

226  
January 2, 1962

General Secretary,  
Bihar State Trade Union Congress,  
Langartoli,  
PATNA 4

Dear Comrade,

We enclose, for your information, copy of a letter which the General Secretary, Katihar Jute Mills Workers' Union has addressed to the Jute Wage Board and a copy of which they had also sent to the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union.

As you will realise, the union's letter - not to speak of the bad drafting and language (and it was sent to the Wage Board handwritten and not typed) - betrays total ignorance of the union leadership of facts relating to the industry and the working conditions. If the union is technically unequipped to send proper replies to the Wage Board and make an effective case before the Board, on behalf of the Katihar jute workers, they should have sought the help of the STUC or the AITUC and not make themselves and the AITUC look silly before the Wage Board. We hope you will take up the matter with the union and ensure that the present instance is not repeated in future.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

*Vh.*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary

Encl:

Copy to: Katihar Jute Mills Workers Union

# BENGAL CHATKAL MAZDOOR UNION

( Regd. No. 289 )

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULY STREET, CALCUTTA-12

December 14, 1961.

The Secretary,  
A. I. T. U. C.,  
4, Asoka Road,  
New Delhi.

A. I. T. U. C.  
I.R. No. *1147* Date **127 DEC 1961**  
File No. .... Registered on.....

Dear Comrade,

Enclosed please find herewith a true copy of the 'reply' to the questionnaire of Jute Wage Board by Katihar Jute Mills Workers' Union, Katihar, Bihar. I tried to make the true copy faithfully. The original letter, I presume, has not even been typed. I, therefore, could not but write to them a bit harshly which also is enclosed.

Hope, you will kindly do the needful.

Greetings,

Comradely Yours,

*Bhawan Prasad*

General Secretary.

Encl. As above.

*Send copy of letter to  
Bihar & try to read  
with it - with a copy  
to the union  
N.B.  
Yours*

T C  
r o  
u e p y  
KATIHAR JUTE MILLS WORKERS' UNION  
(Regd. No. 428)

President : Bimal Kr. Banerjee, B.A.(Hons.)B.L.  
Secretary : Badal Choudhury.

Dated 11.12.1961.

To  
The Assistant Secretary,  
Central Wage Board for Jute Industry,  
Calcutta.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.3/3/JWB-Dt. 21.11.61 I beg to submit that our Union is not in a position to supply your Committee with required materials. The management of both the Jute Mills have kept everything concealed in such a manner and the I.N.T.U.C. Union having connived ~~in such a manner~~ ~~and the~~ them till now, that nothing is possible to know. Moreover the difficulty is that the ignorant and illiterate workers cannot give accurate dates of facts and materials required. The Assistant Labour Commissioner, Bhagalpur div., too was approached for help to which he expressed his inability. In this circumstances we don't feel it prudent to give imaginative replies to the different questions framed to your board and hence we ardently and strongly request that the board should ~~decide~~ decide to hold local enquiry at Katihar is one of those blessed industrial towns where the management have had free play of their exploitation and torture since the inception of the industry. We hope that you will take serious view of our suggestion.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Badal Chowdhury)

General Secretary,

Katihar Jute Mills Workers'  
Union.

✓ Copy to :

The General Secy.,

Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union.

December 14, 1961.

The General Secretary,  
Katihar Jute Mills Workers' Union,  
P.O. Daharia Mills, Katihar.

Dear Friend,

We are astonished to note your reply to the questionnaire prepared by the Jute Wage Board, a copy of which was sent to us.

As you know, it was not obligatory on the part of the Unions to show their utter ignorance and/or ineffectiveness to the Wage Board. Perhaps, in our opinion, the unions of workers who do not know the living conditions etc. are not entitled to or have any right to demand anything on their behalf. It is however fortunate that the letter head of your Union does not show any affiliation and at least it has helped A.I.T.U.C. including its representative in the Board from lots of embarrassment.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours fraternally,

*Rm*

(Bhowani Roy Choudhury)

General Secretary,

BENGAL CHATKAL MAZDOOR UNION.

✓ Copy with <sup>/true</sup> a/copy of the  
letter of Katihar Jute Mills  
Workers' Union dt. 11.12.1961  
is forwarded to AITUC for information.

I.R.N. 316  
File No. ....  
U. C.  
110 FEB 1962

336

No. WB-5(4)/61  
Government of India  
Ministry of Labour & Employment

.....

From

Dr. B. R. Seth,  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

To

The State Governments of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh,  
Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.

Dated New Delhi, the 8.2.62.

**Subject:-** Implementation of Jute Wage Board's recommendation  
regarding interim relief.

Sir,

I am directed to say that a question was raised whether the staff workers are eligible for the interim relief recommended by the Central Wage Board for Jute Industry, Calcutta. The matter has been considered by the Wage Board, and the Board is of the view that, without prejudice to its final decisions, interim relief recommendations already made by it, apply to all workers and clerks irrespective of any pay limit and not to supervisory staff.

Yours faithfully,

*B. R. Seth*  
( B. R. Seth )  
Deputy Secretary

*and this is T.V.R.*  
*me*  
*7/3*

d.a.nil.  
N.Ram

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. The Indian Jute Mills' Association, Royal Exchange, Calcutta.
2. The General Secretary, Indian National Trade Union Congress, 17, Janpath, New Delhi.
3. The General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, 4, Ashok Road, New Delhi.
4. The General Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, Nagindas Chambers, 167-Frere Road, Bombay-1.
5. The Secretary, United Trade Union Congress, 249, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta-12.

d.a.nil.

*B. R. Seth*  
7.2.62  
( B. R. Seth )  
Deputy Secretary

Jute Wage Board  
File

On behalf of All India Trade Union Congress Shri Bhawani Roy Choudhury addressed the Jute Wage Board during its open session on 26.12.1961 and 27.12.61. Shri Choudhury ~~was assisted by Sri ...~~ of AITUC.

Shri Choudhury started quoting the following from the Autobiography:

"Our captains of industry are quite amazingly backward in their ideas; they are not even upto date capitalists. The masses are so poor that they do not look upon them as potential consumers, and fight bitterly against any proposal to increase wages or lower hours of work. Recently hours of have been reduced from 10 to 9 in the cotton mills. This has led the Ahmedabad mill-owners to reduce the wages of labour, even piece-work labour. Thus the reduction of hours of work has meant a lower income and a yet lower standard for the poor worker. Rationalisation, however, proceeds apace, increasing the pressure on the worker and his fatigue, without any proportionate increase in wages. The whole outlook of the industry is an early 19th century one. They make stupendous profits when they have the chance and the workers continues as before; if there is a slump the owners complain that they cannot carry on without reducing wages. Not only have they the help of the State, but also usually the sympathy of our middle-class politicians. And yet the lot of the cotton worker in Ahmedabad is better than that of similar worker in Bombay and elsewhere. The cotton workers, on the whole, are better off than the jute workers of Bengal and the miners. The workers of the small disorganised industries are lowest in the industrial scale. To compare the magnificent palaces of the jute millionaires and the cotton lords, with their ostentatous display of pomp and luxury, with the wretched hovels where their semi-naked workers live, should be an education of the most impressive kind. But we take these contrasts for granted and pass them by, unaffected and unimpressed."

Shri Choudhury said it appears that it has been written just in this year, but in fact it was actually written as early as April, 1936. During this long 26 years the position of the Jute workers in particular has not been changed on the other hand jute millionaires have become perhaps multi-millionaires. This jute wage board, Sri Choudhury stated ~~has been~~ has been set up after prolonged discussions both outside and inside Parliament and West Bengal Assembly and after lots of agitations and memorations of the jute

Jute workers.

As to the condition of living of the jute workers, Sri Choudhury referred to the fact that the workers in the jute industry got their increment last in the year 1955 when their wages were fixed at Rs. 67.17 Nps per month. Even though a period of 6 years have elapsed, they get the same wages (when there are no reduction of working hours as now) though the workers in other industry, i.e. in the cotton textiles etc. have their wages revised and fixed almost at Rs. 127.45 nPs per month. The cotton textile workers of West Bengal who used to get only Rs. 50.17 nPs in 1958 has got more than 50 percent wages increase and has got a dearness allowance which is related with the cost of living index. On the other hand the Jute textile workers get the same D.A. of Rs. 32.50 nPs per month though the ~~cost~~ cost of living is going higher and higher since 1955. The employers in the name of crisis have further cut down the wages by reducing the working hours from 45 to 42½ hours per week and by block clousures. It is impossible for a workman in the jute industry to maintain from such a low salary. The workmen are thus forced to get themselves paid off to get the accumulation of the P. Fund to pay the debt and then again join the rank of jute workers as Badlis.

On the other hand the rationalisation is going apace and the number of workers in 1948 in jute industry in West Bengal was 3,02,500 but has come down to 2,10,000 in 1959 and the number would be even less today as many workers have been thrown off since then. By the same the Jute Industry has saved a huge lots of money bykeeping less number of hands and ~~the~~ the benefits of such rationalisation of increase of workload has not gone to the pay packets of the workers, the same has gone to the bosses of the industry.

He refuted the plea of the employers that the jute industry can not afford to increase the wages of the workmen. In this connection he referred to the speach of the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association made at the annual meeting of 17th March 1961. The Chairman of the I. J. M. A. gave a very rosy picture of the jute industry and stated that the industry can confidently look forward to the increasing demand from expanding market in the developing countries of Africa and South East Asia and also increased consumption in India notwithstanding competition from Pakistan.

Shri Choudhury then dealt with the question of competition from Pakistan. He submitted that Pakistan's industry is still only in the infant stage while Indian industry is 100 years old. There is a competition from Pakistan but competition is the law of the capitalist world. Pakistan has only about 8,000 looms and its production is



is roughly 10 percent of our total production in India. Pakistan has a better quality of raw jute, but India is also self-sufficient in it. Even for a year or two raw jute was exported from India. The capital cost per loom in Pakistan is Rs. 27,000 whereas in India is only Rs. ~~Rs~~ 6,285. Then depreciation in Pakistan is Rs. 108 per ton and in India it is only Rs. 21/- . Furthermore Pakistan depends entirely upon India upon the supply of coal(fuel). Still more India produces all the stores required for the jute mills whereas Pakistan does not. It is evident that the danger of competition from Pakistan is largely magnified, by the employers in India.

Sri Choudhury then dealt upon the evil of speculation upon Raw jute and its effect upon the Industry. Referring to a statement of C.L. Bajoria, Deputy Chairman of I.J.M.A published in Hindustan Standard (24.10.61) he said that Sri Bajoria suggested a buffer stock agency for Raw jute under an autonomous body under the ~~agitate~~ aegis of I.J.M.A. This agency would be financed through loan bearing interest. The raw jute will be purchased and stored by mills on behalf of the buffer stock agency. Sri Bajoria further stated in the same statement that this would ensure a reasonable price to the cultivator for his crop and also prevent diversion of acreage from jute to alternative crops. Sri Choudhury submitted that all have agreed that the cultivator should be assured a fair price for the stability of the jute industry. Even Sri Bajoria has admitted that prices are notoriously unstable because of unbridled speculation. No body can deny that many jute mills are actively engaged and interested in the speculation and I.J.M.A can disown the above responsibility. And as such I.J.M.A should not be given this authority to protect the interest of the cultivator, as they themselves are directly connected with speculation and it would amount to make a wolf the care taker of a lamb.

Sri Choudhury stated that the labour cost in jute industry comes to only about 12 or 13 percent of the ~~the~~ total cost and in spite of increased ~~granted~~ granted by successive tribunals, percentages of the labour cost has remained constant. In ~~the~~ fact, the high cost of jute goods have nothing to do with the wages of workers and even if the workers are ensured Fair wages, the cost of jute goods can be maintained at the level and mills could be ran quite profitably. In this connection, he stated that due to speculation, the industry which used to buy jute at about Rs. 30 or 35/- per md had to purchase raw jute at Rs. 67 per md. And now even purchasing the raw jute at Rs. 67/- per md or more the jute industry has made and is making profits. He cited the case of Birla Jute Mills which has increased the ordinary share capital from 9.126 lakhs to 1.60 ~~corres~~ crores by issuing bonus ordinary shares, as published in States man ( 8.8.61), This jute mill made a profit of Rs. 1.33 ~~corres~~ crores during the year ending March 1961, i.e. 27 lakhs

more profit by purchasing raw jute at Rs. 65 or 70/- per md. Similarly Meghna Jute Mills which has increased the taxable ordinary dividends from 12 to 12.50 percent for the year ending March 1961, and has made a profit of Rs. 40.12 lakhs in 1960-61 as against 16 lakhs in 1959-60. He also cited the cases of the Fort William Jute Mills which has made a profit of Rs. 15.50 lakhs in 1960-61 as against 13.55 lakhs in 1959-60. He also submitted the following other mills :

	<u>1959-60.</u>	<u>1960-61.</u>
1. Hukumchand Jute mills.	45.58 lakhs. (ending March 60)	59.86 lakhs. (ending March 61)
2. Alexandria Jute mills.	5.15 lakhs (ending Decr. 59)	12.79 (ending Dec. 60)
3. Hastings Jute mills	6.95 (ending March 60)	12.177 (ending March 61)

According to the arguments of the industry, the cost of raw jute forms the major portion of the cost of jute goods. But when the price of raw jute has fallen from Rs. 60 or 70 to Rs. 30/- or even less this year, it has not reflected in the simultaneous fall in the prices of the jute goods. Thus, the extra money would go to the bonus shares or diversification of the industry in other lines than jute products. The industry has not even implemented the recommendations of the sub-committee appointed by the IJMA which enquired into the question of diversification of other jute products. Labour cost is an insignificant factor and the increase of wages or granting fair wages is within the means of the jute industry.

As a result of modernation and rationalisation, the strength of the labour force has been reduced to the extent of about one lakh if not more. The reduction of labour force should have automatically reflected in reduction of prices of jute goods. But the case was not that. Even when the Government abolished the export duty, benefits were not passed on to the consumers or to the labour, every thing went to the greedy employers. The industry has saved about 11 or 12 crores by the simple reduction of labour force and all the benefits have gone to the pockets of the employers. Even the gains out of rationalisation or reduction of labour force has not been at all shared between the labour and capital. There is absolutely no relation with the rise or fall in the cost of labour with the cost of finished goods as available in the market.

Shri Choudhury submitted that the trading results of one particular year should not be considered to judge the capacity of the industry to pay. In this connection he referred to the facts that the jute industry has earned gross profits of about 99 crores 2 lakhs 79 thousand and 869 Rupees during the last 13 years beginning from 1946-47 to 1958-59. The net profit during the above period was Rs. 53,30,31,201

During the same period, the industry has also kept about 15 crores 89 lakhs 19,617/- under reserve. Further, the industry has also kept an amount of 19,58,62,884/- as depreciation amount (this is in respect of some 58 companies). From the table given on page 29 of the reply of the questionnaires it will also be observed that the industry has paid dividend to the extent of 26,81,74,728/- during the last 12 years. The productive capital for the year 1958 being 71 crores and 93 lakhs.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX Shri Choudhury submitted that the earnings of a textile industry are dependent on various factors, namely condition of the market, prices of raw materials, etc.~~

Shri Choudhury then referred to a diagram showing how each rupee of gross income is spent in textile (cotton) industry in Bombay and Ahmedabad. The same was compiled by the Millowners' association in 1954 prior to the cotton textile wage board. According to this diagram, out of each one rupee, 52.01 p is spent on raw cotton, 14.56 p on manufacture, 24.36 p on labour, 2.22 on depreciation, 2.57 on taxes, 2.10 on dividend, 1.17 p on reserve and 0.92 on managing agency commission.

Shri Choudhury stated that selling price of jute depends upon 3 factors (i) price of raw jute (ii) speculative forces in buying and selling and (iii) expenses of management and profit. According to an article published in the Statesman the Jute Commissioner of India has stated that the ruling prices of jute goods in the forward delivery position were quite reasonable from the point of view of importing countries and that overseas buyers were by and large looking forward to still lower prices later in the season. Thus, because of speculative attitude of the sellers here, they create artificial shortage by reducing production and keep the prices high and similarly the buyers also speculate in the hope that they would buy when the price comes down. Shri Choudhury stated that this state of affairs can be remedied alone by complete control by the State, state trading in raw jute and total abolition of speculative activities in the business.

The workers of jute industry are and have always been denied trade union rights and even the payment of bare minimum wages. No union in this industry is recognised and the workers can not think of participation in the management. There is no code of discipline in the industry thanks to the powerful bosses of the industry.

The claim of jute workers to have at least the need based minimum is over due. He referred to the decision of the Supreme Court that the industry which can not afford to pay the minimum wages to its workers has no right to exist.

According to the calculation of the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union, the minimum pay of an unskilled worker should amount to Rs. 125 137 on 387 cost of living index taking 1939 as the base year. The details are given in the Annexure A of the reply. He pointed out that after 1947 the cost of living index has never gone down below 325 and as such the wages upto 325 points should be considered as basic and the same amounts to Rs. 125/-.

Dearness allowance in West Bengal alone is fixed. In Kanpur, dearness allowance is linked with the C.L.I. The Dearness Allowance in West Bengal besides making the same adequate should be linked with cost of living index. Lowest category should definitely be fully compensated by way of nutaalisation. He referred to the principles enunciated by the Fair wages committee contained in para 45 of its report, which has recommended full neutralisation for the lowest categories of employees. The Central pay commission has also recommended a graduated scale of dearness allowance depending on the salary earned. Shri Choudhury then explained the slab for dearness allowances for various categories of workers and employees as detailed in the reply.

Sri Choudhury stated that in the question of bonus though jute mills outside West Bengal pays bonus, but thanks to the powerful I.J.M.A. the workers in West Bengal are denied ~~bonus~~ bonus. Even sometimes the company earned fabulous profits but even the profit sharing bonus are denied to the workers. He submitted that 2 types of bonus should be introduced for the jute workers:

1. Puja bonus equivalent to one month's wages irrespective of profit and loss.
- And 2. Profit sharing bonus should be paid to workmen based upon the available surplus formula or any other formula that the Bonus commission might recommend.

Double loom weaver.

The demand of wages of double/loom weavers to have ~~wages~~ full wages of the 2 looms are just and reasonable. At present a double loom weaver is paid only 50 percent of his basic wages of the second loom and furthermore in working 2 looms, production in first loom also gets down. This is most unscientific as no capital investment is required for the same and secondly it amounts to sheer increase of workload. The same age old loom is being operated. In this connection he referred to the decision of the committee under the Chairmanship of Sri M.C. Banerjee (Special committee of Jute) and it was recommended that no further double loom should be introduced. But the I.J.M.A. has paid no heed to the same. Though the

~~though~~ the Government of West Bengal has accepted the above recommendation of the Jute committee, but the mills were not forced to accept the same. As a result of this there were frequent stoppages in Jute mills. By double loom operation the ~~productivity~~ production can't increase. The production is not the same which would be if ~~xxxxxxx~~ workers would have worked in single loom. It is 25 to 30 percent less.

At present it is noticed that the Double loom operators are forced to employ 'BHAGADAR' to help him in managing production. ~~Es~~ unless the double loom weaver give normal production he is subjected to harassment or may even lose his employment. In other words the weaver by engaging a Bhagadar becomes a contractor. A bhagawalla works along with the weaver and the weaver has to pay him some Rs. 8 to Rs. 10/- per week.

Shri Choudhury then dealt with the employment of women workers in the jute industry. The jute industry is definitely a light industry. The industry used to employ 39, 134 women workers in 1947 but now it has only about 8 or 9 thousand ~~xxxx~~ (957). The strength of ~~xxxx~~ women workers are reduced by the employers to avoid payment of maternity and other legal benefits. He demanded at least 20 to 25 percent of the workers of the days ~~xxxx~~ should be reserved for the women workers.

On the question of fall back wages for the piecerated workers, Sri Choudhury complained that due to the inferior quality of batching, sometime production is affected, the yarn becomes inferior and there are cases that piecerated workers as weavers etc. who are skilled workers do not even get the lowest minimum (as earned by the unskilled mazdoors). For the same the fall back wages must be ensured job wise.

The case of Ladlow Jute Mills stands on a completely different footing, than rest of the mills of India. This mill is highly modernised and does not manufacture conventional jute goods. The raw jute consumption in this mill is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  tons per year per worker whereas in other mills the same is only 4 tons. The demand of better wages and wages scale for the workers of this mill is quite justified.

Shri Choudhury finally concluded that Panditji would rewrite his Autobiography and let us hope that condition of the jute workers would be so changed that the paragraph which was quoted before would be changed by the author and he shall not have to repeat the same.

Q. 241

Shri S M Banerjee: I want to know whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Wage Boards for Jute, Rubber and 3 others is again being appointed the Chairman of the Wage Board; and, if so, whether there is only one man.

Mr. Speaker: Let that fact be given first.

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): I do not think they have taken a decision so far as to who will be the Chairman of this Board. But, we have to weigh this one consideration as to whether the same man should be placed in several boards and whether we are going to have more wage boards or not. The question of suitability has to be considered. I do not think there are too many people who have got that background, and, therefore, will be suited for this.

Shri S M Banerjee: I want to know whether in determining the composition of the Wage Board, the membership of the INTUC, the AITUC and other organisations will be taken into account and the claim of the AITUC will not be rejected because the INTUC figures are inflated.

Shri Nanda: It is always being considered on the basis of the strength of the various organisations.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government has decided, when framing the terms of reference of the Coal Wage Board, that any upward revision in wages will not be considered outside the existing price structure of coal?

Shri Nanda: If we are to confine ourselves to the present price structure, then the wage board need not be set up.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: The answer was not audible, Sir.

Shri Nanda: I said that if any upward revision had to be confined to the existing price structure, then, there would have been no need for a wage board. The fact is that the wage board is free to give its recommendation.

Shri Oza: Has the work of any wage board suffered because the same chairman has been appointed on several wage boards?

Shri Hathi: No; it has not suffered at all.

Ayyar

Q & A (27.4.62) / Vaisakha 7, 1884 (Saka)

1751

बना

Uncorrected-Not for Publication

E-4

Q241 ctd.

श्री अ० प्र० शर्मा : कोल इंडस्ट्री के वेज बोर्ड में ए० आई० टी० यू० सी० का भी नामिनेशन पाने का क्या कोई क्लेम है ?

Shri Hathi: It is not a question of anybody's claim. As my senior colleague said, we do take into consideration the representative character of the unions.

Ends.

Q.246.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it a fact that while the INTUC union has been officially recognised according to the tripartite agreement, the Heavy Electricals Servants Trade Union is being dealt with by the officials in settling the labour disputes in Bhopal and this has created a great deal of discontent among the workers there?

Shri Hathi: All these matters will be looked into by this division later on.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I want to know whether it is a fact or not.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Unless we look into the matter, it would not be safe to pronounce an opinion.

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda):  
The management are dealing with both the unions.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Last time when this question came up at the time of the strike, it was stated here that the management of this concern had accepted the code of discipline. I would like to know whether under that code of discipline, any grievance procedure, as stipulated, has subsequently been formulated and brought into implementation?

Shri Nanda: I cannot offhand say whether this particular concern has brought into implementation the grievance procedure. But it is a part of the code of discipline and I presume it has done so.

Shri S M Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the agreement was reached with the other union and not the INTUC union, because the INTUC union could not deliver the goods and that is not the representative union in Bhopal?

Shri Nanda: These are ~~presumptions~~ <sup>assumptions</sup> which I am not prepared to concede. It depends on the enquiry that we are going to hold.



Q.246 - contd

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: What are the implications of recognising a trade union?

Shri Nanda: Negotiations, collective bargaining, <sup>reaching</sup> agreements - all that is part of recognition.

(ends)

Q 239

Shri S.M. Banerjee: The interim relief recommended by the Jute Wage Board was due to be enforced. The employers of Kanpur went in a writ petition against it and they have lost the writ. It was in the newspapers in the first week of April. So, I want to know when the information will be available.

Shri Hathi: I have also read in the newspapers that the writ application has been dismissed. We have asked the UP Government to send a copy of the judgment and also what action they have taken subsequently.

Mr. Speaker: As soon as it is received, it might be passed on to the hon. Member.

Shri S.M. Banerjee: I want to know whether an agreement has been reached between the representatives of the employers and employees that this amount is to be paid in five instalments, and if so, why instalments have been fixed.

(contd. by E)

Q. 239 contd

Shri Hathi: The State Government are pursuing the matter. But, I would not like to say these things unless I get official information from the U.P. Government.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know whether, in view of the rise in prices, Government is contemplating advising the Wage Board and the owners of West Bengal Jute Mills to give further interim relief to the jute workers?

Shri Hathi: The Wage Board is charged with the function of giving relief and fixing the wage structure. They have given interim relief. In the final result we shall see what they are recommending.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: There has been a further increase.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Banerjee.

Shri S M Banerjee: I want to know whether Government would persuade the employers to pay this - for which they have already taken a decision; and, at the same time, go ahead with the Wage Board. Will the good offices of the hon. Minister be used?

Shri Hathi: The U.P. Government are already pursuing the matter.

(Ends. )

KH/ चौबे  
J-1  
11.40

Q & A (27.4.62) / Vaisakha 7, 1884 (Saka)  
Uncorrected-Not for Publication

1769

(Q. 247 - contd.)

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सच है कि फिजी इस वक्त बर्मा में किसी जगह देखा गया है और ---

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने जवाब तो सुना ही नहीं । वह तो कहते हैं कि वह लन्दन वापस चला गया है ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : लेकिन मेरी जो सूचना है मैं उसके मुताबिक पूछना चाहता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप उनसे पूछना चाहते हैं और उनके पास जो सूचना है वह उन्होंने दे दी है ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : वह इस तथ्य को गलत बताएँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : तब तो यही चलता रहेगा । Order, order. The information that the hon. Minister has got on that point has been given. Now, if again it is said that it is wrong, then the Minister will also have to say that it is wrong. How long are we to go on like that?

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Mr. Phizo's attempt to bolster up leadership for the Naga rebels is having any impact on the Naga hostiles in Naga land; if so, if there has been any impact on them, what steps Government have taken to counteract that impact?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There has not been any impact on the Naga people at all.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter in London Times saying that Mr. Phizo has been in communication with General Cariappa regarding the release of our airmen; if so, whether the Government of India has taken any notice of this particular point?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have seen the report. We have not taken any notice of it. We have not paid any attention to it

Q.247

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether the Government of India have taken up the issue of the disappearance of Phizo with the U.K. Government and whether he has taken political asylum there?

Mr Speaker: The answer has been given that the U.K. Government has been informed that once he had acquired the citizenship of U.K., he is not automatically entitled now to come here and if he makes an attempt to enter India, he might be arrested.

Q.contd by J

(Q. 247 - contd.)

Shri P.R. Patel: We have got friendly relations with Great Britain. A rebel has been given the citizenship of England. I want to know whether any protest has been sent to England on this point?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: He has been given citizenship on the basis of his Indian citizenship.

Shri P.C. Borooah: May I know whether there was an offer from Mr. Phizo about the release of our airmen under the custody of Naga hostiles, and whether his temporary absence from the United Kingdom has any relationship with this offer?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir. We were told that these airmen will be handed over to us on the 22nd March, 1962, but since then nothing has been done.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I would like to know whether Mr. Phizo had any contact with any Indian airlines, because it is stated in that letter that he it was who arranged for the Observer's correspondent Mr. Gavin Young being sent to Naga land.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is possible that he might have arranged for sending Mr. Gavin Young there. He might also have contact with those people through Burma.

Shri S.M. Banerjee: As put by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, I want to know whether Government's attention was drawn to the news recently published in the Indian Express wherein it has been said that Mr. Phizo had written a letter to the family members of these captives that he is in constant touch with General Cariappa and further details could be had from him; if so, I would like know whether this question has been posed to General Cariappa and what are the facts?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: General Cariappa is a private person. If he writes to Mr. Phizo we are not going to interfere and find out what he has written.

(Q. 247 - contd.)

Mr. Speaker: That she has answered, that they have taken no notice of it (Interruption).

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been a widespread impression in Nagaland that Mr. Phizo is returning to Nagaland because of temporary absence from London and his whereabouts were not located; if so, may I know whether the Government would propagate amongst the rebel Nagas or the Nagas in general that Mr. Phizo is at present in London or he is returning to London as otherwise if that impression is kept growing that may step up hostile activities?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The fact that Mr. Phizo is not in Nagaland should convince the people that he is not there.

Mr. Speaker: Now, perhaps, today's answer will convince them.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को इस बात का पता है कि जिस वक्त फीजो नागालैंड के बार्डर के आसपास आया था, तो उसका पीछा किया गया था, लेकिन वह भारतीय फौजों से भाग निकला ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब इसका क्या फायदा होगा ?

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : इसमें कहां तक तथ्य है कि उसका पीछा किया गया था ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बहुत छोटी तफसील है ।

(Contd. by K)

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(Q 247 - contd)

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Shri S C . Jamkr: Previously, Shri Phizo was in Naga/and he went to London of his own accord and acquired British citizenship. So, why not drop the matter? If he wishes to come back to India, let him come by all means. By discussing this matter in this House we are giving him undue importance which is not necessary.

Mr Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

(ends)