

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.

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be raised like this. Let me see if it can be admitted and then only I can give consent.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (V.S.Palghat): Tens of thousands of Malayalees had to flee Kuwait after its invasion by Iraq last year, leaving behind all their savings. As a temporary measure of help to these people, the Government of India fixed the exchange rate of Dinar. But this was very low. Even at the time of crisis in Kuwait, the exchange rate of Dinar was more than sixty rupees, but the Government of India paid them only Rs.25. They were assured by the Government that when normalcy is restored, the balance amount would be paid. Today the circumstances have changed and the present exchange rate of Kuwait Dinar is Rs.85. When these people approached the banks for the balance amount, they have been told by the bank authorities that nothing could be done without the permission of the Government.

Although the Government has helped these people in many ways, many of them are not able to go back to Kuwait. In this situation, it is only just and proper that they should be paid the existing exchange rate of Dinar.

Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would request him to help these people. They have earned valuable foreign exchange for our country. Most of them have come back leaving all their savings there. So, at least on humanitarian grounds, you should help them.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday you had come to me and you had informed me as to what you are going to raise today. If it can be admitted; if it can go on record, it will go on record otherwise, I will put it out of the record.

So, you shall have to make the statement very carefully. I am allowing you to make the statement but I will see if it can go on record.

SHRI D. VENKATESWAR RAO (Bapatia): Sir, in the State of Andhra Pradesh a series of incidents took place resulting in a huge loss to the Government exchequer, that too not in rupee but in foreign exchange. The loss is not in a single digit; not one crore, ten crores or hundred crores, but it is coming to thousands of crores.

One granite mine, worth about Rs.5,000 crores, has been found in Ongole district of Andhra Pradesh. It is spread over to 150 acres of land and has the depth of 30 metre. Out of this, 60 acres of land coasting about Rs. 2,500 crores has been sold to four persons. About hundred applicants, who have got export oriented projects, were denied the opportunity and in the morning an application was taken from the Member named*

MR. SPEAKER: The name will not go on record.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: And the next day they allotted about 60 acres of mining lease worth about Rs.2,500 crores to four persons.

MR. SPEAKER: Reference to State Legislature's activity will not go on record.

SHRID. VENKATESWARA RAO: They cancelled this lease. This prima facie shows that the State Government is guilty of it.

The other incident which we brought to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister and other ministries is regarding Singareni Collieries. Singareni Collieries have got an Open Cast Mining Stage II project which is estimated to cost about Rs. 270 crores. But, unfortunately the Singareni Collieries bogged down and went for the German technology which costs about Rs.470 crores. In the