसे भारत अपनी नीति निश्चित करने के लिए स्वतंत्र है, उसी प्रकार सोवियत रशिया भी अपनी नीति निश्चित करने के लिए स्वतन्त्र है।

DR. V. A. SAYID MUHAMMAD : Regarding the visit of President Sadat a humorous commentator said that President Sadat may not be entitled or qualified to get a Nobel Prize for peace, but he will certainly be considered for the award of Oscar for his acting talents. Will the hon. Minister state whether, apart from the dramatics and showmanship, the visit will produce some tangible results and, if so, in what way ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is very difficult for him to answer it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE : Sir, you know my difficulty.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैं यह स्वीकार करता हूँ कि यह बहुत सेन्सिटिव विषय है और दुनिया के देश इस इस्सू पर बंटे हुए हैं। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि अगर अरब देशों और इजराइल के बीच में जस्टिस के आधार पर कोई समझौता होगा, तो भारत उसे स्वीकार करेगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय किस बात को जस्टिस समझते

हैं, इस बारे में भारत का क्या दृष्टिकोण है, इजराइल और अरब देशों का स्टैंड क्या होना चाहिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : जिन दो पक्षों में झगड़ा है, उन्हें मामले को सुलझाना है। वे जिस बात को न्यायापूर्ण समझते हैं, और जिस समझौते के अन्तर्गत दोनों पक्षों के वैध हितों का रक्षण होता है, वह हमें भी मान्य होगा। उन के लिए कौन सा समझौता न्यायपूर्ण होगा, यह बताने की गलती हम नहीं करेंगे।

SHRI BASHIR AHMAD : May I know whether the Government of India is aware that Israel has occupied a large stretch of Arab territory and whether the Government of India will try to mediate in this affair ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is India's stand that Israel must vacate all the Arab territories which it has occupied as a result of aggression. So far as the question of mediation is concerned, India is not keen on mediating, nor has anybody invited us to mediate.

SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM : It has been said that the relationship between Israel and Egypt has been improving. In the circumstances, in order to improve our relations with Israel, will Government come forward to appoint an Ambassador to Israel ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There is no such proposal before the Government of India.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : I am happy that the hon. Minister has stated that he is watching the situation, but I would like to go back to the first question put by the hon. Member, that there was a statement made by an official spokesman that it was a bold step taken by Mr. Sadat. If the Government is now correcting that stand, I think it is better that it should be said so. I am saying this because it has tarnished the image of our country.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government takes the position that P.L.O. is the sole representative which can represent the Palestinian people in any Arab talks in future.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to reply to the second part of the question first.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Mr. Kundu made a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ignore it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I am a Member of Parliament. How can I be ignored ? I protest.

MR. SPEAKER : I did not ask him to ignore you, only your intervention.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The problem of West Asia cannot be solved without the full participation of the Palestinians represented by the P.L.O. Those who have been uprooted from their hearths and homes must have the right to go back to their homeland, and any just solution must provide for such an arrangement. So far as the question of official reaction given by an official source and then by an official spokesman is concerned, I am not aware which this official source is and who this official spokesman is.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Mr. Kundu made a statement.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Kundu is very much here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU) : Mr. Lakkappa, please know that Kundu never made a statement.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : The statement made by the official spokesman certainly distorted the Indian approach and policy. Now the hon. Minister asks who this official spokesman is and says that he does not know. If he does not know, why is he there, because somebody is making a statement on behalf of the Government of India, and the whole thing is consumed all over the world, and after two weeks this is being said. Therefore, are these official spokesmen following some separate foreign policy apart from the Minister's.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : May I point out with all the respect to the leader of the Opposition that what newspapers publisher is not necessarily correct, I took the first opportunity to put the record straight.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN :
We have to ask questions.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
The question was tabled long back. I tried to ascertain from the Ministry. No official of the Ministry made any statement to the press. It is a matter for inquiry. I did it. Immediately when it was brought to my notice, I contradicted the news. It had not maligned India's image. But if the Leader of the Opposition continues to speak like this, it is likely to malign our image abroad.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN :
If I say this, it is because you are lax in this matter. Your officials are not going according to your advice. You are not effectively controlling them.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
I am here because of the people of India and despite the Leader of the Opposition. I know how to run the foreign affairs and I also know how Mr. Chavan runs the foreign affairs.

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : डैमेटिक्स से कुछ नहीं होगा, कुछ करके दिखाना होगा। आफिशल स्पोकसमैन ने एक बात कही, उस बात को 15 दिन हो गए और आज आप यह कह रहे हैं।

We want to be helpful to you. Please control your officials better.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
The news was immediately contradicted. But the difficulty with the Leader of the Opposition is, he is so engrossed in Congress affairs that he had no time for foreign affairs.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I have been in this House from 1967. Therefore, such utterances of the erstwhile members of the party now in power. . . (Interruptions) I am sorry Mr. Lakkappa gets the wrong end of the stick. I am talking about the pro-Israel lobby in the House.

In that context, may I ask the hon. Minister to tell us clearly and frankly as to the American attempts of dividing the Arab camp which is against the political interest of India because, unless we have an undivided, a solid Arab block standing by our side, our effectiveness in international politics will be substantially reduced. In view of their economic growth, the oil holding, in the world, is it not a fact that Americans are using Mr. Sadat to divide and weaken the Arab camp as well as us ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
It is a matter of opinion. India would like the Arab countries to stand solid and to defeat all attempts to divide the Arab camp.

जस्ते के उत्पादन में कमी

* 435. **श्री लालजी भाई :** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत एक वर्ष में हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड, उदयपुर में जस्ते के उत्पादन में कमी के मुख्य कारण क्या हैं, और

(ख) क्या सरकार इसके लिए जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) :
(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The main reasons for the somewhat smaller zinc production by Hindustan Zinc Limited during 1976-77 as compared to the previous years are :

(i) The expanded capacity of the Debari Zinc Smelter was under installation and commissioning during the year 1976-77. In order to carry out the works relating to this expansion, both regarding erection of new equipment and the inter-connection of the old and new equipments, the plant had to be closed down for a longer period than normal during the year. Again, as the new plant was based on continuous leaching process as against the process of batch leaching on the earlier plant, the change in technology required a long period of stabilization and consequent loss of output.

(ii) The Acid and Roaster Plants of the old smelter at Debari had to be shut down for a total period of about three months for overhauling, repairs and for facilitating the work relating to the erection of the new plant.