

की बागड़ी (हिसार) : जो बात आप के सामने है उसका जवाब तो दें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं साहब ।

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

PROPOSED RETRENCHMENT OF ABOUT 3000 WORKERS IN EME WORKSHOPS

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The proposed retrenchment of about 3000 workers in EME workshops.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Dr. D. S. Raju): Mr. Speaker, Sir. During the period of emergency, to cope with the increased repair load in the E.M.E. Workshops, about 2600 employees were recruited till May 1963. Thereafter, due to suspension of repairs of pre-1948 vehicles of certain types and the subsequent decision to dispose of some of them, nearly 2400 employees have been found to be surplus to the requirements of these Workshops. Out of them, nearly 1900 are technical hands who are mostly Vehicle Mechanics & Electricians, while the rest belong to allied trades like Fitters, Turners, Blacksmiths etc. Efforts have been and are being made for the absorption of the unskilled employees in the Defence Installations, on an All-India basis, and only when no alternative work can be found for them they have been or are being retrenched. The skilled and semi-skilled employees are being adjusted by a Central Agency against equivalent or lower appointments which may be available within the Defence Organisation. Efforts are also being made to transfer those who are willing to serve in the Field & Base Workshops under the Border Roads Development Board. There is little

possibility of the absorption of these surplus technical hands under other employing Ministries of the Central Government as they have adequate staff in the surplus categories for manning vehicles under their control. The question of requesting the State Governments to examine whether they can absorb these surplus employees in their Transport Departments is also being considered.

2. A study team has gone into the assessment of workload and capacity in these Workshops with a view to re-organising them in the light of current and future proposed vehicles repair and discard policy. The report of the study team which has recently been submitted to Government is under examination.

3. To minimise the hardship due to retrenchment, all fresh recruitment to the trades in which there are surpluses have been stopped in the Defence Installations.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It appears from the statement of the hon. Minister that all the fighting vehicles which were in the possession of the Defence Ministry up to 1948 have been declared unserviceable. I want to know what is the total number of those vehicles and whether they cannot be salvaged properly and repaired. I also want to know what is the total number of employees who are likely to be retrenched after 31st March, 1965.

Dr. D. S. Raju: The total number of vehicles which are likely to be disposed is between 12000 and 15000 every year.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, my question has not been answered. The EME Workshops were repairing various types of vehicles for which people were recruited. Do I take it that all those vehicles have been disposed of through auction to contractors and not utilised in the larger interest of our country when we are short of vehicles?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): This question about the

policy of discarding vehicles was taken into account and we found that the older policy of maintaining the vehicles till they became unserviceable was detrimental to the operational efficiency that is expected of the army and, also, it was uneconomical because for that purpose we had to maintain a large reserve of spares which also became rather a difficult matter. So we decided on a policy which is like this. Under the new policy the vehicles will be in use for the following periods and mileages before they become due for discard:

3-ton general service vehicles—
either a life of 7 years or a total
mileage of 35,000.

1-ton vehicles—either a life of
7 years or a total mileage of
35,000.

Jeeps—life of 5 years or a total
mileage of 30,000.

Motor-cycles—either a life of 5
years or a total mileage of
15,000.

After this period or total mileage it is decided to discard these vehicles so that they will be certainly useful for service purposes and at the same time we will be able to take in good vehicles which will be good for operational purposes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My point was this. I want to know whether these vehicles would be repaired. My information is, from the Cheoki Depot. . . .

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it, that because of a fear that it might effect operational efficiency it was decided that they must be discarded.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have followed the answer. My submission was only this that the number of vehicles which had been disposed of recently are being used and sold at Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 5,000 for a jeep. I hope, the Defence Minister knows it. This is a scandalous affair that is go-

ing on. Without imputing any motive as to the integrity of the hon. Minister, may I request him just to appoint a commission to go into these details and see whether these jeeps are really unserviceable or are declared unserviceable to suit the convenience of certain contractors and private trade . . . (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Sardar Buta Singh.

श्री बूटा सिंह (मोगा) : यह जो वर्कर्स निकाले गये हैं उन की संख्या बहुत बड़ी है तो क्या सरकार उन का कुछ रेकार्ड अपने पास रखेगी ताकि जब भी मौका मिले उनको वापिस काम पर बुला कर लगाया जा सके?

श्री यशबन्तराव चव्हाण : मैं ने बतलाया तो कि इन में अनस्किल्ड लेबर में 180 लोगों को निकालने की बात थी बाकी ज्यादा लोगों को तो निकाला है नहीं और कोशिश यही हो रही है कि जो निकाले भी गये हैं या निकाले जा रहे हैं उनको हम किसी दूसरे काम पर लगा लें ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र में पूना के पास देवघर में जितने डिपोज हैं उन में जो वाहन रखे थे वह खुले मैदान में रखे थे, उन के ऊपर कोई छत नहीं थी ? दूसरे इन कर्मचारियों को जब रक्खा था तो क्या उन के साथ कोई ऐंसा एग््रीमेंट किया गया था कि हम इतने दिन के बाद तुम को हटा देंगे ?

श्री यशबन्तराव चव्हाण : मुझे पता नहीं कि यह वहां पर कितने थे इस वक्त मेरे पास यह इत्तिला नहीं है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : इन कर्मचारियों को जब भर्ती किया गया था तो क्या इनके साथ कोई इस तरह का एग््रीमेंट किया गया था कि कि इतने दिनों के बाद उनको हटा दिया जायगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो कभी नहीं होता कि इतने दिन के बाद हटाया जायगा अलबत्ता यह तो एग्जीमैट हो सकता है कि उन्हें इतने दिन तक रक्खा जायगा ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे इस सवाल का कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया कि कोई एग्जीमैट हुआ था या नहीं ?

Mr. Speaker: Any other signatory?

Shri Priya Gupta rose—

अध्यक्ष महोदय: कौलिंग प्रेशन नोटिस पर जिनके दस्तखत होते हैं सिर्फ उन्हीं माननीय सदस्यों को बुलाया जाता है ।

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): It is a fundamentally important point.

मेरा एक छोटा सा प्वाएंट है ।
I will submit it in one minute.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने मंत्री जी से पूछा था कि जिन कर्मचारियों को रक्खा गया था तो उस समय क्या उनसे कोई ऐसा एग्जीमैट लिखवा लिया गया था कि इतने दिन तक उन से हम काम लेंगे? ऐसा कोई एग्जीमैट लिखवाया था यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ?

Mr. Speaker: Was there an agreement to keep these workers for any specified period?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: There was no question of any agreement as such.

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Priya Gupta: Could I ask for one clarification regarding the financial implication and economy?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य को शायद पता नहीं है क्योंकि वे बहुत देर हाउस से गैरहाजिर रहे हैं । हाउस का फैसला इस बारे में है ।

श्री प्रिय गुप्त : इतने दिनों जो मैं गैर-हाजिर रहा वह सिर्फ इसलिए था कि जाघात्र

ग्रान्दोलन में हमारी सरकार ने मुझे गिर-फ्तार कर के जेल में रक्खा हुआ था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब वह तो आपके और सरकार के बीच की बात है उसमें मेरा क्या कसूर है ?

12.13 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT AND THE CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT ACT

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) a copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 223 dated the 13th February, 1965.
- (ii) G.S.R. 224 dated the 13th February, 1965.
- (iii) G.S.R. 252 dated the 20th February, 1965.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3909/65].

(2) a copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 and section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, making certain further amendments to the customs and Central Excise Duties Export Drawback (General) Rules, 1960:—

- (i) G.S.R. 225 dated the 13th February, 1965.
- (ii) G.S.R. 226 dated the 13th February, 1965.
- (iii) G.S.R. 248 dated the 20th February, 1965.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3910/65].