

Speaker, Sir, there are 14000 more jobless workers who are eligible for these facilities but are still waiting to get their dues. Though they have completed the necessary formalities seven years earlier. The Government has sanctioned the amount but these poor workers have not yet received it. They have been jobless for the last 7 years. Some sort of objection is always raised in regard to their payment. Diwali is at hand but their lots are still unchanged. Many of them have committed suicide. No one is taking any care of their plight. In the previous Textile Committee I happened to be a member and then we with our efforts have made some funds sanctioned for them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the issue of life and death for them. It is my request that the sanctioned amount may be disbursed among them immediately.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am related directly to the city of Ahmedabad. The hon. Minister of Finance is present in the House. He might be knowing that whenever the Industrial policy has been discussed here, doubts have always been expressed regarding the condition of the labourers and the impact on them of the changes made in the industrial policy. We are very much concerned about their lot. The Government has always been giving assurances that the interests of the labourers will always be protected. Time will tell as to how far these assurances are fulfilled. But the reality is that 26 thousands labourers of Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar which I represent, became jobless and unemployed as a result of the amendment in the Textile Policy in 1985. The scheme which was formulated to protect the interest of the labourers, could help 12000 workers and that too after vigorous efforts and the remaining 14 thousands are still in a very miserable condition.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to give benefits of the scheme to those 14 thousand labourers also. Otherwise it would be very difficult to support the future amendments however good enough they may be.

[English]

SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 222, I have given a privilege notice, in reply to my unstarred question No.6416, dated the 10 September 1991, regarding the revitalisation of the coal-based magnetic hydrodynamic (MHD) power plant (5 MW), the Minister of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources gave a reply that the coal based MHD powerplant has been successfully demonstrated at the experimental level, proving the technical feasibility of generating electricity using MHD technology.

In the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended on 31 March 1990, No. 2 of 1991, Union Government (Scientific Departments), it is categorically mentioned that the pilot plant was being run on LPG instead of coal, contravening the approved project proposal in which it had been stated that MHD technology once mastered with coal, could subsequently be developed with gas, but the reverse would not naturally follow.

The objective of the programme to set up coal-based MHD power plant for creating indigenous capability for generating power economically, using MHD technology is still a distant goal.

This project has incurred an expenditure of Rs.26 crores and has taken 13 years. The statement of the Hon. Minister is against the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General...

MR. SPEAKER: No Please. You do not have to read it. You have given the notice. I have to look into it.

SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: This is a very vital issue and the statement made by the Minister is untrue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: First, we must compliment the Hon. Member. He has found out from the CAG Report a very technical matter.