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(First Session)



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LOK SABHA

Thursday March 23, 1967/Chaitra 2,
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Computers in LIC

*40. Shri George Fernandes. Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) the number of computers installed at the Offices of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, and their cost

(b) the names of their manufacturers, and how much foreign exchange was spent in buying, hiring or in installing these computers,

(c) whether any study has been made of the money saved through administrative economy as a result of the installation of these computers, and

(d) the number of employees office-wise division-wise who have lost their jobs as a result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant) (a) One computer system has been installed at Bombay Another has been contracted for and is expected to be installed at Calcutta during this year The purchase price of the computer system installed at Bombay was about Rs 42 lakhs (excluding importation charges and sales tax) For the computer system expected to be installed at Calcutta the purchase price is about Rs 40 lakhs (excluding importation charges and sales tax)

(b) The manufacturers of the computer system installed at Bombay are M/s International Business Machines Corporation of USA The manufacturers of the computer system proposed to be installed at Calcutta are M/s International Computers and Tabulators Ltd of UK Payment for the computer at Bombay has been made under a blocked rupee' arrangement Similarly in sanctioning any arrangement for the other computer, the foreign exchange aspect will receive consideration

(c) As the computer at Bombay has so far made only trial runs it is premature to make any such study

(d) None

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डीस क्या यह सच है कि इन दोनों कम्प्यूटरों को अभी तक काम में नहीं लाया गया है और इन दोनों में कुछ ऐसी तांत्रिक प्रसन्नता दिखाई दे रही है, जिस की वजह से इन को काम में लाना असम्भव हो चुका है ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : जैसा कि मैंने अभी कहा है, कलकत्ते वाला कम्प्यूटर अभी नहीं लगा है। बम्बई में एक कम्प्यूटर लग चुका है और महीनों से उस की ट्रायल रन चल रही है।

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डीस : विदेशों में—अमरीका जैसे देश में भी—जब कम्प्यूटर को लगाने का काम होता है, तब उस के जो नतीजे खास तौर पर उस क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों पर होते हैं, उन के बारे में कर्मचारियों और उन के संगठनों से विचार-विमर्श कर के बाद ही ऐसे यंत्रीकरण का प्रयत्न किया जाता है। जब हिन्दुस्तान जैसे

देश में, जहाँ चौबी पंचवर्षीय योजना में भी पचास लाख और बेकारों को बढ़ाने का वादा हमारी सरकार कर चुकी है, सरकार ने लाखों रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च करके कम्प्यूटर लगा कर और कर्मचारियों को बेकार बनाने की योजना बनाई है, तब क्या उसने इस बारे में सम्बन्धित कर्मचारियों, उस के संगठनों और अन्य लोगों से सलाह-मशविरा करने का प्रयास किया था ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : श्रीमन् इस में दो सवाल आते हैं। एक तो कहा गया है कि लाखों रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च हुई है। जैसा कि मैं ने अपने जवाब में कहा है, इस में विदेशी मुद्रा नहीं लगी है—इस में रुपी पेमेंट हुआ है। जहाँ तक छटनी का सवाल है, हम दूसरों देशों के अनुभव पर न जाये, बल्कि देखें कि यहाँ बम्बई में जो कम्प्यूटर लगा है, उस के आधार पर छटनी नहीं हुई है। यह आश्वासन पहले भी दिया जा चुका है।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, previously also, this question was discussed in this House. There is a growing discontent among 40,000 life insurance employees throughout the country on the consequent retrenchment arising from the installation of these computers. The previous Finance Minister promised to discuss this question with the representatives of the All-India Insurance Employees Association. Since he is not here, I would like to know whether the new Finance Minister is prepared to discuss this question *de novo* with the All India Insurance Employees' Association or other allied organisations to see that a mutual agreement is reached before any computer is used.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): May I say that I have gone into this question and I see no reason to reconsider it. The question is not for me to consider; the question is for the LIC to consider. The LIC is an auto-

nomous body and the Finance Minister does not interfere with its day-to-day working. Therefore, if any discussion is to be made by the Union or by the employees, it should be done by them with the Chairman of the LIC.

Shri S. M. Bannerji: Sir, my question has been misunderstood.

Mr. Speaker: It has been answered.

Shri S. M. Bannerji: On a point of clarification. The Finance Minister said in this House that he would go to Bombay personally and see the working of the electronic computer. He promised to go to Bombay and see the working for himself. I know that the LIC is autonomous body. I want to know whether this matter has been discussed with the LIC Chairman and no compromise has been reached.

Shri Morarji Desai: There is going to be no retrenchment on this account.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: The hon. Minister said that there would be no retrenchment just now because of the installation of computers. I want to know whether the employment potential of the LIC will not be affected adversely by the installation of these computers and if so, will it be a wise policy?

Shri Morarji Desai: It will be an unwise policy if we do not do this.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Mr. Madhok's question wanted to elicit an answer to a very important doubt in the minds of the people, namely, that while Government says that at the present moment there is perhaps no danger of retrenchment, potentially the question of retrenchment and unemployment is looming large and he says that Government have done a wise thing. Let him tell us what is the factual position, whether potentially, the employment potential is not going to be endangered by the introduction of this electronic device.

Shri Mierarji Desai: The employment potential will increase by the more efficient working of the LIC because then, its work will go on advancing and developing and more people will be employed as a result thereof. If this is not done, less people will be employed.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मध्यम महोदय, मैं तीन चार मर्तबा खड़ा हुआ हूँ, लेकिन मुझे प्रश्न पूछने का अवसर नहीं दिया गया है।

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : मध्यम महोदय, यह सवाल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस के बारे में और पूरक प्रश्न पूछने का अवसर दीजिए। कई माननीय सदस्य प्रश्न पूछना चाहते हैं।

Mr. Speaker: I have gone to the next Question. Mr. Sezhiyan.

Fourth Five Year Plan

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- *41. **Shri Sezhiyan:**
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri S. Supakar:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri C. C. Desai:
Dr. Karni Singh:
Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi:
Shri Bhogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outlay of the Fourth Five Year Plan has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when Government propose to finalise the Plan and lay it on the Table?

The Minister of Planning Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Draft Outline of the Fourth Plan is being reviewed in the light of latest Economic trends. After this review, the Fourth Plan

proposals will be discussed by the National Development Council and thereafter placed before the Parliament.

Shri Era Sezhiyan: One year of the Fourth Plan has already elapsed. I want to know how much more time will be taken to finalise the Fourth Plan. India is now without a Plan and I want to know whether the Planning Commission will be able to draft the Fourth Plan at least before the Fourth Plan period is over. I want to know the exact date when this will be done.

Shri Asoka Mehta: As far as the Fourth Plan is concerned, we had reached agreement and conclusion with 16 out of the 17 States before the elections. But I believe it is necessary for us to hold fresh discussions with the new governments that have been formed. That is the reason why as far as the State sector is concerned we have got to give them an opportunity to bring up whatever they have to say; we do not want to take anything fixed and final. As far as the Plan of the Union Government is concerned, that also has to be gone into because the economic situation has not picked up as we had hoped it would pick up. We are looking into it, and I believe the National Development Council would like to have a look at all these calculations after we have had an opportunity of discussing it with the Chief Ministers.

Shri Sezhiyan: It has been openly expressed by many Members including those who have been in the Planning Commission till recently that the Planning Commission has to be reorganised and reoriented, which is but a reflection on the working of the Plan itself. I want to know what the Planning Minister has to say about the reorientation and reorganisation of the Planning Commission and the Plan.

Shri Asoka Mehta: That does not arise out of the main question.