

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.343

TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd APRIL, 2017

COLLECTION OF MONEY BY A CHARITABLE TRUST IN VPT

*343. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Dock Labour Board, Visakhapatnam (DLBV) was collecting money for welfare of private pool workers working in Visakhapatnam Port since 1993;
- (b) if so, whether Stevedores Association formed a separate charitable trust without knowledge of the Ministry/ Visakhapatnam Port Trust/DLBV and whether DLBV was asked by the Ministry to allow charitable trust to collect money from private pool workers; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware that the trust swindled a large amount of money so collected, which has led to pitiable condition of workers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SHIPPING

(SHRI NITIN GADKARI)

- (a) The erstwhile Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board (VDLB) was not collecting contributions from workers. On the request of Stevedores and Clearing and Forwarding Agents, VDLB collected discounted levy from them since 24/12/1993 to be transferred to M/sCargoHandling Private Workers Pool (CHPWP) for the welfare of private pool workers.
- (b) The private trust mentioned above (CHPWP) was formed in the year 1993 as a result of the settlement arrived between the private workers represented by their union, the Stevedores Association and the Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association before the Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Visakhapatnam under Section 12 (3) of the Industrial Disputes Act. This is the only Trust functioning for this purpose. CHPWP is purely a private body and the government/port has no role to play in its formation, day to day affairs including administration and functioning.
- (c) In the context of a Writ Petition (No. 16044/2001) filed in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh by the workers against CHPWP the issue of alleged misuse of funds by CHPWP came to the notice of the Ministry. The Ministry sought a report from VDLB and issued order No. LB-11021/21/01-L.I.i dated 27/11/2002 instructing VDLB not to collect any levy on the engagement of private workers. Further, VDLB was also directed to transfer the collected levy to CHPWP after audit of their accounts by the Principal Accountant General. VDLB forthwith stopped the collection of levy and initiated the process of transfer of collected levy to CHPWP. The Writ Petition was subsequently dismissed as withdrawn by the Hon. High Court on 08/03/2002.
