

(v) Need to look into the pilfering and adulteration of LSHS meant for Atomic Power Station Rawathbhata near Kota, Rajasthan

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (Nagaur): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister was informed by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) in letter dated 31.12.1991 that at three/four places on Baroda-Ahmedabad Highway, a well-knit gang was involved in theft and adulteration of petroleum products being consumed by the Atomic Power Station, Rawathbhata near Kota. This Atomic Power Station takes approximately twenty tankers per day of LSHS, a petroleum product, from Baroda Refinery. The drivers/transporters of these tankers are pilfering ten to twenty drums from these tankers *en route* and mixing water to equalise the weight. The white cement plants situated in Rajasthan are also taking LSHS from Baroda Refinery. They have immediately detected contamination in their fuel, that is, LSHS and taken action against drivers/transporters. They also brought this to the notice of the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL). NCCL had sent a team to enquire into the matter and found that on Baroda-Ahmedabad Highway, there were four places, that is, Baraja, Ratanpur, Peopelak Chowkeri and Padamala where a few people were engaged in pilfering and adulteration of petroleum products. They frequently change their venues of operation also.

Private companies have started thorough checking before unloading of these tankers to avoid any quality problem/production loss but the heavy water plant at Rewatbhata which is fully owned by the Government of India has not taken any action so far. The Government of India is not only losing lakhs of rupees on account of this pilferage but plant and machinery worth several crores of rupees of this Atomic Power Station are also at stake due to adulteration in LSHS supplies. More than four months have passed when this matter was brought to the notice of the Government but no action has been taken so far. Thefts are taking place. Hence, I request the Central

Government to conduct an immediate enquiry in the matter.

(vi) Need to hold negotiations with Bangladesh for ensuring repatriation of illegal immigrants to that country

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, recently an agreement was arrived at between Bangladesh and Myanmar (Burma) Governments, after several rounds of discussion in respect of the repatriation of Muslim refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar. According to the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, the number of refugees stood at approximately 2,23,000. They had come to Bangladesh as a sequel to the happenings in Myanmar. The agreement needs to be welcomed as early 2,23,000 persons will go back to their motherland.

During the Bangladesh war between India and Pakistan, lakhs of Pakistani nationals came to India illegally. Even after formation of Bangladesh, there is a steady stream of illegal immigrants. While they were initially staying near border areas, during the course of twenty years they have spread to different parts of the country. This illegal immigration has been causing social tensions. Many of them have even got enrolled as voters. This has also become a security threat to the country.

It therefore, demand that Government of India should hold immediate negotiations with Bangladesh and ensure that all illegal immigrants are repatriated on the lines of Bangladesh - Myanmar accord.

(vii) Need to withdraw the levy of export duty on finished leather goods

SHRIC. SREENIVASSAN (Dindigul): A levy of 10 per cent as export duty on certain types of finished leather has been proposed in the Budget. This has already resulted in steep hike in prices of leather goods due to which foreign buyers are turning to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka markets where the export prices of finished leather are

[Sh. C. Sreenivassan]

considerably less. This will, in turn, greatly affect the foreign exchange earnings of about Rs. 800 crores per annum out of the export of this item.

Moreover, Sir, the leather industry is already facing recession because of other external factors. With the continuing recession and the proposed burden of 10 per cent export duty on finished leather, it is feared several lakhs of employees engaged in the leather industry as also in the export business particularly in Dindigul in Tamil Nadu, which is under my constituency, will be displaced thus aggravating the unemployment situation in the country. Any proposal for levy on leather would only lead to retardation in production and export of leather items and foreign exchange earnings.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this matter and take immediate action to withdraw the proposed 10 per cent export duty on finished leather so that the interests of exports and the people engaged in this industry may be protected.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.25 p.m.

14.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till

Twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the clock

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

FINANCE BILL, 1992 - CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee to continue her speech on the Finance Bill

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Hon. Chairman, to refresh the memory of the House. I shall give a very brief gist of the points made by me yesterday.

I observed, this Finance Bill will enrich the richer and hit the poorer. In this connection, I mentioned that eighty per cent of the Government revenue still comes from the indirect taxes whose burden is being borne by the commonmen. I pointed out, how the decision to allow big industrial houses to open their own mutual funds and exempting such funds from income-tax will lead to speculation rather than inducing industrial production. I took exceptions to the exemptions to Wealth Tax and some of the Capital Gains Tax. I pointed out that these things are hitting not only poor men but also small scale industry sector which is still a biggest employer in our country. I mentioned the suicide and starvation deaths taking place among the textile workers.

Today I will straight away come to the point on which I was talking in the middle. That is the question of resource mobilisation. Yesterday, some Members of this House have rightly pointed out that there is a possibility of serious drought this year and some are also talking about cyclone. I believe both may be there. Undoubtedly this is a very dangerous situation.

Yesterday, I objected to the fact that this Government is refusing to tax a very big section, that is rural rich, while it is making all attempts to enrich the richer. They are not touching the rural rich. I would like to state here that during the Question Hour, something was discussed about raising of procurement prices and strike in the *mandis* of Punjab on the one hand and on the other, there was this question of why should the Government import wheat. The hon. Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi actually played a very innocent role. He neither denied that they had decided to import nor had he said that they would import it. But he said one thing, the implications of which he kept rather hidden. He said, "Yes, the Government wanted to import at a particular moment but it has not yet decided upon it."