

Act. Therefore, there is no need for any amendment.

**Second Cotton Textile Wage Board**

62. SHRI D. R. PARMAR:  
 SHRI R. K. AMIN :  
 SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :  
 SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :  
 SHRI UMANATH :  
 SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :  
 SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :  
 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :  
 SHRI K. RAMANI :  
 SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :  
 SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :  
 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :  
 SHRI VISWA NATH PANDEY :  
 SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :  
 SHRI RANJIT SINGH :  
 SHRI BRIJ BHUSAN LAL :  
 SHRI RAM GOPAL SHALWALE :  
 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :  
 SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI:  
 SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :  
 SHRI BANSH NARAIN SINGH :  
 SHRI ONKAR SINGH :  
 SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :  
 SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :  
 SHRI MOHAMAD IMAM :  
 SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :  
 SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :  
 SHRI C. C. DESAI :  
 SHRI SURAJ BHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Second Wage Board for Cotton Textiles has submitted its report;

(b) if so, details of the recommendations and Government's decision thereon :

(c) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the mill owners have expressed the inability of the industry to pay higher wages for workers as recommended by the Board; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to get these and other recommendations implemented by the mill owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Board's recommendations are under examination. These will be

announced, along with Government's decisions, as early as possible.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The question of implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations will arise after Government's decisions thereon are announced.

SHRI D.R. PARMAR: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that about 20 textile mills have been closed down and about 20,000 labourers have become jobless? I have heard that some labourers have started hunger-strike also before the Gujarat Assembly. If this thing is continued for some longer period, it will effect the cotton growers, the farmers also. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have taken any action to get the closed mills in working condition and, if not, the reasons therefore ?

SHRI HATHI: These recommendations of the Wage Board are with the Government. But the Report is not unanimous. In order to expedite it, we have called the meeting on the 25th of this month to consider them.

SHRI D. R. PARMAR: May I know whether the Government have suggested any other alternative to give work to the jobless workers ?

SHRI HATHI: This does not arise out of this. This relates to the recommendation of the Wage Board.

SHRI R. K. AMIN: It is a common practice of appointing the Wage Board in our country which raises the wages, raises the prices and as a result of that the consumers suffer. Now, we are facing a situation in the textile industry where the mills are closing down. The labour and capital are willing to work at lower wages but they cannot work. There are certain textile mills where the workers are ready to work at lower wages but they are prevented from having that sort of lower wages in order to find employment. In Japan, there is a good deal of wage flexibility and because of the wage flexibility, they do not have to face unemployment and there are no problems of sick mills. Is the Government thinking of

having that sort of wage flexibility while appointing the Wage Board in any industry and, specially, in the textile industry, and making the overall review of the situation and asking the second Wage Board to make the review from that point of view.

**SHRI HATHI:** The Wage Board are appointed to see whether the wages earned by the workers are adequate or whether increase is need. It is true that some of the mills are not working at a profit but, on the contrary, at a loss, and some of them have been closed. As has been rightly said, some of the workers have agreed to work at a lower rate. But this is a question for all other mills which would be making profit and which may have capacity to pay, to consider. So far as sick mills are concerned, the workers and employers can come to an agreement between them. But so far as other mills which have capacity to pay are concerned, the Wage Board recommendations, after discussion with the workers will apply.

**SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:** May I know whether it is a fact that not only a few but most of the recommendations of the Board were not unanimous because the representatives of the employees on the Board did not sign the recommendations and did not agree to the report? If this is so, may I know whether the employees have not agreed because the wages recommended were low and whether the employers have not agreed because the wages recommended were high? If this is so, may I know whether the Government will consider reducing the excise duty for the mills, so that the employers can pay some more money to the employees?

**SHRI HATHI:** This question should be addressed to the Finance Ministry,

**SHRI UMANATH:** The so-called Second Wage Board has ultimately turned out to be a Himalayan hoax on the textile workers of the country. The present minimum wage in the industrial field was fixed about nine years ago, in 1960, and I find from the report that they have denied revision of minimum wage—an absolute denial of revision of minimum basic pay. I also find that they have totally denied dearness allowance also to

a substantial section of the workers. Only a small section of the workers have been recommended a pittance of a rupee or two. In essence, the whole recommendations turn out to be a recommendation for wage freeze for 15 years from 1960. I would like to know, in these conditions, what steps Government propose to take to scrap the Wage Board recommendations and compel the employers to see that the minimum wages which were in force from 1960 are revised as well as category basic wages and dearness allowance as otherwise there would be a stiff resistance from the textile workers throughout the country.

**SHRI HATHI:** The question is whether the recommendations of the Wage Board have been accepted by the Government or not I have replied that we have not yet taken any decision on that. We have called a meeting on the 25th January to discuss the question between the employers and the workers. If the view of the workers at that meeting is that the recommendations should be scrapped, Government will consider that. But then the question is whoever is getting something more will have to wait for some time more.

**श्री भोगेन्द्र झा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, बार-बार यह सवाल उठता है कि एक तरफ कपड़े की कीमतें बढ़ाई जाती हैं और दूसरी ओर मुनाफा न होने के कारण कपड़े की मिलें बन्द की जाती हैं। पिछले कुछ वर्षों से लगातार ये दोनों बातें होती रही हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर स्पष्ट हैं कि घाटा होने की वजह से मिलें बन्द की जाती हैं या मुनाफा बढ़ाने के लिए मिलें बन्द की जाती हैं तथा मजदूरों की मजदूरी न बढ़ा कर कारखाना बन्द करके बेकारों की संख्या बढ़ाने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है? मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कपड़े की वे मिलें भी बन्द हैं, जिनके ग्रुप की दूसरी मिलें चालू हैं और ऐसा सिर्फ बेकारों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिये किया गया है? आपने कहा है कि आप बोर्ड की सिफारिशों पर विचार करेंगे, क्या आप इस दृष्टि से भी विचार करेंगे?

श्री जयसुखलाल हाथी : सभी दृष्टियों से विचार करेंगे, एक दृष्टि से नहीं ।

**SHRI K. RAMANI:** The policy of setting up a Wage Board is to have an upward revision of the existing wage. It is a well known fact that the present wages should be increased. That is why the Wage Board is set up. But is there any reason to link up the increase in wages, whether it is a paltry sum or otherwise, with the workload ?

May I know whether it is a fact that in this wage board, because of the tremendous pressure put on the wage board by the millowners...

**MR. SPEAKER:** No reasons need be given. Let him come to the question straight.

**SHRI K. RAMANI:** It is a very relevant point that I am raising.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am glad that he has understood it.

**SHRI K. RAMANI:** May I know whether it is a fact that there has been a tremendous pressure upon the wage board from the millowners that if at all anything comes out of the wage board's recommendations, there must be a linking up of the wages with the workload ? It is a good thing that Government have not come to any decision, as the hon. Minister has just now stated so, they have got room to change even the recommendations of the wage board. Shri Umanath suggested that they should be scrapped. But I would submit that they have got a chance now to re-think about it. May I know whether Government are going to re-think on those recommendations and increase the basic wage to a substantial amount and also drop the idea of linking it up with the workload ?

**SHRI HATHI :** We have yet to think on the recommendations.

So, as yet there is no question of re-thinking. The recommendations have to be considered at the meeting of the 25th. So, there is no question of re-thinking.

**SHRI UMANATH:** We are able to think so soon. Why should the hon. Minister not be able to think so soon ?

**SHRI K. RAMANI:** Government have got a chance to think now.

**SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM:** Soon after the constitution of this wage board four years ago, the millowners were pressurising the wage board members and the Government so that the wage board may recommend lesser than what the former wage boards had recommended. They were creating an artificial crisis in the textile industry by closing down the mills, by effecting retrenchment and cutting out dearness allowance, wages etc. They did all this just to pressurise the wage board. Since Government are convening a meeting during this month will Government take note of this artificial crisis and recommend a higher wage to the workers?

**SHRI HATHI:** As I have said, whatever the recommendations of the wage board, we shall consider them. The question is not one of not recommending a higher wage than what the wage board has awarded, but that question comes in only when we consider the recommendations as a whole.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** The hon. Minister replies as if he is not even aware of what the recommendations are. He knows very well that this wage board after being in labour for four years has produced a report—of course, it is not unanimous—in which they have recommended among other things the following things. Regarding the merger of dearness allowance with basic wages, the recommendation of the first wage board eight or nine years ago has not yet been implemented, and it should be implemented now. Secondly, they have recommended that the basic wages of workers should be increased by one rupee a year. Now, a meeting has been called on the 25th; of course, I have no illusion that they are going to modify the award to increase the wages, but I am apprehensive that they have called a meeting in order to cut down even this, because the employers are objecting and they are saying that they cannot pay even this. I want to know this from the hon. Minister. When only one rupee incre-

ment has been recommended and when the previous recommendations of 1960 have not yet been implemented, what is the purpose of calling this meeting, unless it be to force the workers to accept further compromises and further reductions ?

**SHRI HATHI** Shri Indrajit Gupta has said as if the recommendations were not read by me. It is not a question of my knowing or not knowing then. The point is that the recommendations are not unanimous. The employers have said something; the workers have said something else, and the chairman and independent member have said another thing, and again the independent member has said that he has said a certain thing but his interpretation is something different. Therefore, I cannot place the recommendation of the wage board as such; I can only place the decision of Government. But I may assure the hon. Member that the idea is not to cut from what the wage board has recommended. The idea is that if there is some correct understanding between the workers and the employers, the implementation would be easier than would otherwise be the case.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:** After four years, a lifeless child has been given birth to by the wage board.....

**SHRI UMANATH:** A still-born child.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:** When the employers resist the recommendations favourable to the workers, the Labour Minister is not prepared to implement those recommendations. We had an evidence of this on the first question today relating to biris and cigarettes, and now we are having the question relating to the wage board.

Further, the wage board had recommended by a majority that only one per cent increase per year should be given but the employers are resisting even that. Particularly, the Birla textile mills are resisting to give even the one rupee increment. While Government may not take a lenient attitude towards the workers, will they be prepared to raise the meagre wages which the workers are getting now and whether Government

will be prepared to resist the millowners recommendations?

**SHRI HATHI:** There are the recommendations of the workers' representatives also. The workers have also been associated with the wage board. We have their recommendations also, and we shall certainly consider their recommendations and see that the workers get something more.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:** He is surrendering when the owners resist.

**SHRI HATHI:** There is no question of surrender.

**श्री रामगोपाल शालबाले :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, सूचना के अनुसार हिन्दुस्तान में लगभग ६ सौ ऐसी कमजोर मिलें हैं जोकि निरन्तर घाटा होने के कारण बन्द होने जा रही हैं और उसमें लाखों मजदूरों के बेकार होने की सम्भावना है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बात की इन्क्वायरी की है और क्या इसमें कोई सच्चाई है ? यदि यह सच है तो उन मिलों को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा करने के लिए और लाखों मजदूरों को बेकार होने से बचाने के लिए सरकार के पास कौन सी योजना है ?

**SHRI HATHI:** This question does not relate to that. We have the Textile Corporation for that.

**MR SPEAKER:** I think we have had enough supplementary questions. If further questions are asked, they will only be repetitions. So, may I go over to the next question

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI:**  
rose—

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:** My name is also there in the list. So, I may be permitted to ask a question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** If I were to call Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta, then I would have to call several others whose names appear earlier to his.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU:** Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai may be permitted. He is a worker.

**MR. SPEAKER.** We should follow the procedures laid down. I have to call first those whose names are printed on the list before I call others. So, why should the hon. Member give encouragement for other whose names are not there in the list?

**श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, सेकेन्ड वेज बोर्ड की जो रिक्मेंडेशन्स हैवे सन् 1966 में लागू हो जानी चाहिए थीं, ये पहले ही चार साल लेट हो गई हैं। ये अब इसकी जो रिक्मेंडेशन्स आई हैं वह बहुत पहले आनी चाहिए थीं। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब ये पहले ही लेट आई हैं, क्योंकि पहले ही इनको लागू हो जाना चाहिए था, क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह एवयोरेंस देंगे कि जो भी सरकार फंसला करे, एक तो वह फंसला जल्दी करेगी, यह नहीं कि साल दो साल उसको और लटकाये रखे और दूसरे यह कि जो सरकार फंसला करे उसको लागू करने के लिए सरकार कोई ऐसे कदम उठायेगी जिससे यह न हो कि मिल-मालिक या इन्डस्ट्रियलिस्ट उसको और डिले करें या कोर्ट में चले जायें ? क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कोई स्पेसिफिक स्टेप्स उठा रही है ?

**SHRI HATHI:** This is rather a very wide question. The wage board recommendations were received a month back. Both the workers and employers are represented on this wage board. We could at the most request then only to expedite the report. But the other question is rather a wider question, namely what steps we can take to get the recommendations implemented: Today the wage boards are not statutory. It is a non-statutory machinery, and so, the implementation cannot be done statutorily. That whole question is being discussed. It is before the national Labour Commission. The Standing Labour Committee has also appointed a sub-

committee. I think they have completed their deliberations. As soon as we get the report, we shall see what further steps should be taken to make these recommendations either statutory or binding.

**SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:** Since the textile industry is in a way a monopoly either of the employers or of the employees, what steps have Government taken, while setting up the Wage Board, to protect the consumers' interest also?

**SHRI HATHI:** The independent member there looks to the economics of it, and the Chairman is also there.

**श्री सूरजभान :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मजदूरों की बढ़ती हुई बेचनी को मद्देनजर रखते हुए और उनकी कई सालों की कोशिशों के बाद एक वेज बोर्ड मुकर्रर होता है और वह सालों तक बैठता है और तब अपनी रिपोर्ट देता है। उसके बाद जब रिपोर्ट गवर्नमेंट के पास आ जाती है तो सालों गवर्नमेंट लगा देती है, और जब कोई फंसला हो जाता है तो उसकी इम्प्लीमेंट करने के लिए कोई मशीनरी नहीं है, तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि मजदूरों की बढ़ती हुई बेचनी को दूर करने के लिये, जिसका असर आप पब्लिक पर भा पड़ता है क्योंकि वह मिलों का बना हुआ कपड़ा पहनती है, सरकार कोई निश्चित कदम बढ़ाना चाहती है और उसको सरकार कैसे इम्प्लीमेंट करायेगी, यह मन्त्री जी बताने की कृपा करें ?

**SHRI HATHI:** I have just replied in answer to the previous question that this is a wider question and we are actually considering it.

**श्री हुकुम चन्द कच्छवाय :** मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो भी कमीशन बनता है या वेज बोर्ड बनता है, पहले बनता है, बैठता है, लेटता है, सोता है और उसको उठाने के लिये फिर एक कमीशन बनता है, तो मेरा कहना है कि जो रिपोर्ट आयी है

उसकी सिफारिशों को कपड़ा उद्योग के मालिक नहीं मान रहे हैं क्योंकि उन्होंने इस झुण्ड को घेर रखा है, कांग्रेस सरकार उनसे धिरी हुई है और उसीके कारण वह उनके पक्ष में रहते हैं और मजदूरों के हितों के बारे में विचार नहीं करना चाहते। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से इस रिपोर्ट को लागू होना चाहिए था तब से यह लागू नहीं हुई इसके लिए सरकार कोई विशेष कदम उठायेगी? और भविष्य में कभी भी कोई कमीशन विलम्ब से अपनी रिपोर्ट न दे उस के लिए भी सरकार कोई कदम उठायेगी?

**श्री हाथी :** माननीय सदस्य ने जो यह कहा कि सबसे लागू होना था तबसे नहीं हुआ है, यह गलत बात है। अभी कोई तय नहीं हुआ है कि कब से लागू होना चाहिये।

As for the delay and all that, we are also aware that it takes a long time and therefore, we are considering the whole structure of the Wage Board.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question No. 63.

**SHRI S. KUNDU:** May I suggest that Qn. No. 77 may also be taken with this.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No.

**Study Group of National Commission on Labour on Indian Railways.**

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\*63. **SHRI G. C. NAIK :**

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :**

**SHRI D. AMAT :**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group which was appointed by the National Commission on Labour for fixing wages of employees of Indian Railways has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(c) whether the recommendations have since been considered by Government; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) to (d). The Study Group on Rail Transport has submitted a report to the National Commission on Labour. Government is not seized of the matter now and will consider it on receipt of the recommendations of the Commission.

**SHRI G. C. NAIK:** Besides wages, whether the National Labour Commission went into the other conditions of service of various categories of railway employees, specially guards, drivers, pointsmen, firemen and those in charge of the control room at various stations and if so, what were the recommendations made by the National Commission in the regard?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** The National Labour Commission has not yet submitted its recommendations. So there is nothing to say on this now.

**SHRI C. AMAT:** If the National Commission could not submit its report by the expected time, may I know from the hon. Minister why the Railway Minister while presenting the Railway Budget yesterday has taken into consideration the additional financial burdens the railways would have to bear?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** You would appreciate that we could not comment on this matter.

**Export of Millet to China**

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\*64. **SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :**  
**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA:**  
**SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :**

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10,000 bags of Sava (Millet) from Maharashtra were exported to China via Shalimar in West Bengal;

(b) whether the traders had sought permission of the State Government for export of the commodity;