

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy]

Railways and Air India are the worst offenders. The State Government has minimised the debilitation by creating a Slum Board. I demand the creation of a National Slum Improvement Board to provide basic amenities for poor people of the city of Bombay and other towns.

(xii) SUPPLY OF CEMENT AND COAL FOR RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT

श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा (पानी) : राजस्थान नहर देश की एक महत्वपूर्ण योजना है, यह देश की सब से बड़ी नहर होगी जो प्रतिवर्ष 31 लाख टन अनाज उत्पन्न कर देश की हरित क्रांति में एक नया कीर्तिमान स्थापित करेगी। परन्तु केन्द्रीय सरकार की असहृदय धीमी गति ने इस योजना का काम ठप्प कर दिया है। न तो इसे सीमेंट उपलब्ध किया है और न कोयला, पिछले 1979-80 में कोयला न मिलने के कारण 9 करोड़ की धनराशि लेप्त हो गई। पिछले वर्ष 1 लाख 90 हजार टन कोयला मिलना था, केवल 19 हजार टन कोयला ही बड़ी मेहरबानी से मिला, इस वर्ष पिछले 9 महीनों में 72 रैक कोयला मिलना था, केवल 8 रैक कोयला आज तक उपलब्ध किया गया और राजस्थान को इस के लिए केवल मांस की 50 प्रतिशत सीमेंट मिली है। किस तरह यह योजना पूरी होगी, इस के बिना कौन दोषी ठहराया जायेगा, इस का उत्तर भविष्य ही देगा। मैं सरकार से पुरजोर अपील करता हूँ कि वह युद्ध स्तर पर राजस्थान कैनल को प्राथमिक कोयला व सीमेंट दे कर इस के बढ़ते हुए प्रवर्धन के प्रयत्न वहीं रुकने दे।

(xiii) ECONOMIC CONDITION FOR WEAVERS

श्री हरिकेश बहगुन (गोरखपुर) : सभापति महोदय, मैं निबन्ध 377 के अन्तर्गत यह वक्तव्य देना चाहता हूँ कि आज देश में बुनकरों की आर्थिक स्थिति अत्यन्त दयनीय हो गई है। बुनकर शोषण के शिकार हैं। उन्हें पर्याप्त ऋण भी नहीं दिया जाता जिस से कि अपना काम सुचारु रूप से कर

सकें। सूत और कैमिक्ल की कीमतों के बढ़ने से बुनकरों पर आर्थिक बोझ बढ़त जा रहा है जिससे हथकरघा उद्योग के विकास पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। सूत के मूल्य के बढ़ने का कारण नेशनल टेक्सटाइल्स कारपोरेशन के बहुत से कारखानों द्वारा सूत का न बनाया जाना भी है। अतः सरकार को शीघ्र यह निर्देश देना चाहिए कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के कारखाने सूत का उत्पादन करें जिस से सूत का मूल्य कम हो सके, साथ ही सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से बुनकरों को सूत और कैमिक्ल उपलब्ध कराये जाय और उन्हें पर्याप्त ऋण दिया जाय ताकि वे अपना कारोबार प्रभावी ढंग से चला सकें। इस सम्बन्ध में बैंकों को उचित निर्देश तत्काल दिये जाने चाहिए।

(xiv) UNDERSTAFFING OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES

SHRI N. SELVARAJU (Tiruchirappalli): I would draw the attention of the House to the understaffing of Telegram offices throughout India in general, and Tiruchirappalli division in particular. The shortage of staff in the telegraphist cadre is so alarming that many circuits/working stations are being kept unattended for a very long time, causing heavy delay in transmitting important telegrams and consequently telling upon the efficiency of the service.

For example, Tiruchirappalli office has at present a sanctioned strength of 59 telegraphists. If the recommendations of the staff inspection unit, appointed by the government in 1974 is given effect to, then this strength has to be increased to 69. Shortage of 10 telegraphists amounts to 10 x 6.7-67 manhours is not at all compensated by recruitment of additional staff. Apart from this there is understaffing due to shortage, and inadequate leave reserve and impractical standards for calculation of staff sanction.

I demand sanction of staff on a more rational and practical basis. Staff should be sanctioned on circuit

basis, on the basis of working hours of an office and on the basis of actual number of telegrams handled. This will not only relieve the mental and physical strain on the workers due to over-working but will also increase and maintain the efficiency of the efficiency of the telegraph service in transmitting telegrams, both express and ordinary, in time.

(XV) REPATRIATES FROM SRI LANKA.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (Chengalpattu): I wish to bring to the notice of this august House the pathetic condition of, and the poor treatment accorded to, Sri Lanka repatriates in our country, especially those who settled in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

As per the agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India in the year 1970 the repatriates are being sent to India year by year for settlement and rehabilitation in India. In the year 1970, 170 families were settled at Asthinapur in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Some of them were provided with employment in Madhan Industries Ltd., at Asthinapur. Nearly 3,000 families were settled at Guntakkal, Nellore, Rajamandri, Seerla, Vishakapatnam and Karimnagar in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Nearly 15000 families were settled in various places in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Employment opportunities are give to one person in the family even if the family consists of 10 to 15 members. The wages paid to them are only Rs. 3.05 per day. The wages are paid only on working days. Housing, water and medical facilities provided to them are very poor. They are made to live in small huts in remote corners of towns and cities. In spite of their repeated appeals, the concerned authorities have not chosen to take any steps to improve their condition. Hence, many families had to suffer

due to starvation, inadequacy of water and medical aid. It is reported that every day one person or the other is dying of starvation and lack of medical facilities. It was brought to my notice that so far nearly, 5,000 people have died of starvation and lack of medical facilities.

When the repatriates brought their pitiable condition to the notice of Shri B. R. K. Shastri, I.A.S, Sub-Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government, Revenue (Rehabilitation) Department, Hyderabad, instead of considering their demand sympathetically, he issued a circular No. EOPS 20 80 dated 25-10-80 to the various collectors of Andhra Pradesh with some directions not to give any financial or other assistance to the Sri Lanka repatriates.

It appears he was so cruel and unkind as to instruct the concerned persons not to give any financial assistance even if there was any personal misfortune, death etc. It is worth mentioning here some of the averments in the circular:

"If there is any personal misfortune, the management should arrange for cremation or burial and should not give more than Rs. 10 for sundry expenses. If it is for medical assistance, they should purchase and arrange for transport like purchase of ticket etc. Under no circumstances a repatriate should be given more than Rs. 10 in cash for any purpose whatsoever."

Copies of this circular were also circulated to all the mill-owners, factory owners, farm owners etc., wherever these repatriates were employed. This resulted in inhumane treatment and harassment by the employers.

I understand that the Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 15,000