

तो उसके मुख्य कारण क्या हैं और उनको दूर करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है? साथ ही जो डिबेलुएशन इंग्लैंड में हुआ या सीलोन में हुआ है, उसका टी एक्सपोर्ट पर अभी तक कितना असर पड़ा है?

श्री विनेश सिंह : जो मुख्य मुख्य कारण बताये जाते हैं वह यह हैं : कुछ तो हमारी चाय को कीमते ज्यादा हैं क्योंकि उनको बनाने में खर्च ज्यादा होता है, कुछ हमारे यहां घरेलू खपत बहुत बढ़ती जाती है। इसकी वजह से हम जो चाय तैयार करते हैं उसमें हम लोगों को उतना फायदा नहीं होता। पहले भी मैंने बहुत सी बातें अर्ज की थीं। और भी कई बातें हो सकती हैं। जहां तक इसका सम्बन्ध है, हम पूरा कोशिश कर रहे हैं। जैसा मैंने पहले अर्ज किया, हम यह कोशिश भी कर रहे हैं कि जो हमारे चाय के बगोचे हैं उनमें नये तराके से प्लैन्टेशन हो। अभी माननीय सदस्य के हो एक साथी ने जिक्र किया था कि कुछ नई तरह की चाय हैं जिनसे पूरे साल पत्तियां तोड़ा जा सकता है। इस दिशा में हम बढ़ रहे हैं।

जहां तक अवमूल्यन जो इंग्लैंड में हुआ है उसके चाय पर असर का सम्बन्ध है, मैंने कहा कि उसके बारे में अनाउंसमेंट नहीं हुआ।

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : अभी तक क्या असर हुआ है?

श्री विनेश सिंह : है ही नहीं। उनके रुपये का अवमूल्यन हो गया है। लेकिन जब तक उनका एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी का रिऐडजस्टमेंट न हो जाय, तब तक कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता है कि क्या असर हो रहा है।

Short Notice Questions

ELECTRONIC COMPUTER AT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY, MADRAS

S.N.Q. 4. SHRI NAMBIAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an electronic computer is being installed at the Head-

quarters office of the Southern Railway, Madras;

(b) whether there is a serious labour unrest threatening with stoppage of work due to that on the Southern Railway; and

(c) the steps taken to avert a serious threat of stoppage of work on this Railway and to avoid the installation of the Computer?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some protest meetings have been reported. An attempt was made to obstruct the delivery of the equipment on the morning of the 10th November; about 50 persons were arrested by the police but released after a couple of hours. There has been no stoppage of work.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI NAMBIAR : May I know whether it is a fact that thousands of clerical staff are going to be rendered surplus on the railways due to the installation of the computers on the Northern, Southern, South-eastern, Eastern and many other Railways? May I know whether it is the policy of Government to avoid retrenchment due to these installations and whether the railways will reconsider the question of not installing these computers which are hired from abroad and not produced in this country?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : I had already explained on the floor of the House that merely on account of introduction of computers, there would be no retrenchment whatsoever in the category of clerical staff. We have further given categorical assurances that even their promotional avenues would be preserved and not blocked on account of certain categories of higher posts not being filled up. So, the existing staff who are engaged in clerical side would be continued and there will be no retrenchment. Furthermore, even if there is to be a transfer of a particular clerk from one place to another, because of the introduction of computers, it would not be effected without his consent.

SHRI NAMBIAR : May I know whether the Railway Minister discussed this matter with organised labour before the installation was decided upon or considered at all?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Yes, on 5th April 1967 a memorandum was prepared on

the subject and was given to organised labour of both the Federations.

SHRI NAMBIAR : What was their reaction ? The answer should be complete.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI : Has the Minister examined the working of the computers already installed ? Is it true that their working is very bad and wrong figures are given ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : We have, what we call, unit record equipments in all the railways and they have actually taken up the work of mechanised computation, compilation of data, reconciliation of figures etc. It is understood that on account of this the detection of undercharges rose from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 94 lakhs. This is just one specific illustration. In the matter of preparation of pay rolls the figures have been more exact and the complaints thereon have been brought down to the minimum. There are various advances which will have to be deducted and allowances which will have to be calculated. Now all these things have been transferred to the machines where exact, up-to-date and immediate statistics, data and information are available, on account of which pay-roll preparation work can become very satisfactory and prompt.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Electronic computers are being installed in advanced countries where there is shortage of labour. So, it is justified there. In India since we are having so much of unemployment already, what is the necessity for installing electronic computers in railways, LIC and other institutions, expending crores of rupees and, at the same time, shutting out future employment for our educated people ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : It is not merely a question of employment opportunities for our people. The fact of the matter is that the volume of work and the nature of work have so increased that ordinary normal manual methods are not competent enough to cope with this volume of work and to make available up-to-date statistics. Therefore, a certain amount of modernisation has become absolutely inevitable. As far as the question of employment is concerned, I have already made a statement that there will be no retrenchment on account of this.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, he has not answered my question. There was no complaint at all by anybody that the present method of work is not satisfactory. Therefore, there was no necessity to instal electronic computers.

श्री राम चरण : जिस अधिकारी ने एलेक्ट्रिक कम्प्यूटर्स के इन्स्टालेशन को रिक्मेंड किया, क्या यह सही है कि उसका लड़का उस फर्म में एम्प्लायड है जहां से कम्प्यूटर को हायर किया गया है ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : There seems to be some misunderstanding somewhere. May I clarify the position ? 'For the last so many years we have got in the railways, what we call, the unit record equipment. The present electronic computer is just a step forward. The unit record equipment is working on the basis of punched cards. The advantage of the computer is that it preserves the information intact; that, is to say, it is continuously available there for any sort of reference, compilation, reconciliation and what not. The Unit record equipments which are working in all the railways are based on the basis of feeding them with punched cards for information, whenever they are needed. So, the practice of mechanisation is already there. This is just one step forward. As to the question whether somebody is interested in this, that is not a matter under discussion here. The question is how we will modernise, take a step further in that direction.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There cannot be a point of order on a question. I will give him an opportunity to ask a question.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : Whenever a computer is installed, whether it is in the Reserve Bank, LIC or railways, we are always told that it would not lead to retrenchment. But will not the installation of these automatic machines shut out future employment in a country where millions and millions of educated people are unemployed and seeking jobs ? Is it not adding insult to injury to say that our intelligent educated people cannot cope with a particular type of work which only these automatic machines can do ? May I know from the hon. Minis-

ter whether the hiring cost is not greater than the cost if human labour were employed ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Very well said.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Prospectively speaking, it is a matter of opinion as to whether it will block employment potential or otherwise. A view could also be taken that if the economy of the country could be improved by modern methods, it would also provide more employment opportunities in other sectors. It is just an economic view that is expressed by my hon. friend. As to the other question whether any retrenchment will not be effected, I have already assured hon. Members in that regard.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : Future employment potential.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : That is a matter for which I cannot furnish any information now.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में रेलों के अन्दर, बीमा कम्पनियों के अन्दर जो इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कम्प्यूटर लगाये जाने की बात है इसको ले कर क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि सबैत विरोध है और बीमा कम्पनियों के अन्दर काम करने वाले, रेलों के अन्दर काम करने वाले तथा संगठित मजदूर आन्दोलन तमाम के तमाम लोग इसका विरोध कर रहे हैं? क्या यह भी सही नहीं है कि वे इसके विरुद्ध संघर्ष भी कर रहे हैं जिसका सबूत अभी साउथ ईस्टर्न रेलवे में देखने को मिला है जहाँ कुछ गिरफ्तारियां हुई हैं? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर यह बात सही है तो सरकार इसको इज्जत का सवाल क्यों बना कर इसपर अड़ी हुई है? क्या वह उचित नहीं समझती कि जनता की राय के सामने झुक कर वह इस गलत नीति को खत्म करे? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें कौन सी रूकावटें हैं और वह ऐसा क्यों नहीं करती है?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The matter has been discussed with organised labour and they have put forth their point of view. We have taken a decision on that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER : If so many are to be called, I do not know whether it will be physically possible to continue with the supplementaries. I will call one or two only, not 20 or 30 who are rising in their seats.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : All railways employees are agitated.

MR. SPEAKER : I know; for that I would suggest that you have a half-an-hour discussion. I do not mind that. In the Question Hour it cannot be taken up. So many supplementaries will not elicit anything extra.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री जो काम करते हैं वह काम कम्प्यूटर करे तो अच्छा रहेगा।

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very good idea.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in the Indian Labour Conference when this question of automation was discussed, it was agreed by all concerned, by all the three parties which were there, that at the time of introduction of automation or installation of any electronic computer, there will be a discussion beforehand and that it will be done with the agreement of the parties concerned. Now, here are the railways. What has actually happened is that they have sent a memorandum to the All India Railwaymen's Federation and to other unions, but neither the All India Railwaymen's Federation nor the South Eastern Railwaymen's Union nor any other union have agreed to this. An agitation is going on even today. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will convene a conference where he will discuss it *de novo* and see that such things will not be introduced.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The hon. Member is perhaps referring to the tripartite labour conference proceedings where when certain measures are thought of about introducing mechanisation or electronically worked equipment the recognised unions will have to be consulted by referring the matter to them. According to a draft memorandum was prepared. Accordingly to the above mentioned understanding the organised Labour should have their replies given within four months. This memorandum

was submitted to the respective federations on the 5th April. One of the labour federations has agreed to this and another labour federation has not replied to this question at all, even after four months. Very lately they met in Gwalior and have taken some decision by which time the railways had to take their own decision. We have taken that. But we had referred the matter to both the federations.

SHRI ANBAZHAGAN : In view of the fact that unemployment problem is growing in the country and the Government is not capable of solving that and because the introduction of electronic computer in any sector of the Government or in any private sector even will affect more and there is agitation also going on throughout the country, wherever the computer is introduced, will the Minister reconsider the introduction of computer at this stage and postpone it to some other stage? Also, in certain sectors, when the introduction of the computer has been refuted, it has been withdrawn. Now, on the introduction of the computer in Southern Railway, the workers are agitated and the Chief Minister of Madras State has requested the Union Minister concerned not to introduce the computer. In spite of that, if the Minister is not concerned with the natural agitation of the people, has he got any other method of solving the problem specially when the unemployment problem is becoming more and more acute?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : As I explained earlier, this is not a new innovation. So far as the Railways are concerned, we are only going a step further. In place of unit record equipment, we are adding a few more specialised units, that is, electronically operated tape and processor. A point was mentioned about the Chief Minister of Madras having raised this point with me. I had a personal discussion with him on the 17th October and I followed up the discussion with the detailed letter on 2nd November. I am sure he has the full explanation about the facts of the matter and is satisfied.

SHRI NAMBIAR : He is not satisfied. *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is more authoritative.

SHRI HEM BARUA : It has transpired that the Americans are loaning out electronic computers to us and we have to pay rents for the computers at exorbitant rates. In that context, may I know whether the Government have taken into consideration the involvement of foreign exchange in paying the rent for these computers loaned to us by Americans?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : These computers are made in India and the rental is paid in Indian rupees.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

ENQUIRY INTO ASSETS & LIABILITIES OF COMPANIES

*243. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to institute an enquiry into the assets and liabilities of the companies which are black-listed in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

POWER SUPPLY FROM NEYVELI LIGNITE POWER STATION

*246. **SHRI PARTHASARATHY :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Neyveli Lignite Power Station has now lot of surplus power; and

(b) if so, whether there are any proposals to supply it to neighbouring districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) :

(a) and (b). We are ascertaining the firm demand of the Madras State Electricity Board. It is only after this has been done, that we would know if Neyveli has any surplus power.