

Title: Regarding closure of the units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, National Jute Corporation Limited and National Jute Manufacturing Corporation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): The issue of closure of fertilizer units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India was raised on the very floor of this House. Six units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation have been closed and thousands of workers have been thrown out on the streets. In the whole of eastern India consisting of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa, there will be no urea manufacturing units. The farmers of these States will have to buy fertilizer at a higher price.

An assurance was given by the Prime Minister when we met him that at least one fertilizer unit would be there in each State. In spite of the assurance given by the Prime Minister and in spite of the matter having been raised on the floor of the House, all these units have been closed down since 20th of December and the Durgapur Unit was closed down on 20th of January. Children of these workers are still studying in the schools. They have been evicted from their quarters. Water supply and electricity supply have been stopped. Where would the children go? The question as to how farmers would get fertilizer at a cheaper price has not been considered at all.

This is a very important issue. Fifteen thousand workers are still there in the National Jute Corporation Ltd. There are six units – five in West Bengal and one in Bihar. The Government, very recently has issued orders to close down all these six units of the NJMC. As a result of this, all the 15000 workers are on the streets. They have not received their salaries for the last six months. Five workers have committed suicide and two workers have died because of starvation. In spite of that, their salaries have not been paid and the Government has decided to close down all these units of the NJMC. As a result of this, jute growers of West Bengal also have suffered. I urge upon the Government to reconsider their decision to close down the fertilizer units as well as the units of the NJMC.

श्री सुनील खां (दुर्गापुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बसुदेव आचार्य जी के साथ सहमत हूँ लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि 6 यूनिट्स के साथ जो मेरा दुर्गापुर यूनिट है, ये लोग कोर्ट में गये थे, जो बीस दिसम्बर तारीख थी और ये लोग हाइ-कोर्ट में गये थे और हाइ-कोर्ट ने 20 जनवरी तक का स्टे ऑर्डर दिया था और जब स्टे ऑर्डर की तारीख खत्म हो गयी तो उसके बाद इन्होंने क्या किया है कि जो रजनीश गोयल, आई.ए.एस., आपके मंत्रालय के डायरेक्टर हैं, उन्होंने क्या कहा है कि हम दुर्गापुर यूनिट के लोगों को सबक सिखाएंगे। जैसे दूसरी 6 यूनिट्स में पेमेंट्स की गई है लेकिन दुर्गापुर यूनिट में अभी तक कोई पेमेंट भी नहीं की गई है और सिर्फ इतना ही नहीं, जो अस्पताल है, जो स्कूल चल रहा है, उसको भी बंद कर दिया गया। उसका पेमेंट भी नहीं किया गया। जिस तरह से जो हल्दिया है, बरौनी है, रामागुंडम है, उसमें करीब-करीब 200-215 आदमियों को पोस्ट-क्लोजर जॉब्स करी आउट करने के लिए रख लिया है

लेकिन जो दुर्गापुर है, वहां सिर्फ 10 आदमी रखे हैं। इसीलिए जो काम है, वे लोग सारा काम नहीं कर पाते हैं। दुर्गापुर यूनिट के लोगों को तनखाह भी नहीं मिली है और जो रजनीश गोयल, आई.ए.एस. है, मैं कहूंगा कि सरकार को शर्म आनी चाहिए कि उन लोगों को अभी तक तनखाह भी नहीं दी गई है। **वेई!** (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Seth, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar and Shri Bikash Chowdhury will also be allowed to associate themselves with Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, one unit of HFCL belongs to my constituency. This factory has been closed with effect from 20th December. Also, the employees have been relieved from duty with effect from 6th January, 2003. Most of the workmen have not been paid their dues as promised by the Government of India on the plea that they are staying in their quarters. The hon. Minister assured that till the examinations of the students were over, the workmen would be allowed to stay in their quarters. But, as I said earlier, the workmen have not been paid their dues. As a result of that, they are starving. They are not getting wages and they are not getting their other dues as a result of their staying in the quarters. So, my earnest request is that the workmen, who are willing to take the quarters, must be allowed to take the quarters. They should be allowed to possess the quarters so that they can continue to stay in their quarters and flats. The students also can continue their studies.

Sir, it is most inhuman on the part of the Government to have done this. That is why, we seek your intervention in this matter.