

If urgent steps are not taken, many starving workmen will die.

(viii) Need to open the closed units and to make the sick units stable

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : In response to the call of the National Campaign Committee, lakhs of industrial workers throughout the country are observing an All-India Day on May 15, against lock-out, closure, retrenchment and de-notification, which are playing havoc with the lives of hundreds of workers. Sir, as per the Government's own admission, 80,110 industrial units reported sick in 1983. And, during the last 16 months, *i.e.*, upto April, 1985, the number of sick units has increased more. The total outstanding bank credit amounting to Rs. 3,101,29 crores is involved. The analysis of RBI indicated that the factors contributory to sickness included mismanagement and management deficiencies, faulty initial planning, market recession, power-cuts, shortage of raw materials, etc. The conscious workers and their unions had pointed out these above factors a number of times. Now, the menace is not only playing havoc with the lives of lakhs of workers but it has caused a huge amount of loss of public exchequer. Therefore, the Government should come forward with all vigorous steps to save the industries and lives of the workers. The Central Government should immediately reopen the closed units and make the sick units viable to rejuvenate the economy of our country.

[*Translation*]

(ix) Need to provide loans in time to harijan farmers and unemployed youth by banks in Sriganganagar district

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to my own constituency. The main occupation of the people in Shriganganagar district is agriculture and there is predominance of Scheduled Castes there. Most of the Harijan families come in the category of selected families. Punjab National Bank is the Lead Bank of this area and there are many branches of other banks also, but the farmers are not being given loan by the banks in time under the integrated rural development schemes as a result of which the farmers are not benefited. Time and again the farmers have to face many hundles and difficulties. Loans

are not disbursed in time, which results not only in loss of agricultural production, but also loss of national production. The Central Government and the State Governments are supporting the farmers in this regard and are bent upon bringing about rural and agricultural development.

Lesser amounts of loans are being advanced for agricultural production and development than those advanced to trade and industry. A very meagre amount is advanced as loan under D. I. R., as a result of which the farmers are not benefited properly.

Compound interest is realised on the principal amount. The banks are not following properly the policies and the rules laid down by the Central Government for disbursement of loans to the educated unemployed. The condition of unemployed persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes is very pitiable in my district.

I would, therefore, request the Union Finance Minister to take the following steps to remove the increasing difficulties in this regard :

- (1) The families identified as the poorest should be given loans without delay.
- (2) More persons should be given loan under the D. I. R. Scheme.
- (3) The procedure for granting of loans should be simplified.
- (4) Loans to unemployed Harijan Youths should be given on priority basis under the scheme of providing employment to the unemployed.

[*English*]

(x) Need for early construction of a fishing harbour at Astorang (Orissa)

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagatsinghpur) : Government of India through their pre-investment survey of Fishing Harbour, while making connaissance survey of Orissa Coast in 1974 selected Astorang as a site of fishing harbour. In the year 1976 the Government of India prepared a project report for construction of fishing harbour at an estimated cost of Rs. 66 lakhs. Subsequently, the tropical products institute, Ministry of Overseas Development, London prepared a project report for this harbour at an estimated cost of Rs. 291.40 lakhs.