

the land at a nominal price by resorting to corrupt practices and against whom strictures have been passed by the Court.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I would like to bring to the notice of the House the chronic problems of the jute industry, especially in West Bengal. To help this industry to survive, it was decided that the DGS & D would regularly purchase about 50,000 bales of jute/bags every month. But due to the decision of the Government to wind up this department, they have stopped purchasing the jute bags. The Food Corporation of India has also reduced the purchase of 5000 tonnes of gunny bags.

The compulsory use of gunny bags for packing was enforced through an Act of Parliament in 1987 but not only that Act has been violated but also vitally important items like cement, fertilizer, sugar etc. are being packed in synthetic bags. This is causing problems for the jute industry and the people employed in it.

In West Bengal because of losses of order most of the jute mills have shut down 70 per cent of sacking looms and 10 per cent of Hessian looms have been closed down. About 50,000 Badli workers are out of job.

In my constituency the Gagalbhai, New and North Jute Mills, and the Delta Jute Mills along with others are facing serious problems.

If the Central Government does not strictly prohibit the use of the synthetic bags insist on purchase of jute bags, many of the jute mills will close down soon. This intervention would alone save the jute industry.

The Central Government should intervene immediately and take appropriate measures to save the jute industry from closure.

I would request the Government to ask all the Government departments and Corpo-

rations to use gunny bags for their packages and strictly implement the compulsory use of the Jute Packaging Act, 1987.

I would also request the Government to use of synthetic bags for packaging by any Government agency and stop importing synthetic granuels; and ensure that no jute mill is closed and no workers are retrenched and all the casual workers get back their jobs again.

Sir, you will be surprised that even the recommendation of BIFR is not being implemented properly. The BIFR recommended the financial help to the Konaria jute mill in my constituency; within one month they asked the financial institutions to provide the fund to the mill. But 16 months have passed. The financial institutions are quarreling and they are not helping the jute mill. The jute mills are facing a serious problem and the jute workers are in serious trouble. Jute earns a huge amount of foreign exchange for our country and that industry should not be finished in this way in conspiracy with the synthetic bag producers.

I demand that the Government should meet these demands and save the jute industry. The Minister of Textiles should make a statement on this in the House immediately.

SHRIGUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir, I have to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the similar problem which is being faced on account of growing atrocities by the terrorists in the extreme, region, Terai region of U.P., Punjab and Kashmir and on account of which, the growth of commerce and industry has stopped and the labour is suffering a lot.

Sir, I have to state that the industries located in these regions, particularly Ludhiana, U.P. Terai area, suffered very much and in order to protect the labour, the IDBI, IFCI and financial institutions must be asked by the Government to provide more concessions and also to ensure that there is no closure of any industry industries on account of that.

The Government must seriously consider the phasing of the repayment of loans and interests in particular besides other financial and industrial issues. The Government must also issue directions to the financial institutions to treat the industries located in these areas as a special case on a separate footing.

It is requested that a small Committee must be appointed by the Government to take care of the small industries and also it can quickly go into the whole question and suggest a package of concessions to enable these industrial units to tide over the present unusual and difficult situation.

This is very essential and urgent since the above three regions, the Terai areas of UP, Punjab and Kashmir were by and large peaceful earlier. But now particularly after the coming of Punjab terrorists into the Terai area, the industrial growth has become impossible in that area. The Government should therefore encourage the industries to come up in these backward and far flung areas.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first I must thank you for calling me at last.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In return I should thank you if you were to stick to him.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, a serious and disturbing thing had happened in Orissa. The Orissa Lok Pal and Lok Ayukt Act 1970, which received the Presidential assent in 1971, had been all of a sudden repealed by the Orissa Government by an Ordinance promulgated by the Governor, as you know, on 15th last, within two days this is important—of the adjournment of the State Assembly. The State Assembly met on 11th 13th July. Within two days of the adjournment of the State Assembly, there was an Ordinance promulgated repealing the Lok Pal and Lok Ayukt Act.

Before the Lok Pal, serious allegations

of corruption involving three Cabinet Ministers were pending. And similar allegations of impropriety and also corruptions against other dignitaries were pending. The entire political leadership and the people who are in power were upset by the impartial way the Lok Pal was discharging its duty.

Such repealing of the Act is unethical and undemocratic. I believe since it is in the Concurrent List, it receives the President's assent, without referring to the Government of India.

Without President's permission, repealing of this Act is unconstitutional and illegal. Thus it is very much ill intended. I would request the Government of India, particularly the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, who is present here, to look into it. They should intervene and see that the Constitutional propriety and democratic principles are upheld in this country. (Interruptions). It is a serious matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: It is a serious matter. The institution of Lok Pal is very important. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: This is a very serious matter. The hon. Minister should respond and something should be done. (Interruptions).

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: Sir, I agree that the point raised by the hon. Members is a serious one. I will definitely ask the concerned Minister to look into and get the information. We will then see whether it is Constitutional impropriety or illegality whatever it is. We will keep them informed.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a reported information that a number of senior IAS officers in Karnataka have asked for repatriation. A statement has been issued by the hon.