

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3659
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd APRIL, 2017
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRIVATE POOL WORKERS OF VPT

3659. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Dock Labour Board, Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) has collected contributions from workers for the welfare of private pool workers since 1993;
- (b) whether it is a fact that VPT has also authorized the Stevedores Association to form a separate charitable trust for the very same purpose;
- (c) what was the legal basis for VPT to allow two separate bodies to collect money for the very same purpose;
- (d) whether consequently there has been a massive leakage and loss of huge sums of money meant for welfare of workers; and
- (e) the details of status on this issue at VPT?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

- (a) The erstwhile Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board (VDLB) has not collected 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/s Cargo Handling Private Workers Pool (CHPWP) for the welfare of private pool workers.
- (b) No. Sir, VPT has not authorized the Stevedores Associations to form a separate charitable Trust for the purpose. A private trust named 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.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) CHPWP is purely a private body and the government/port has no role to play in its day to day affairs, administration and functioning. 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. The Writ Petition was subsequently dismissed as withdrawn by the Hon. High Court on 08/03/2002.
- (e) The accounts of CPWHP Trust was audited by the office of Principal Accountant General in the year 2010 and no adverse observations were made regarding correctness of the levy transferred to CHPWP by VDLB and the utilisation of funds by CHPWP. Following the instructions of the Ministry VDLB transferred the money accumulated to the Trust but a balance of Rs. 4.4 crore is remaining because of litigation pending before Hon. High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana.
