

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.

Subsequently, the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, prepared detailed plan and estimates at an estimated cost of Rs. 451.80 lakhs. Then the Director, Pre-investment Survey of Fishing Harbour, Bangalore has updated the estimate at Rs. 425 lakhs.

After that the Government of India have not taken any step to expedite the implementation of the project. If a Fishing Harbour is established at Astorang it will go a long way in boosting the fishing development in Orissa. As a large number of the people in Orissa earn their livelihood from fishing, step should immediately be taken for the development of fishing in that State.

In view of this, I demand that a Fishing Harbour be constructed at Astorang in Orissa without any further delay.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I propose that we can skip the lunch-break today, to complete the pending business of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think all of you agree to this and now we will take up the next item of the business. Mr. Ashok Sen Minister of Law and Justice, is now to reply to the Discussion under Rule 193.

DISCUSSION ON THE URGENT NEED FOR JUDICIAL REFORMS IN THE COUNTRY—(Contd.)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHOK SEN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am so glad that this discussion has disclosed how unanimous different sections of the House are so far as the problem of judiciary is concerned. It is like the Election Commission or the Army, one matter on which all parties converge and their views cut across party line and I may refer to what Mr. Churchill said in 1954 when he moved for increasing the salary of judges from old time £ 3500—it was the salary for hundred years before the war—to £ 8000. It was in 1954, a reasonable sum.

Today, of course, as you know, it has gone up to £ 50,000 and for the Court of Justice, £ 60,000. in England. Then, he said this if I may quote what he said in 1954 on the 23rd March in the House of Commons.

It is something worth reading because whenever our judges and our judicial administration become the subject of controversy, either here or outside, I feel very alarmed and there is no reason why the judges of our judicial administration should ever be brought under politics or in to controversy. This is what Churchill said on 23rd March, 1954 while as the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, he moved for increasing the salary of judges. All of you have said that the conveyance allowance of Rs. 500 should be increased to something more; all of you have said that Rs. 3500 in 1950 was something, but today it is nothing. This is what Churchill had said :

“There is nothing like them at all in our Island.”

He was very proud of the Island, *i.e.* United Kingdom. He said :

“They are appointed for life. They cannot be dismissed by the executive Government. They cannot be dismissed by the Crown either by the Prerogative or on the advice of Ministers. They have to interpret the law according to their learning and conscience. They are distinguishable from the great officers of State and other servants of the Executive, high or low, and from the leaders of commerce and industry. They are also clearly distinguishable from the holders of less exalted judicial office. Nothing but an address from both Houses of Parliament, assented to by the Crown, can remove them.”

Then, he said further :

“The principle of the complete independence of the judiciary from the executive is the foundation of many things in our island life.”

I am glad that Prof. Madhu Dandavate is here. Our Prime Minister, while laying the foundation stone of the new Bar Council building at Delhi said in unequivocal terms that we wanted a fearless and independent judiciary, because that is the greatest safeguard for our democratic institutions. Nothing better can be said except to quote our Prime Minister.