

SECOND WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY BILL

by SHRI D. K. PANDA—

Contd.

15.08 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up further consideration of the Bill moved by Shri D. K. Panda to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Wage Board for Sugar Industry. We had allotted 2 hours for this Bill and we have taken 1 hours 25 minutes. Nobody was on his legs on the last occasion. If nobody else wants to speak, I will call the Minister.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): I must congratulate that the Ministry, in their wisdom, had introduced this Wage Board which is a welcome measure.

The point I want to put forth before the House and the Minister is that this Wage Board recommendations which came into force in on 1.11.1969 are being implemented very slowly. In Orissa it was implemented in 1970 though it came into force on 1.11.1969. In some other States, it was implemented in 1972 and in some others in 1971. Therefore, if the Government and the labour Ministry wanted to confer some benefits on the working class, they should see to its implementation uniformly from the year 1969. Now, it is going to come to an end this year. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that if the Government really wanted to give some benefit to the working class, why should it not be from 1969 when it came into force? That is one appeal to the Minister.

I know the Government may say that the sugar industry has not the capacity to pay the arrears. You

know the Government itself has conferred some more benefits on the sugar industry and even the prices have been increased and they have got more profits this year.

It is necessary that the workers should get the benefit. In some States it was implemented one year after that and in some States two years after that. What I would submit is that the workers should get the benefit from the year when it came into force, that is to say, from 1st November, 1961.

It has been a matter of commitment with us in the All India Congress Committee and the Government that the sugar industry should be nationalised. Even the Minister with all of us was very much enthused in the Bombay session over the decision to nationalise sugar industry. I would request the Minister, in view of this commitment, that the Government should take up this matter very seriously and take immediate steps in this regard. They should go into the matter without any further delay.

Also the Minister should place before the House the Bhargava Committee's Report who have gone into the whole question. I would ask: why are you holding it back? I request that it should be placed before the House and the House should have opportunity to discuss this. Government should also give its mind to what extent they can accept this policy of the Congress to nationalise the sugar industry.

With these words I close.

I hope that the hon. Minister will reply to all the points which I have raised. Thanks you.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): Sir, the Agriculture Minister is here. The hon. Member has demanded the placing of the Bhargava Committee Report on the Table of the House. Let him reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have your right reply. Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: (Serampore): It is a very important Bill concerning not only sugar factories. This relates to the whole policy of the Government. Wage Boards after Wage Boards have given recommendations. They are not implemented by factory owners. Government had come forward saying that on this question they will make a legislation so that wage board awards will be made compulsory on such matters where it is recommended. Here in this case the recommendation was given on 8-7-1970. This is to be implemented from 1-11-69. In many cases I know the sugar mill owners did not implement it in spite of the repeated representation of trade unions. They never, on their own, implemented it unless compelled by strike action or come other direct action by sugar factory employees. In some cases this is implemented from 1970; in some cases from 1971 and in some cases from 1972. In Orissa there is one Raigada factory; where it has not yet been implemented where your Nandini Satpathi is the Chief Minister and Mr. Panda has brought the Bill. He is in alliance with the Government. But still it has not yet been implemented there.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I request that Dinan Babu should not try to break the alliance.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I did not break; it broke of its own accord in West Bengal.

MR. DEPUY-SPEAKER: I hope your alliance is not so bitter.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: So, my point is that the Minister must take very seriously. From 1969 this has to be implemented. But, the poor workers of Orissa are not getting that. Why cannot the arrears be paid

to them? You are now bring forward some ordinance freezing the wage throughout the country. Now, the workers will not get their full Dearness Allowance. Fifty per cent of it will go into the pocket of Government. On the other hand, the prices will go up. It is a clear case here that Government must bring in all the employees together.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, how, does it go to the pocket of the Government?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: It does not either come to your pocket.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think the Government has only impounded this money. This money will not be used for the productive purpose. How does it go to the government pocket? You will kindly update your information.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: My next point is this. The other hon. Member from the Congress Bench, Shri Panigrahi, a progressive Member from the Congress/Party, raised a very pertinent point. Why don't you bring out that Bhargava Committee Report? Why are you suppressing that report? If that is brought out, certain facts will be revealed as to how these sugar tycoons are exploiting the sugarcane growers the workers as well as the consumers to the tune of Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs. Sugarcane growers and millowners do not pay any interest year after year. The Government is callous and they do not take any action. The consumers are exploited, the workers are exploited. They create scarcity which is not real but it is created by the sugar barons and the government goes on merrily; they do not take effective steps to stop this plunder practised by the sugar magnates. That is why the question comes, why don't you nationalise the sugar industry as a whole? I have seen that

in some cases of the sick-mills, the Government comes forward and applies that Act—Industries Development and Regulations Act and even takes over the management of those sick mills by paying for the junk machines crores of rupees. Actually their cost will not be more than Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs. They spent a lot in U.P. elections.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): Their depreciation is zero.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Still, the Sugar millowners, whenever they face the people in election, pay crores of rupees to the Congress. That is why you are hesitant to bring forward the Bill to nationalise the sugar industry.

SHRI G VISWANATHAN (Wand-wash): Why should it not be left to the cooperative society?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: No please. It should be nationalised. Let us experiment it. Let them do this first.

My point is very very clear that nationalisation alone will help us because the international price of sugar is going higher and higher. The sugar factory owners are getting more money by exporting the sugar they are enjoying the full benefits. The nation is getting nothing. I find these sugar factory owners are being allowed to sell sugar at an exorbitant price in every part of the country and they are making crores of rupees as their annual profits. That is another reason why so much black-money has got amassed. You will not be able to solve this problem of black-money by issuing ordinances. So, you should ask these sugar factory owners to implement the recommendations with retrospective effect. My humble suggestion is please do

not deprive the workers and the cane-growers and do not allow the sugar magnates to fleece our country as they are doing now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before we proceed further may I point out the scope of the Bill is only in respect of certain recommendations of the Wage Board relating to the wages of the workers in the sugar industry. We need not go into the whole question of sugar industry as to how it is being exploited and what should be the policy. That is a much bigger question.

Now, I would like to know the pleasure of the Houses. I see the slips keep on swelling in front of me and we have a little time. We had allotted thirty-five minutes out of which 15 minutes are already over and we have 20 minutes more allotted time left. What you want to do? If you take five minutes each then we may manage and exceed the time fixed by just a little.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Why don't you extend the time?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The other Bills are here and, as such, some, kind of a *via media* balance, has to be struck.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad). Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the five minutes which you have given to me quite sufficient to express my ideas.

Sir, sugar industry is a prosperous industry and this prosperity goes to cane-growers and also to the labourers working in the factories. For the last several years we have seen the workers in sugar industry have never gone on strike. They have been

[Shri M. Ram Gopal Reddy]

working hard. That was why our production which was only 10 lakh tonnes in 1951-52 went up to 45 lakh tonnes, which means an increase of 450 per cent. This is certainly due to the Government policies, the workers' loyalty and the canegrowers' effort to grow more cane. So far as the sugar magnates are concerned, they have been making a lot of money. After the wage board award was given in 1969, almost all the co-operative sugar factories, with the except of one or two, almost 135 in number have faithfully implemented the wage board recommendations. When even the Government are implementing the Pay Commission's report, I do not know why the sugar factories, especially the private ones, are not implementing it; If they are not going to implement it, there is the danger that the workers may go on strike. Of course, I have been speaking always against strikes, but on this occasion, if I would say that if these sugar factories do not implement the wage board recommendations made in 1969, the workers can legitimately go on strike and they have got the right to go on strike.

Now, the crushing season is coming, and from October, many factories are going to start crushing: It is the duty of the Government to see that the sugar factories which have been evading payment of wages according to the wage board recommendations must be forced to pay the same; otherwise, the licence to start crushing must be stopped: If they still do not listen to this, Government should take over such sugar factories: After all there were many eminent persons on the wage board, from the side of labour, the canegrowers, the industrialists etc. In spite of that, we find that the recommendations are not being implemented. I am also the chairman of a co-operative sugar fac-

tory and I know that these recommendations are very very mild. When the sugar factories are making very huge profits, why should they not pay the wages to the labourers as recommended?

Therefore, I would request the Deputy Minister who is very promising and who is very dynamic to see that the amount is paid with retrospective effect and with interest at the rate of 12 per cent. This interest is also very important, because they have no right to keep that money with them and utilise it elsewhere for their own profit. The workers have already lost heavily, and moreover, as we have seen, the value of the rupee has also been eroded. For the last five years we have seen that the real value of the money has gone down. Therefore, the interest must be calculated and must be paid before the start of the season. If any factory refuse to pay, Government should immediately take it over, so that the workers may work very hard and may reach a production of 70 lakh tonnes, during the Fifth Plan. We are making very huge profits when we export sugar for the first time, and we are getting about Rs. 5000 per tonne or Rs. 500 per bag. This is a very good season and we should not miss this opportunity to increase production.

*SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nilgiris): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support whole-heartedly the Bill of Shri D. K. Panda and wish to say a few words on the same. The principal provision of the Bill is that the recommendations of the Wage Board should be made statutorily binding on the sugar-mill owners so that they could be implemented. The central purpose of this Bill is that the sugar-mill owners must be brought within the ambit of a statute, which will enable the Government to proceed against such sugar-mill owners who do not implement the recommendations of the Wage Board.

Sir, the first Wage Board was set up some time in 1957 and it took 14 long years for the Government to realise that the Wage Board recommendations were not going to be implemented expeditiously. During this period of 14 years, the sugar-mill owners had been fleecing the workers, the consumers and the sugar cane growers. The sugar-mill owners have been able to augment their production substantially with the sweat and blood of the workers who have not been paid their legitimate dues. The price of sugar has been going up at regular intervals which the consumers pay through their nose. The sugar-mill owners have also been deceiving the sugar-cane growers. The present arrears due from the sugar-mill owners to the sugarcane growers amount to about Rs. 54 crores. I am sorry to say that the Government continue to remain a silent spectator of this kind of multi-pronged exploitation of the sugar-mill owners.

Sir, there are about 238 sugar factories in our country with an installed capacity of 44 lakh tones. It is anticipated that during 1973-74 the production would be about 40 lakh tonnes. In this year, the total foreign exchange earning on account of export of sugar has been estimated to be Rs. 50 crores. The pathetic plight of lakhs of sugar workers whose labour brings to the public exchequer Rs 50 crores in foreign exchange requires to be probed by the Government of the day. In the cement industry and in machine-building industries the recommendations of the Wage Boards have been implemented. But the condition of sugar-workers seems to be worse than that of the landless agricultural labour in our country. Barring the sugar workers, other industrial workers get housing, medical facilities etc. But the Government seem to be unconcerned

about the sugar-workers in this country.

I want to impress upon the Government that whatever has been stated about the sugar workers is not the political pleading of Opposition Party members here. The hon. Members belonging to the ruling party, while participating in the discussion on this Bill during last session, have condemned the sluggish attitude of the Government so far as the problems of the sugar workers are concerned. Shri B. V. Naik Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey, Shri Darbara Singh and some others have categorically stated that the Government's sugar policy is wrong. They have specifically pointed out that the condition of the workers in the sugar industry needs great improvement. They have stressed that if the Government wanted more production they should give greater incentives to the sugar workers. All the pleas of the ruling party members have fallen on the deaf ears of the Government I have no hesitation in saying that the Government are in league with the sugar-mill owners so far as fleecing of the sugar workers is concerned. I make bold to say that the Government are guilty of being partisan in this matter. There is widening gap before profession and practice of this Government.

From the year 1969 onwards we have been hearing on the Congress Party platforms that the sugar industry would be nationalised. In the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, most of the Congress Ministers both at the Central and State level were emphasising the emergent need for nationalising the sugar industry. They were all shedding crocodile tears for the sugar workers. But the Government of India have not moved their little finger towards nationalising the sugar industry. I will not be out of the mark if I say that the ruling party and the

[Shri J. Matha Gowder]

Government do not want to annoy the sugar barons who are their backbone in the matter of meeting their election expenses. After all the workers can only produce something more. The workers can never substitute the sugar-mill owners in financing the Congress Party elections. This explains the halting half-hearted and hesitant steps being taken by the Government either in resolving the problems of the sugar workers or in helping the sugarcane growers to get back huge sums of money due from the sugar-mill owners

In Spetember, 1970 the Government constituted a high-level Commission to enquire into the sugar industry in a comprehensive manner. On 27-2-1974 this Commission has presented its well-considered Report to the Government. But so far the Government have not placed a copy of this Report on the Table of this House. I wonder what stands in the way of the Government discharging this legitimate and bounden duty. Is it because the Commission has recommended immediate nationalisation of sugar industry without compensation? In the second interim Report submitted by the Commission, the question of nationalisation of sugar industry has been dealt with by the Commission in great detail. But the Government have not yet broken their vow of silence on the recommendations of this Commission.

Sir, the position in the sugar industry has become so critical that, unless the industry is nationalised, the workers have no chance of getting their dues from the sugar-mill owners, who happen to be adepts in the art of deception all round: I am constrained to say that both the sugar workers and the sugarcane growers have been made the sacrificial goats for the election victory of the Congress Party.

You know, Sir, that the Government do not hesitate to issue Ordinances. During last inter-session as many as 8 Ordinances were issued. I would like to know why the Government have never thought it appropriate to promulgate a presidential Ordinance for the recovery of arrears of Rs. 54 crores due to the sugarcane growers and also for the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations so far as the sugar workers are concerned.

I am sure that ruling party members will unhesitatingly agree with me in my demand for immediate nationalisation of sugar industry. If the Government feel that this question will take some more time at least it must be ensured that the sugar workers get their wages as per the recommendations of the Wage Board, and if necessary the Government must introduce in this very session a Bill for this purpose. It is not merely the demand of the Opposition Party Members. Shri Darbara Singh, who is a member of the All India Congress Committee, has been demanding this. I hope that the Government will at least pay heed to the demand of its own Party Members.

Supporting the Bill of Shri D. K. Panda, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): Sir, I want to raise only two points. The wage board recommendations made in 1969 have still not been implemented. We do not know why they are delaying it. Whatever legislation we pass, we are not seriously implementing them. That is the real reason for the set-back. We are doing well but now and then we are forgetting our responsibilities to implement our policies and Acts. Our friend from Bengal referred to the Rayaguda sugar factory in Orissa. There is a similar unit in my constituency also. They brought some scrapped factory from somewhere to

my district, with a capital of 25 lakhs. They have taken deposits from the farmers to take the cane. When we asked them to convert the deposits into share capital, they never agreed. It costs now Rs. 3 crores. I am surprised to hear that the Government has given permission for the expansion of the capitalist companies without any policy or basis or public knowledge. In my district there are nearly 70,000 acres where cooperative sugar factories are coming up. It took me 14 years to get a licence for a sugar factory I failed thrice, although I was a members of Parliament from 1952-58. It is only under the Government of Shrimati Indira Gandhi that I got the licence and it is going to be commissioned. I am seriously implementing the wage board recommendations. Why was the Government not asking the other factories also to implement them? One unit has been purchased by a *karodpati* from Madura in South India. He has got several mills there. He has got sufficient money to implement the wage board award. But, instead, he has given up the factory. Government have now taken over that sugar factory and auctioned it to realise some tax arrears. He has to give Rs. 10 lakhs to 15 lakhs to the farmers. I am fighting with the Government and the company to get the farmers their due. This is a unit started by a trust and yet this is the fate of the farmers and the labourers in the sugar industry.

We are expecting every day that the government will come forward with a policy of nationalisation or at least cooperativisation so that the workers and farmers will become the proprietors. Why should the government think that nationalisation will result in loss? By nationalisation you will have marketing, distribution, price fixation everything in your hands. Take the case of the existing sugar mill owners. They start in small way and make a lot of money.

I understand that the report of the Bhargava Committee, on which the Government have spent nearly Rs. 20 lakhs, has gone to the Cabinet. The Cabinet should take a decision immediately. Where is the necessity for delay in this. The nationalisation of the sugar industry is in accordance with our party programme and also the policy of the Government. So, I want the Minister in charge of the sugar industry to implement it at an early date.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरेता) :
उपाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो बिल हमारे सामने विचार के लिए आया है श्री पडा जो को तरफ से मैं उस का स्वागत करता हूँ और सरकार से यह निवेदन करता हूँ कि इसे तत्काल स्वीकार कर ले। ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार यदि इसे स्वीकार नहीं करेगी तो इस का मतलब है सरकार के नेत्रों से साफ दिखाई नहीं देता। सामने बैठे हुए बन्धु शुगर उद्योग को ऐसा मान कर चल रहे हैं कि यह हमें दूध देने वाली गाय है। जब जब आवश्यकता पड़ती है उस के मालिकों से घाटी मात्रा में पैसा लिया जाता है। इसीलिए इन की गोपनीय साठ गाठ इन के साथ है और इसी कारण जो बेज बोर्ड की सिफारिश है उसे स्वीकार नहीं किया जा रहा है। मेरा यह कहना है कि कितनी चीनी उद्योग के मालिकों ने इन सिफारिश को लागू नहीं किया है क्या सरकार ऐसा कोई कानून बनाएगी कि जिस समय यह सिफारिश आई है तब से इस को जिन्होंने स्वीकार नहीं किया उन को कड़े से कड़ा दण्ड दिया जाय आर्थिक दण्ड नहीं पैसा तो बहुत है उन के पास चाहे जब वे दंगे जेल की सजा उन को दी

श्री हुकम चन्द कछाब (भारत)

जाय ऐसा कोई कानून आप उन के लिए बनाएंगे ? और यह जल्दी से जल्दी लागू हो ताकि इस का लाभ काफी लोगों को मिले मजदूरों को मिले बर्मा जो कि मुस्काराहट से मैं समझा हूँ कि उन के दिल में मजदूरों के प्रति बढ़ी दया है और वह कहा जाता है कि यह जो श्रम विभाग है यह मजदूर कल्याण करने वाला विभाग है। हर मजदूर का लाभ इस से होता है। परन्तु यह हालत देख कर तो ऐसा लगता है कि हाथी के दांत दिखाने के और खाने के और है। इसलिए मेरा यह कहना है कि जिन मानिकों ने इसे अभी तक ठीक तरीके से लागू नहीं किया है उन के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। आज मजदूरों का शोषण किया जा रहा है। कितने बर्गों में इस श्रम उद्योग में उनका शोषण किया जा रहा है। और नाना प्रकार से शोषण किया जा रहा है। मजदूर किसी पद पर काम करता है उसे बेतन किसी पद का दिया जाता। ऐसे हजारों केस श्रम उद्योग के अन्दर हैं कि उस से काम लिया जाता है बड़े पद का और बेतन दिया जाता है छोटे पद का। जैसा काम लिया जाय उन से बेतन भी उन को बीसा मिले इस की व्यवस्था देखना भी आप का काम है। आज काफी उद्योगों की हालत खराब है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि सभी उद्योग अच्छे होंगे। परन्तु खराबी का कारण क्या है ? क्या मालिक की नीयत अच्छी नहीं है या उस का मैनेजमेंट अच्छा नहीं है जिस के कारण खराब है ? उसे ठीक किया जा सकता है। मैं इस के पक्ष

में नहीं हूँ न मेरा दल इस के पक्ष में है कि इनका राष्ट्रीयकरण कर लिया जाय। मेरा कहना है कि अगर उद्योग खराब हालात में चल रहा तो वहाँ जो कर्मचारी काम करते हैं उनको उस का हिस्सेदार बनाया जा सकता है। सहकारिता के आधार पर वह उद्योग चलना चाहिए। उस के अन्दर सारे हिस्सेदार मजदूर हों। मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं। आज भी बड़े पैमाने पर हमारे कारखानों को पैसा इन श्रमर मिलों के मालिकों ने दिया नहीं है। अब वे किस किस की शिकायत करेंगे ? कहा जाता है कि आप को पैसा चाहिए तो रुपये पर चक्को कटेंगे। दो रुपया लेना है तो 25 प्रतिशत उस का कट कर आप को मिलेगा। इस प्रकार से कारखानों का शोषण किया जा रहा है। मैं जानता हूँ कि यह श्रम मंत्री का विषय नहीं है लेकिन कृषि मंत्री भी बैठे हुए है इसलिए मैं उन का ध्यान इधर खींचना चाहता हूँ। मध्य प्रदेश उड़ीसा आदि में इस से बहुत खराब दशा है उन को और मैं समझता हूँ कि काफी प्रदेशों के अन्दर ऐसी दशा है क्योंकि सरकार का ठीक प्रकार का प्रयत्न नहीं है इस उद्योग पर वह प्रयत्न लगाना नहीं चाहती। मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ और यहाँ अदन में अनेक बार यह बात उठी है देश में जब लोक सभा के चुनाव थे तो उस समय 20 करोड़ रुपया इकट्ठा किया और इसीलिए उन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं की। अभी यू० पी० के चुनाव के अवसर पर बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर पैसा उन से लिया है। ये बातें यहाँ आई हैं और इसीलिए श्रमर मिलों के मालिकों से साठ गांठ की जाती है वे मैं जानते हैं कि

यह ऐसा उद्योग है कि अगर इन से रहेंगे कि बेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों को लागू करो तो वे कहेंगे कि उस से अधिक पैसा लगेगा। वे कहेंगे कि अच्छा, जल्दी से जल्दी आपको पैसा चाहिए तो हम को पैसा दीजिए हम आप को इतनी छूट देते हैं 70 परसेंट आप चीनी बाहर बेच सकते हैं। इस तरह से वे पैसा कमाते हैं। एक क्विंटल के 5 मी रुपये लेते हैं जब कि कंट्रोल में 215 रुपये एक क्विंटल के मिलते हैं। तो इस तरह से उन्हें इतनी छूट दी जाती है और इसी कारण आज सरकार उस और ठीक प्रकार से ध्यान नहीं देती या उन को छोड़ना नहीं चाहती। इन को ऐसा मानती है कि यह मधुमक्खी का छत्ता है इन को छोड़ेंगे तो हमें खा जायेंगे।

शुगर उद्योग में हम आपको पैसा कमाते हैं। बाहर भी शुगर भेजते हैं भारी मात्रा में और विदेशों में हमें पैसा मिलता है और हम और कमा सकते हैं। ठीक प्रकार से इस की व्यवस्था हो तो हम अधिक शुगर बाहर भी भेज सकते हैं लेकिन यह कहा का न्याय है कि यहाँ का व्यक्ति जो शुगर पैदा करता है वह तो 5 रुपये किलो शुगर खरीद कर खाये और बाहर 70 पैसे किलो में भेजें? यह कौन सा सामाजिक न्याय है। हो सकता है कि सरकार को कोई अपनी व्यवस्था होगी। लेकिन मेरा कहा है कि यह ठीक नहीं है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मेरा कहना है कि ठीक प्रकार से बेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों लागू हो और जो भार्गव कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है उस को लाने में हिचकिचाया नहीं चाहिए। मैं इषि मंत्री में प्रार्थना

करना चाहता हूँ कि आप तत्काल उस को लाएं। हम उस पर चर्चा करें और आप नये मिनिस्टर बने ह, आप का वह नाम होगा कि आप याद करेंगे। सब लोग आप के गुग गाएंगे और आपको दुआ भी दने। इतिहास! आप उस को लाएं ताकि हम उन पर चर्चा कर सकें। उसे दबाने में कोई सार नहीं है। लेकिन मुझे ऐसा भी संतान जगता है कि अगर आप ने लाने का प्रयत्न किया तो कहीं आप का पत्ता न कट जायें।

इन्ही शब्दों के साथ मैं बिन का ससर्थन करता हूँ और वर्मा जी से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि बिना मकोच, हिचकिचाहट और बिना किसी चर्चा के इस को स्वीकार कर लें उन को भी लोप तारीफ करेगे।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
 MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI Bal-
 govind Verma): I have listened very
 carefully to the speeches made by
 the hon. Members when the Bill was
 discussed in this House on 3rd May
 1974 and also to-day.

The sole object of Shri D K Pan-
 da's Bill is to make the recommenda-
 tions of the Sugar Wage Board sta-
 tutorily enforceable on the industries.
 They laid stress on this point and I
 am told that the Wage Board sub-
 mitted its report in February 1970
 and the Government's resolution
 thereon was issued on 7th July 1970.
 The Board was a non-statutory body
 and the implementation of its recom-
 mendations has to be secured mainly
 through persuasion and advice.
 The State Governments were in
 charge of the work of implementa-
 tion as they are the appropriate
 governments in regard to this indus-
 try under the Industrial Disputes Act.
 So, the slow pace of implementation

[Shri Balgovind Verma]

and also in phases is one important factor which may have possibly led to the introduction of this Bill by Shri D. K. Panda in July 1971.

Since then many developments have taken place in regard to this sugar industry. I may tell the House that in December 1971, the then Labour Minister, Shri Khadilkar wrote to the State Labour Ministers requesting them to take effective steps to ensure the implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations. I do not have the details and up-to-date statistics to show the number of sugar mills which have implemented the Wage Board recommendations and those which have not implemented them. I have reasons to believe that the present position of implementation is by and large very satisfactory.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Nobody has paid the arrears.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I might mention that demands have been made or revision of the existing wage structure in the sugar industry. In this connection we had meetings with the representatives of the employers and the workers on 27th November 1973 and 6th December 1973. In both these meetings which were attended by almost all major trade unions, there were no complaints about the non-implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations. Today, I am really very much surprised when Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya has brought to our notice that one sugar mill at Raigarh has not implemented the Wage Board recommendations...

SHRI D. K. PANDA: That is also the case even in Andhra.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: In Andhra, Shri Suryanarayana has pointed out a different thing that one mill is running into arrears of Rs 15

lakhs to the cultivators on account of non-payment of price for sugar cane supplied to the mill and net that it has not paid wages to the workers.

An. Hon. Member: When was it implemented?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: That is quite a different thing. I may tell you that these things were never brought to our notice even when we held discussions with the representatives of the trade unions. Now, that it has been brought to our notice, we will certainly take up the matter with the State Government to see that these recommendations have been carried out.

There were no complaints about non-implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations but there were strong demands for the revision of the wage structure through a bipartite committee. This was the emphasis which was laid by all the trade union leaders and they also wanted grant of interim relief.

A demand was also made for the payment of a suitable retainer allowance because I know in most of the mills this retainer allowance is not being paid, particularly, in the South and elsewhere. I am glad to inform the House that agreed conclusions have been reached both in regard to the payment of interim relief and retainer allowance. All this means a substantial benefit to the workers. So, this agreement has been reached so far as this matter is concerned.

Then, Sir, as regards the interim relief, I may say, this was to be enforced only up to the 30th June, 1974. We have written to the State Governments about this and requesting them to advise the sugar mills to give the interim relief for July also and to set it off against the dearness allowance

scheme for the month of July to be computed under the wage Board's recommendations. I am sure they are paying this amount to the workers also. It has been suggested by some speakers that some machinery should be set up to revise the present wage structure for the sugar industry. I would like to mention the name of Mr. Narsingh Narain Pandey who specially stressed this point. This question is being considered by the Government. A decision may be expected very shortly.

Then, certain suggestions were made by Shri Pandaji, Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey, Shri Darbara Singh, Shri Ialmue Sambhali, Shri Panigrahi and Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya. Most of the Members who have spoken have laid stress that the sugar industry should be nationalised I regret, I am not in a position to deal with this issue since the matter concerns the Ministry of Agriculture, but I am sure they are looking into the matter and they will do what is necessary. It is under active consideration of the Government. So, now all that I can say is that the situation which is sought to be remedied by Shri Panda's Bill no longer exists and it does not require the enactment of any special legislation and more so in the context of the increasing emphasis on bipartite settlement of wage matters, the need for statutory support for implementation of Wage Board recommendations does not arise at all. Of course there may be some stray cases of non-implementation here and there and if I am informed about it, I assure you, I will take a necessary action in the matter and I will request the State Governments to take suitable action in the matter.

In view of this, I am sure that Shri Pandaji will withdraw the Bill.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जो लोग जिस पद पर काम करते हैं उस पद के अनुसार वेतन नहीं दिया जाता कम दिया जाता है । अगर कोई 3 00 रुपया वेतन पाने वाला है तो उस को 150 रुपया दिया जाता है—इस के लिये आप क्या कर रहे है ?

श्री बालगोविन्द वर्मा : ऐसी कोई शिकायत हमारे पास नहीं आई है । अगर आप कोई शिकायत लायेंगे तो जरूर देखेंगे और उस पर कार्यवाही भी की जायेगी ।

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय (मंदसौर) : मैंने मध्य प्रदेश की दो शहर मिलो—जाबरा शहर मिल और महिदपुर शहर मिल—के बारे में कहा था ये मिले बेज बोर्ड के अनुसार काम नहीं कर रही है आप ने कहा था कि स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट को रेफर करेंगे, लेकिन स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट कुछ नहीं कर रही है । मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इन मिलों के बारे में स्पष्ट कहे कि स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट से कह कर करवाये अन्यथा स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट प्रैस करने वाली नहीं है । स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट की उम्र बारे में हाथन खरगव है ।

श्री बाल गंवि. व वर्मा : ऐसा तो नहीं है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : ऐसा हो रहा है वहाँ बेज बोर्ड लागू नहीं है ।

16 hours.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH (Parbhani): I would like to draw the attention of the Labour Minister to the fact that there are many factories in the joint sector which are

[Shri Shivajirao S. Deshmukh]

in arrears of the Second Wage Board awards. They are yet to implement the wage board award. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to this fact that there are thousands and thousands of agricultural workers basically but they are declared as casual workers. In Maharashtra, there are sugarcane workers. They have been declared as factory workers and they are subjected to the jurisdiction of the wage boards. There are lakhs of rupees remaining in arrears.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister will take due note of it and necessary action will be taken by him.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members of the Treasury Bench as well as the other side for taking part in the debate. There is absolutely no difference of opinion for effective implementation of the recommendations of the Second Wage Board. But, I got a reply from the hon. Minister which still remains unsatisfactory reply. The point is how this can be effectively implemented with retrospective effect. That is a simple question. The hon. Minister could have come forward with the answer if at all they were serious in implementing the recommendations either by the method of persuasion or by requesting those sugar tycoons at least. By that process, to a certain extent, have they implemented these recommendations from 1st November, 1969? That is the crucial date from which they come into effect. My friend, Shri Narsingh Narain Pande and several other Members have categorically stated that in many sugar industries, especially in U.P., Orissa and in M.P. they have not implemented from that date from which they were directed to implement the recommendations. What does the Government do? They simply requested

those industries to implement them by the method of persuasion.

Now, what I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister is that if they are not paid from 1st November, 1969 why should they not be paid at least from 1st November, 1970? Throughout the country, statewide, if you take into consideration the specific circular issued by the very Cooperative Federation of Sugar Industries, that says this will come into force from 1st November, 1970 and it will be implemented. Even in cooperative sugar industries, in certain cases—I have given an example—it was implemented from 1971 only and not from 1970. With regard to this aspect of the matter, I want to know whether Government have called for the reports from the State Governments. This question has to be answered by the Minister to the satisfaction of all the Members present. My second point is this. If you have implemented it, that may be a general implementation. I want that should be a specific implementation. My friend from Maharashtra said that casual workers have been totally neglected. They could not be brought within the purview of the Second Wage Board recommendations. I want to know whether these wage arrears are going to be collected by making these recommendations statutorily binding on them. Or will the Government go on making only a request or go on begging those sugar tycoons to implement them. They have already got enough money.

The hon. Member Shri Suryanarayana has made certain point with regard to expansion of certain sugar industries. Some sick mills have been given crores of rupees. They have been given development rebate, excise duty rebate etc., etc. running to crores of rupees. Shri Suryanarayana has made a point regarding the cost of levy sugar as worked out by the Tariff Commission. What is it?

The Government policy itself has increased the price of sugar—not with regard to levy sugar alone. The sugar magnates are creating black-money because you have allowed them to sell 30 per cent in the open market. So, they have been given so many opportunities to fleece the consumers. They are also allowed to keep an arrear to the tune of Rs. 52.25 crores regarding cane price. All these things have given them a good handle to exploit the entire nation and bring about crisis in the sugar field. Therefore, I want to know why this should not be made statutorily binding. I want the hon. Minister to give an assurance to the effect that they will bring forth a Bill—in this Session itself—because it is only adding one line that this should be statutorily binding.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already said it is not necessary.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: In spite of all the declarations against the tycoons till today we have not taken any steps to punish them. Why rupees seven to eight crores should be left in the hands of sugar barons against whom the Congress is committed to nationalise. Therefore, they should not again write to the State Governments as it is not within their powers to see that it is implemented. The State Governments can merely persuade the tycoons and mere persuasion would not do. Therefore, I demand that immediately another Bill be brought by the Government in this direction.

A calculation has been made and it has been found that these tycoons including sugar barons are in arrears to the tune of Rs. 833 crores on account of tax and electricity charges, etc. Altogether, it would come to about Rs. 2600 crores. But we have allowed them all this money and now the wage freeze ordinance has also been brought forward. So, my appeal to

the hon. Minister will be that at least the retaining allowance which had been promised should be given. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why can he not round up his arguments?

SHRI D. K. PANDA: The hon. Minister himself had referred to the retaining allowance. The decision taken at the bipartite negotiating committee has not been implemented, though it was a decision taken under the chairmanship of the hon. Minister at that particular meeting of the trade union representatives. At that time, there was no occasion to bring up all these points because the main point was that the sugar workers were paid very poorly and the wage level was the lowest so far as the factory workers were concerned. Thus, the question of the revision of the wage became a prominent thing at that time. The retaining allowance was to continue till June, 1974, but that period has already expired. Therefore, I now demand that the bipartite machinery for negotiating on wage revision has to be brought into existence once again.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for implementation of the recommendations of the Second Wage Board for Sugar Industry in India and to make it statutory with a view to maintain industrial peace in sugar industry in the country, be taken into consideration."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The motion is lost. Now, we shall take up the next Bill.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: May I make one appeal? I seek your protection, Sir. . .

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Rather seek his protection

SHRI D K PANDA I do not want to make a speech **

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER This would not go on record I have declared that the motion is lost and still he is rising to speak He should have done it before I have declared already that the motion is lost It would be irregular if he speaks now

16 14 hours.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of articles 19 and 326) by Dr Laxminarain Pandeya

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय: (मदनौर) मैं प्रस्ताव* करता हूँ कि भारत के सविधान का और सशोधन करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाये। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मेरे प्रस्तुत विधेयक के द्वारा सविधान में सशोधन करते हुए वर्तमान मतदान की आयु को 21 वर्ष से घटा कर 18 वर्ष करने का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसी सदन में सविधान के अनुच्छेद 19 और अनुच्छेद 326 में सशोधन प्रस्तुत किये गये हैं।

16 15 hrs.

[DR HENRY AUSTIN in the Chair]

वर्तमान कानूनी प्रावधानों के अनुसार हम ने बयस्क मताधिकार के सिद्धान्त को स्वीकार किया है और उस के आधार पर हम अपनी चुनाव प्रणाली को चलाते चले आ रहे हैं

लेकिन आज ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा हो गई है जिसकी वजह से इस सम्बन्ध में सशोधन करना आवश्यक हो गया है। केवल भारत में ही नहीं बल्कि ससार के विभिन्न देशों में आज चुनाव प्रणाली में एव मतदान की आयु में परिवर्तन की मांग की गई और विभिन्न देशों में इसी सदन में मताधिकार की आयु 21 वर्ष से घटा कर 18 वर्ष करने का प्रावधान किया है। हमारे देश में भी समय समय पर इस प्रकार की मांग उठती रही है जिस की इस सदन में भी चर्चा हुई है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस बारे में अभी तक गम्भीरता से विचार नहीं किया है।

आज हमारे युवा-वर्ग में असन्तोष है जिसके कई कारण हो सकते हैं किन्तु मनदान में उन्हे हिस्सेदार न बनाना भी एक कारण है। वे भी मतदान के अधिकारी और शासनतंत्र में भागी होना चाहते हैं। लेकिन शायद वर्तमान शासन में बैठे लोग यह पसन्द नहीं करते कि युवा लोग आकर यहाँ स्थान ग्रहण करें और इस लिए यह मांग बार-बार टाली जाती रही है, यद्यपि चर्चा के दौरान शासन की ओर से यह जरूर स्वीकार किया गया है कि हम इस विषय पर विचार कर रहे हैं, हम इस पर साबेगें आदि।

मेरा निवेदन है कि इस बारे में ज्यादा सोच-विचार की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है, किसी लम्बे-चौड़े निर्णय की भी आवश्यकता नहीं है। स्वयं मंत्री महोदय ने इसी सदन में एक चर्चा के उत्तर में कहा कि हमें किसी प्रकार के बहुत बड़े सशोधन लाने की आवश्यक-

**Not concluded

Moved with the recommendation of the President.