

Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd December, 1981."

The motion was adopted.

15.06 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: STEPS TO SET UP INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS UNDER CENTRAL SECTOR IN WEST BENGAL —Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :
 Now we shall take up further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri Chitta Basu on 11th September, 1981:—

"This House recommends that urgent steps be taken to set up certain industrial projects under the Central Sector like petrochemical complex at Haldia, as proposed by the Government of West Bengal, without further delay for the over-all development of that State."

Mr. Chitta Basu may now speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):
 Sir, on the last occasion I merely read out the Resolution, but I do not like to read it again now only in order to save the time. But it is necessary for me to inform the House that the Resolution concerns the steps to set up certain industrial projects under the Central Sector in West Bengal. The thrust of the Resolution is that there should be more investment under the Central Sector in the State of West Bengal.

To begin with, I would like to make it clear that I have got no

parochial or narrow or only the interest which concerns the State of West Bengal alone, and I would implore upon you and the House that you should take this Resolution in that spirit, not in the spirit of acrimony, not in the spirit of accusing anybody, not in the spirit of raising certain issues which belong only to a certain State. As, a matter of fact, I would implore upon the Ministry of Industry to have a comprehensive view of the basic problem now being faced by the State of West Bengal. Sir, I speak with a sense of agony and this sense of agony is not only my agony, but my expression of the agonies of the entire population of my State of West Bengal. And naturally, West Bengal being an important unit in the entire North-Eastern region, this move is nothing but an expression of agonies of the entire population of the North-East region of our country.

Sir, as you know, the House is well aware of the fact that West Bengal which was a pioneer in the industrialisation at a certain stage of our development in the country as a whole is now in the deep morass of stagnation and there has been constant decline of industrial growth for some years. Naturally, this industrial stagnation and the decline has resulted in an explosive magnitude of unemployment and various other problems attendant thereupon. In order to drive home this particular point of industrial stagnation in West Bengal, I want to place before the House certain relevant facts.

Sir, as you know, during the Third Five Year Plan, 1961-65, the State of West Bengal recorded the highest growth rate in the country. These are all on record. But after the Third Plan, the process of stagnation and decline set in and unfortunately the Fourth Five Year Plan which followed could not take a sufficient or adequate steps to arrest

[Shri Chitta Basu]

this process of stagnation or decline. Therefore, the process continued. You will also understand from certain relevant facts in this regard. Now let us see what has been the total amount of Plan investment for the industrial development of West Bengal? The total outlay for industrial and mineral products in the Central Sector in the country during the Fourth Plan was Rs. 3750 crores. West Bengal accounted for only 4% of the total investment of the country.

Now you come to the Fifth Plan. In the Fifth Five Year Plan the outlay country was Rs. 9033 crores, almost three times of the allocation of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Unfortunately my agony is that again West Bengal accounted for only 4%. Earlier 4% and again in the Fifth Plan when it was necessary to arrest this process of decline and stagnation, more investment was necessary and called for, but again the investment was only 4% of the national allocation. I also want to give in this respect certain illustration. I want to mention certain industries and then I shall give a total picture. Take for instance Engineering industry. Once upon a time Engineering industry was very much prosperous in the State of West Bengal. While in 1963 West Bengal accounted for 1/3rd of the country's total engineering production, by 1968 its share came down to 21.7% and this decline did not stop there. It further continued. Over the year the share of West Bengal to the country's output of Engineering Product has sharply declined and now it accounts for only 9.2% to-day. Why? I am mentioning this with no acrimony or jealousy or narrow and parochial interest that Maharashtra has improved its position and accounts for 13.9% of the total engineering production to-day. Remember, West Bengal was a pioneer in this engineering industry.

If I take a total view of industrial decline, I give you another fact. While in 1960-61 this State accounted for 13% of India's value added to manufacture, it was only 9.6% in 1977-78. The cumulative result was that Bengal's position among the industrial state came down to next to Maharashtra and Gujarat. We are happy in the prosperity of Maharashtra. We are happy in the prosperity of Gujarat. We shall wish them better but the agony is that our output has declined from 13% to 9.6%. As a result of this I want to highlight that unemployment has assumed an explosive magnitude to-day in the State. During the period 1961-65 the cumulative growth rate on an average daily employment in factories in West Bengal was 26.27 against 21.92 in Maharashtra and 19.39 in Gujarat. The growth rate of employment in the organised sector in West Bengal was less than that of Maharashtra. That means there has been less employment in the organised sector in West Bengal, although organised industries have very important role to play in the economic development of West Bengal. Rate of employment in the organised sector in West Bengal was 34.12 as against 44.45 in Maharashtra. This has to be viewed in the context of certain geographical and economic conditions prevailing in West Bengal. West Bengal has an area of 3% of the hinter-land mass of the country. The population is about 8% of the country's total population. We have got the land mass of 3% of the entire area of the country. With this land, we have got to support a population of 8%. Here is a reality. This reality has not been created either by me or by the people. You may remember that today's West Bengal is a part of Bengal. It had been bisected: it had been partitioned and that partition was not with the consent of the people of West Bengal or

Bengal as a whole. I have no acrimony about it. Under the peculiar situation of our history, the country had to be divided and as a result of that partition, we have got to support a population of 8% of the nation with a land area of 3% of the nation.

I think, the hon. Minister will have a sympathetic attitude in appreciating the problem of the State. The unemployment today registered about 27 lakhs, that is about 22% of the entire people registered as unemployed in the country. Please understand the magnitude, and realise and appreciate our agony. With the 3% of land, we have to support 8% of the total population. We have to bear a burden of 20% unemployed in the country. Sir, I tried to get the House realise this agony. May I hope that the House will not be miser in appreciating this deep sense of agony in which the people of West Bengal are living?

What is the alternative? In this context, I have depicted the picture to the best of my ability. This is the reality of the West Bengal's economy. The question naturally arises what is the way out? The way out is, as I understand, industrialisation. Industrialisation is the only way to meet the challenge of this growing unemployment in the State and bring back the State to a legitimate position in the industrial map of India. The industrialisation cannot advance without Central assistance, aid and investment under the Central sector. This is the quintessence of the problem. The quintessence of the problem is industrialisation. Industrial development can only be under the initiative and assistance of the Central Govern-

ment as per the financial system that prevails in our country today under the constitution. Therefore the moot question is, industrialisation, and industrialisation can be done only with the help of Centre's investment because otherwise this industrialisation cannot be of any assistance to the people of West Bengal. There may be monopoly exploitation; there may be further loot of profit and they may try to make West Bengal a happy hunting ground for the multinationals and monopoly houses. That does not bring in any relief to the people of the State of West Bengal. Therefore, I again repeat, the moot question of my resolution is industrialisation under the initiative of the Central Government. More and more investment under the Central sector is the quintessence and that is my appeal to the Government of India.

Why do I say so? I am very much pained—I do not say in a spirit of complaint and allegation—to say, from the deep study of the subject, that this basic point has not been appreciated by the Government of India. On the other hand, I am very sorry to say that the Government of India has followed a policy of discrimination against the State of West Bengal in various aspects. With your permission, Sir I want to list them for the House to know what are the policies which have stood in the way of industrial development of the State of West Bengal, which have been disastrous not only for the people of West Bengal but for the national economy as a whole, for India as a whole. This point is also to be understood, appreciated and realised by the Government of India.

[Shri Chitta Basu]

During the period of 1951 to 1979, the per capita Plan outlay was Rs. 586 crores in West Bengal as against Rs. 1660 crores in Punjab, Rs. 1032 crores in Gujarat, Rs. 996 crores in Maharashtra, Rs. 768 crores in Karnataka and Rs. 660 crores in TamilNadu.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, yours is also low. But it is better than ours.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I support your cause. The per capita allocation for Plan outlay for West Bengal was less as compared to that of other States, as I have mentioned.

As on 31st March, 1979, the total investment in the Central public sector undertakings throughout the country, stood at Rs. 15,000 crores of which West Bengal accounted for Rs. 1083 crores, representing 6.9 per cent. In the Draft Sixth Five Year Plan for 1980-85 a total outlay of Rs. 19,18,007 crores has been provided for Central industrial and mineral projects under industry and mineral sector for petroleum sector. Of this outlay, do you know, what is the share of West Bengal? The West Bengal share is Rs. 1,098 crores, representing 5.77% of the total outlay.

Beginning from the Third Five Year Plan to Sixth Five Year Plan, the allocation for industrial development under various Plans, never exceeded 5% to 6%. Bearing in mind, as I have already explained, we have got 3% of the landscape of the nation to support 8% of population and also to find employment for 20% of the total registered unemployed in the country. Here is a paradox. I think that it is not necessary for me to dilate more on the subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER.

You are starting only from the Third, Plan. What about First Plan, the Second Plan and the Third Plan?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Up to Third Five Year Plan, I have got no grasp, in the sense that up to the Third Five Year Plan, there was increase of industrial growth in West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Might be, Mr. B.C. Roy should have been in power.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He was a great son of West Bengal. He was a great son of India. We are proud of him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Prime Minister Nehru's attitude was not like that. He was for cooperating.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Whatever might have been his political views, he was a great son of Bengal and up to Third Five Year Plan, we have no grievance of that nature. But the process of decline, the process of stagnation, began from the Third Five Year Plan and naturally, I share my views with Mr. Chatterjee when he says the reason for it. It is not necessary for me to explain again.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are forming a joint front government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Only one front. Not Joint Front. No joint business.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't allow anybody to come in.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Had your Party been there, you would have welcomed it. I wish to set up your Party there also so that we get a good ally (*Interruptions*). I have dealt with the Sixth Five Year Plan.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then our Party would become a State Party there in West Bengal. If you are prepared, you will have a copy of it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Yes, yes, provided Tirupattur is not repeated. You are welcome in this side and we welcome DMK with us to see that Madras or Tamil Nadu gets its legitimate share. (*Interruptions*) The Central Sector investment in West Bengal, has, therefore, never been commensurate with the actual need. Different factors plaguing the industry in West Bengal were not taken into account in such a Plan allocation.

Now I come to financial assistance aspect. All India financial assistance for industries in West Bengal up to end of March, 1980, was 91.21 only.

15.30 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER : Home Minister.

STATEMENT RE: TRAGIC DEATH OF 45 PERSONS AND INJURIES TO SEVERAL OTHERS AT THE QUTAB MINAR

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ZAIL SINGH) : Sir, with a heavy heart and a deep sense of sorrow I have to bring to

the notice of the House a terrible tragedy that took place at Qutab Minar between 11.30 a.m. and 12.00 noon today.

A large number of people, a majority of them being students from different parts of the country, were inside Qutab Minar when a sudden power breakdown resulted in confusion and stampede. Police, fire and ambulance services were immediately pressed into service. The injured persons were immediately rushed to the Hospitals. On examination in the Hospitals, 45 were declared dead. Twenty-one injured have been admitted to the Hospitals and are being given necessary medical attention.

The Prime Minister, myself, Lt. Governor, Delhi and senior officials of Delhi Administration visited the Hospitals. The family of each of the deceased is being given Rs. 5000/- from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Rs. 2,000/- are being given to each of those injured. Equal amounts are being given by Delhi Administration.

A judicial inquiry into the incident has been ordered.

Our hearts go out to the bereaved families in this hour of tragedy. We will convey the anguish of this House to them.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is a tragic day. We all are stunned and we are very much grieved to know of this tragedy. We will convey to the families of the bereaved the heart-felt condolences of the House....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Of all the Parties.

MR. SPEAKER : Of all the Parties. It is a thing on which even a stone will melt. In this context