

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : We very rightly appreciate your point and we believe that women are better crusader for the cause of the consumers. That is why, in this whole Act, in every Tribunal, a woman has been compulsorily made a member. So we do know that it is the lady who knows the pinch of the kitchen more than anybody else.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Consumer Protection Act was passed on 9th December, 1986. As all these rules have been framed to protect the consumers, would it not have been proper to publish the draft rules in the newspapers in order to invite the suggestions and objections from the people? I think that after 9th December, the rules should have been published in the Gazette to elicit public opinion. It would have benefited the people a great deal.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that there is no need to elicit public opinion on the rules. We do not think it to be necessary. Secondly, I want to submit for the information of the hon. Member that almost all the consumer organisations of the country, the Trade and Commerce and Industries Chamber, almost all the Indian newspapers and magazines have praised the consumer laws and have stated that progressive steps have been taken by us.

The second point here is that our approach is that all of us must work together in the interest of the consumers, trade and industries. The people from private trade and industries should also extend their co-operation.

I also want to say that for follow up action, we have held a meeting in which all the Ministers of the State participated. We have told the people belonging to the Public Sector, Private Sector and the Cooperative Sector to set up their own consumer organisations so that the problems of the people can be solved.

[*English*]

**Social Burden on Public Sector Units**

\*86. †SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the

Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has asked the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to work out the social burden on each public sector unit as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 9 February, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Bureau of Public Enterprises will submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every Member of the House is worried about the fact that our public sector undertakings are incurring huge losses. Is the press report about the social burden of public sector units correct? Does not the hon. Minister think it necessary to ensure that such losses due to social activities and social burden do not occur? Are these the reasons or there are some other reasons?

The senior officers of the public sector enterprises live luxuriously. Their chambers are luxurious. The hon. Minister's Chamber is nothing as compared to theirs. I would therefore, like to know whether there is no control over their expenditure? The hon. Minister gets only one driver, one car and a limited salary. Your powers regarding expenditure are also restricted. Are there any norms regarding the expenditures by the officers of the Public Sector Units or do they spend as they like? There is so much of burden on these undertakings on account of this wasteful expenditure. Their guest houses are better furnished than even the Governor's Houses in the States. I want the hon. Minister to apprise me in this regard.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon.

Member does not arise from the main question. His main question was about social overheads. It is not that every Public Sector Undertaking is running at a loss. Some public sector undertakings are earning profit also. In 1985-86 more than Rs. 1100 crores were earned as profit.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** This was only because of petroleum products.

**PROF. K.K. TEWARY :** Wherever we find that expenditure is not justified, we take action. I want to inform the hon. Members that 'Social overheads' could be defined as follows :

[English]

"Expenditure on township, maintenance of schools and educational facilities ; provision of medical facilities over and above those which are statutorily required to be maintained by the undertakings; maintenance of dairy farms, vegetable farms etc. provision of subsidised transport ; subsidies in regard to social and cultural activities."

[Translation]

Expenditure incurred on these items is termed as 'Social overheads.' It is justified also. Hence, the expenditure about which he has talked cannot be included under social overheads. We are trying our best to curb wasteful expenditure and we are making an appraisal of the number of offices and the expenditure being incurred by them. But the expenditure in regard to the items mentioned above under the social overheads is justified. The public sector cannot think in terms of profit alone under 'social justice'. The social status of the employees has to be improved and for that recreation facilities, medical facilities, housing facilities and subsidised transport facilities have to be provided.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what are the priorities under the social overheads? The bungalows for the officers of the public undertakings are constructed first but no priority is shown to the housing facilities for the workers. Hence, I would like to know from the Minister whether any priority

has been fixed in regard to social expenditure or is it taken for granted that whatever expenditure under social activities is incurred is essential and there is no need to audit it. My question is that in the big public sector undertakings, in the matter of providing facilities, officers get the priority instead of the labourers, who are not provided any facility. I would like to give the example of Western Coalfields, Nagpur where a huge colony has been set up for the officials but the labourers have not been given any priority in this regard.

**PROF. K.K. TEWARY :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the social overheads there are two types of expenditures. One is revenue expenditure which is incurred to maintain the colonies and the second is the Capital expenditure under which the infrastructure like construction of colonies, hospitals, educational institutions etc. is made available. The hon. Member may be aware that in 1985-86, the revenue expenditure was to the tune of Rs. 785 crores and was incurred largely to serve the interest of the workers. Similarly, our total Capital expenditure in 1986 was Rs. 1606 crores and was largely for the welfare of the employees and workers of the public sector and this amount was spent on items like construction of townships, hospitals, providing educational facilities and so on. Likewise, the total number of houses provided in 1986 for the workers was 6,63,938. Hence, you can see that a large part of our expenditure is for the welfare of the workers and the executives of the Public Sector Units. It is true that we have made huge investments on our manufacturing units, and out of that we have provided housing and other facilities to the Chief Executive, C.M.D. and high officials but if we do not arrange for it, then overseeing of the day-to-day administrative work will not be possible. Hence, if we want that the big units should be managed properly, we shall have to provide housing facilities to the Chief Executives of the big units. Similarly, we have spent so much for the welfare of the workers : we have constructed a large number of houses for them and have provided so many other facilities. It is evident that more than Rs. 700 crores have been spent on maintaining their houses and providing them other facilities. We have so far

spent about Rs. 1600 crores for constructing houses for them. How much more can we do for them?

[*English*]

**DR. DATTA SAMANT :** The hon. Minister Prof. K. K. Tewary had addressed a Press Conference. I have got the cutting with me. He has said that any wage increase in the public sector must be linked with the productivity-rise; otherwise no settlement should be made. That type of directives are issued to the public sector. I want to know whether it is a fact. Also, after issuing such a directive to the public sector, I want to know how many settlements of public sector workers are pending—because of this directive. As far as my knowledge goes, more than a hundred settlements are pending. I want to know whether it is a fact.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY :** Although the hon. Member's supplementary does not arise from the main Question, I would still respond to it. I think, the entire House will agree with me that we must improve productivity. If the economy has to survive, I think, the public sector has to contribute to the national wealth. If you have to attain the desired level of growth in the economy for which everybody is clamouring—on the one side we are subjected to criticism because the public sector, in their opinion, is not coming up to expectation...

**DR. DATTA SAMANT :** It is not because of workers. Sir, he is not replying to my question.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY :** In the interest of the public sector, greater growth, improved efficiency, improved output, it is necessary that the productivity aspect is emphasized. Recently certain guidelines have been issued to the public sector undertakings for reaching wage settlement with the employees. Wage increase and payment will have to be dependent on the capacity of the undertaking to pay. Therefore, this component, the productivity component, contribution of the labour to the productivity component, is very crucial. Therefore, I emphasize. I take this opportunity to emphasize in front of the hon. Members and in this august House that they should work for improved performance of the public sector by persua-

ding the workers to come to a settlement and accept productivity, enhanced productivity, as part of wage settlement, improved wages.

**DR. DATTA SAMANT :** More than hundred settlements are pending Sir. It is a question of 21 lakh workers.

**SHRI ARUN NEHRU :** I am very happy that the Minister has indicated that a part of the social burden includes vegetable gardening and dairy farming also. I think the point is that the public sector as has been indicated is not only a social burden, it has become a national burden. If we have to exclude the three petroleum companies, then we must look at the fact that the public sector is not generating enough profits.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister if any study is being done to ensure that the Ministry and the ministerial burden on the public sector is reduced and the units will get more autonomy so that they can produce much better results in future.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** Ministerial burden is needed in order to see that they behave well.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Mr. Sathe has already given a written reply on this Sir.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** This is all being done due to Shri Sathe.

[*English*]

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** I am being backed.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY :** I am really surprised at this supplementary. The Hon. Member has tried to put the whole thing upside down. Whatever we are today as an economy, with all its linkages—socio-economic, socio-political—and all other policy postures that we have been adopting are all because of the solid contribution both as a concept and as a performing mechanism in the economy of the public sector. If we have been able to attain self-reliance in many vital sectors of the national life and of economy, it is all because of public sector.

Therefore, there should be no attempt to denigrate the public sector by saying that it is becoming a national burden. In fact, public sector has taken the nation on its shoulder and marched ahead. The emerging profile of India internationally is because of the public sector and not because of any effort done anywhere in private sector or anywhere else.

Now coming to the problem of autonomy, this has been talked about so vociferously. We are in favour of autonomy. Recently the Government has taken many momentous decisions—historic decisions I must say—in pursuance of the recommendation of the Sen Gupta Committee. For example, our representation on the Board was 3 or 4. That is 3 or 4 representatives of the Ministry used to be on the Board. We have now reduced it drastically. In future, only one person will represent the Department on the Board of any public sector undertaking.

Secondly, we have also extended the term of the Chief Executive which used to be only for two years. Now it will be for five years, so that they can function with greater sense of autonomy. In matters of decisions on investment also we have given them permission from the Government to take decisions at the Board level upto an investment of Rs. 20 crores. Several other measures have been taken to make the Board more autonomous.

But at the same time autonomy cannot go without accountability and answerability. Because we are as investors—the President of India is the investor-accountable to this august House. This House is entitled to know what is happening to that public money. Therefore, you will agree that accountability and answerability have to go together.

#### Sale of Spurious and Sub-Standard Auto-Parts

\*89. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 6 January 1987

regarding increasing trend in the sale of spurious and sub-standard auto parts at the retail out-lets in the major metropolitan cities in the country resulting in huge losses to the exchequer by evasion of sales tax and excise-duty; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to curb the production and marketing of spurious and sub-standard auto-parts in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has taken a number of measures by way of de-licensing of auto ancillary industry, board-banding, re-endorsement of capacities etc., and has also encouraged rapid modernisation and induction of new technology in this sector. Certain fiscal concessions have also been granted for the import of sub-components for the manufacture of specific critical components for fuel efficient vehicles. It is expected that these measures would encourage the production of quality components, and with better availability and more competition in the market, the sale of spurious and sub-standard parts would go down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is not related to my question. I wanted to know what measures have been taken to curb the manufacture of spurious and sub-standard auto-parts? It is true that de-licensing is being done and certain steps are being taken to promote this industry as well but I want to know what is being done to curb the manufacture of spurious components in factories near Delhi?..... (*Interruptions*).....

These auto-parts are being fitted into cars. These are even being fitted into those cars which are used by the hon. Ministers. Shri Tewary may kindly listen. Besides, there is so much of loss to the Government. You are losing sales tax worth Rs. 3 crores because of such factories where spurious