

lery. I am very sorry for giving poor patronage to this region. This is a very neglected region so far as railway map is concerned. North-Bengal is mainly inhabited by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. There was a unanimous resolution in the West Bengal Legislature supported and passed not only by the Left Front Members but also the Congress Members of the Legislature, for reintroduction of the Janata Express train and also introduction of a new Express Train from new Cooch-Bihar to Calcutta. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is agreeable to these proposals or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said that this train was withdrawn as the train was not being utilised fully. After that, Kanchanjanga Express which used to run for six days a week was extended to seven days. It is not possible to reintroduce that train when this train is already in operation.

SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the narrow gauge route from Dhaulpur to Sarmathra is only 70 km. Is there any proposal to convert this narrow gauge into broad gauge. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to run this train with diesel engine till it is converted into broad-gauge.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There is no such proposal at present.

[*English*]

SHRI R.S. MANE: Sir, there was a long-standing demand from the people of Western Maharashtra that the railway track from Kolhapur to Pune, now belonging to the South-Central Railway, should be brought under the Central Railway. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider this demand?

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about Kolhapur. This does not pertain to the present question. Next question.

Wage agreements in Public Sector Undertakings

*397. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the wage agreements finalised in the public sector undertakings during the last two years;

(b) whether there are any public sector undertakings in which wage agreements have not been finalised as yet;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). Wage agreements in ninety units of the public sector enterprises have been approved by Government in the last two years. The Memorandum of Understanding for 26 units of public sector enterprises for revision of wages, processed through the Bureau of Public Enterprises, are awaiting approval of Government. Details of these 26 units are given in the Annexure. The discrepancies in the proposals requiring clarifications and substantial variations in the wage structure are the main causes for delay. Finalisation of these settlements are being closely monitored by the managements of the public sector enterprises, the Bureau of Public Enterprises, and the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Annexure

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the enterprise</i>
1	2
1.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited.

1	2
2.	Goa Shipyard Limited.
3.	Indo-Burma Petroleum Company Limited (Chemical Division).
4.	Sponge Iron India Limited.
5.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited.
6.	Hindustan Insecticides Limited.
7.	Cotton Corporation of India Limited.
8.	Gas Authority of India Limited.
9.	Fertilizer and Chemicals (Trevancore) Limited.
10.	Tanneries and Footwear Corporation of India Limited.
11.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.
12.	Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited.
13.	Hindustan Photo Films Company Limited.
14.	Instrumentation Limited.
15.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited (Ghaziabad unit).
16.	Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited.
17.	State Trading Corporation Limited.
18.	Andrew Yule and Company Limited (Madras Switchgear unit).
19.	Scooters India Limited.
20.	Metal Scrap Trading Corporation and Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited.
21.	Hindustan Latex Limited.
22.	Modern Food Industries Limited.
23.	Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited.
24.	Indian Petro-chemicals Corporation Limited.

1	2
25.	Petrofils Cooperative Limited.
26.	Cochin Shipyard Limited.

[Translation]

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when was it that the wage agreement in 26 public sector undertakings were approved and how long it will take to implement it.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the approval in regard to the 26 public sector undertakings which he has mentioned has yet not taken place. 5 of these will be approved within a few days and these have already been received. The proposals for the remaining 19 has also been received. Some of these cases go to CCIA. Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs deals only those cases which do not come under guidelines.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since how long the remaining 19 cases have been lying unapproved.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the names of the companies have been given in the list. If your question relates to the pending cases, the details are available in the Bureau. It does not take much time in Bureau. Cases are completed in a week or two. Sometimes, these are sent back due to certain—mistakes in calculation or when there are questions pertaining to guidelines. It would take sometime to provide the detailed information of delay in each case.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, there are large number of cases where agreements, collective agreements, have been signed at the Enterprise level and we assume that the management as well as the trade unions are aware of the guidelines laid down by the B.P.E. In spite of that, I am sorry to say that—it is not just one or two weeks but months together—some of the these agreements

are lying at the Centre and they are not being cleared. No reason is given. For example—I cannot go into all the cases—this Hindustan Photo Films at Ooty or the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant—these agreements had been signed by the management and all the trade unions in that plant. Nevertheless they are lying here, they don't get clearance and there is a lot of discontentment and agitation. So, will he tell us what is the reason for this blockage and whether this process is expedited or is going to be expedited or not?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, most of the agreements are signed between the management and the unions and if they are within the guidelines or unless they are specifically removed because they don't fall within the guidelines, then only they are not implemented until they are signed. In fact, signing in most cases is a formality because there autonomy has been given to the management, they talk to the unions and sign the agreement. As I said, for the cases which take time here there are various reasons. Sometimes they don't fall within the guidelines. Sometimes the queries are made to the Ministry and then to the enterprise. In the case of Hindustan Photo Films, I would like to tell the hon. Member that it has been approved, and Vizag also has since been approved.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the obsolete factory laws that exist today all over the country. Women are not allowed to work in the night shift. As a result, in two shifts they are not allowed to work. It is only in the general shift that they are allowed to work. Moreover, the 30 per cent reservation that the Rajiv Gandhi Government brought for women, will that be also extended to the public sector undertakings, I would like to know.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Regarding the first part of the question I don't understand what the hon. Member is asking. She is saying that according to the Industrial Act, they only work in one shift.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Only one shift because of the obsolete factory Act. Why can't it be rationalised all over the country?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I am not aware of the details of the Act, but the same imputes

obsolete Factory Act. Maybe they can't work in two shifts. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Can I clarify? The point I want to make is that the shift itself is in such a way that women are allowed to work only in one shift when they are prepared to work in two shifts. Why can't it be two shifts?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Yes, I have understood. First let me answer the reservations the hon. Member is asking about. I don't think the reservation has been made on the basis of public sector or private sector. Certain categories of industries, certain areas which they want to promote, they have been reserved for the women entrepreneurs—not entrepreneurs, but workers. But it is not by public sector or private sector, there is no such distinction. (*Interruptions*). One part of the question relates to labour and you will have to put a separate question to the Labour Ministry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister of Industry whether Sehra, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Purnia districts of Bihar have been declared industrially backward areas and is there any proposal to set up new industries there.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: The list provided by the hon. Minister does not mention the name of Manganese Ore India Ltd. An agreement had been signed in regard to the labourers in that company. Resentment has spread among the labourers in respect of the same agreement and they resorted to strike for it. Thus, I would like to know that since the unions which signed the agreement are in minority and whether the Government would reconsider the issue to get the favour of main unions.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: There are 40 more public sector units in respect of which agreement is due and has not been received. No information is available in regard to the other company which has been mentioned. So far as the matter of signing the agreement with this union is concerned, the Labour Commissioner certifies the union and the management can sign agreement with it.