

[श्री तवल किशोर शर्मा]

गिरावट की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ और उनको इस संबंध में एक वक्तव्य देने की मांग करना हूँ।

(iii) FUNCTIONING OF AIR AND DOOR-DARSHAN

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (AZAMGARH) : All India Radio and Doordarshan are very important national media of mass communication. They should function in a manner that people are informed and educated on important national policies, programmes and issues. Besides, they should also help in informing the people of important national and international developments. Though they are functioning under government control, they should be objective and impartial in conveying the information and messages to the people whether they relate to the government, Opposition or any other section of the society.

I have been watching very closely for sometime the functioning of AIR and Doordarshan and have seen that the Opposition view points though of public importance both inside and outside Parliament are being systematically blacked out and also distorted in the News Bulletins as well as 'Today in Parliament'. The views expressed by Opposition members even of the most national and international issues through Questions, Calling Attention Notices, Privilege Motions, Adjournment Motions and Parliamentary debates are either completely blacked out or, if given at all, only a very passing reference is made. The Ministry is virtually using the media to propagate the ruling party's view points. I would not contest the right of the government to project its policies and achievements through the media but in a Parliamentary democracy it will be a very unhealthy trend to black out or distort the Opposition points of view.

I have also found a disturbing trend in AIR and Doordarshan the way they have been reporting the unfortunate incidents in Moradabad and other parts of the country which do not help to create an atmosphere of amity and communal harmony.

Both AIR and Doordarshan should not be made into the mouthpieces of the ruling party only. This is a serious trend which should be immediately corrected. Through you I am drawing the attention of the House and the Government for immediate corrective measures.

MR CHAIRMAN: Shri Janardhana Poojary—absent.

Shri Satyagopal Misra.

(iv) SHORTAGE OF HANK-YARN IN WEST BANGAL

(SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Teml k) : Thousands of weavers in the State of West Bengal are facing unemployment due to the shortage of hank-yarn. For the same reason the Handloom Industry of the said State is also in great crisis.

In fact, West Bengal is not self-supported in the field of hank-yarn production. The total requirement of hank-yarn in the State is 15,000 bales per month. Out of this quantity, 2,500 bales are required by the Government agencies like the Handloom Apex-Cooperative Society, and 800 bales for the production of controlled cloth. But the local availability of hank-yarn is only 300 bales per month. To meet the necessity, the State Government has to depend upon the Central Government and the South-Western region of the country. Recently, the Central Government has taken a distribution system of hank-yarn; but from this distribution system, the State of West Bengal is not benefited. The hon'ble Minister of Cottage and Small-scale Industries of West Bengal has written a letter, in this regard to the hon. Minister of Commerce, Government of India. But no action has been taken so far.

The non-availability of hank-yarn is resulting in a very grave situation :

(a) Persons of vested interest are taking advantage of the situation, and the prices of hank-yarn are rising up.

(b) The poor Weavers are facing unemployment.

(c) The production of controlled cloth in the State is seriously affected by this problem.

Under these circumstances, the people, who are poor and who live below the poverty line will face tremendous hardship due to the lack in production of controlled cloth. The situation is so grave that thousands of weavers who live on handloom industry will be facing the stern reality of starvation if the Central Government do not come forward to their rescue by way of arranging for the supply of hank-yarn at a reasonable rate.

(v) NEED FOR MORE RAILWAY LINES AND A RAILWAY COACH FACTORY IN KERALA

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Movelikara) : Sir, may I bring to your kind notice a very strong feeling of neglect of Kerala by the Centre in regard to new

railway lines and undertakings. It has been stated in this House itself that the all India average of railway line per 1 lakh population is 11.1 kilometres, while that in Kerala is only 4.3 kilometres. Out of the total railway line of 65,000 kilometres in the country, only 900 kilometres are in Kerala. There is no important railway establishment also in Kerala, not even a railway workshop. Kerala is the only state having not even a single railway undertaking.

Now the Railway Ministry is proposing to set up a Railway Coach Factory and a committee under the overall charge of the General Manager, Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, has been constituted for the purpose, Kerala is a state with most acute unemployment problem in the country. If the proposed Coach Factory is established in Kerala, this will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem to a certain extent. Further, electricity is available at cheap rates, skilled and unskilled labour and all other basic facilities and infrastructure required are available in plenty. The Chief Minister of Kerala has written to the Railway Minister in this regard.

Under the circumstances, I request the Railway Minister to consider sympathetically Kerala's claim and take decision to establish the proposed Coach Factory in Kerala.

(vi) DECANALISATION OF IMPORT OF RAW CASHEW NUTS.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN (Adoor) : I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the relentless working of a powerful lobby sponsored by an influential section of private cashew manufacturers of Kerala aimed at decanalisation of the import of raw cashew nuts. The Canalisation of import of cashewnuts through Cashew Corporation of India was introduced in 1970 on the basis of the recommendations made by an export committee appointed by Government of India. Prior to canalisation, fierce competition prevailed in the industry which had resulted in the ruination of a large number of units throwing out hundreds and thousands of employees out of employment. It was to save the industry from this cut-throat competition that canalisation of import and distribution of raw nuts on an equitable basis were introduced. Imported raw nuts were distributed to each factory on the basis of the number of workers employed. Payment of minimum wages and other statutory benefits to workers was also a pre-condition for eligibility of raw nuts allocation by C.G.I. These safeguards have been put into effect to ensure a measure of stability in the industry and to protect the legitimate interests of the workers.

The move to decanalise the import will cut at the very root of these controls and regulations and will revive the old ruinous competition with all its disastrous consequences. The Kerala Cashew Development Corporation which constitutes the largest single unit in the whole cashew processing industry in the country and which runs 34 factories with a complement of 36,000 workers has strongly opposed decanalisation.

Even though there has not been any basic change in the policy of the government, certain recent developments have created apprehension in the minds of the cashew workers and the people at large about the continuance of the policy of canalisation of import of cashew nuts. The sharp fall in the import of cashew nuts by CGI in the current year and at the same time certain private processors succeeding in importing nuts through special permission etc. have strengthened this apprehension. Therefore, I request the Government to reject the demand for decanalisation of import and instead strengthen and improve the activities of the Cashew Corporation with a view to ensure maximum amount of import of raw nuts.

(vii) INCLUSION OF SOME MORE CASTES UNDER THE CATEGORIES OF SCHEDULED CASTES/SCHEDULED TRIBES.

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala) : Under Rule 377, with your permission, I want to make mention of an urgent matter of public importance.

There is persistent demand from scheduled caste and scheduled tribes from all corners of the country that the provision of the Constitution pertaining to reservation in services and other economic and educational concessions are not being implemented in spirit. But there are numerous other unfortunates who inspite of being real member of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes families, are not recognised as such. As a result of which they cannot even put in their claims for such concessions.

The 'Dhobies' are not recognised as scheduled castes in several parts of the country inspite of their unclean occupation. Even the Balmikies of Andaman and 'Chirmars' of Kerala are not recognised as scheduled castes. More than 40 lakh scheduled tribes working in tea gardens of Assam alone are not included in the list of scheduled tribes. Similar is the position in other parts of the country.

On top of it there are some influential and affluent communities, who though never suffered from any social stigma or hatred and were never subjected to any