

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

ferred to other blood banks where it is badly needed or where there are proper storage facilities. In a large city like Delhi, there is acute shortage of blood and surely it is a case of utter negligence to throw away blood packs in garbage instead of sending them to the other blood banks or hospitals where it could be preserved. Even if, there is no demand for blood of certain groups, it is the duty of the authorities concerned to preserve the donated blood for use in future emergencies, in cases where the blood of such groups might be needed.

. It is reported to have been argued that some blood packs were thrown away because it was suspected that the donors were suffering from Jaundice. In such cases the blood should not have been accepted from such donors.

As per the press reports one blood pack containing the rarest blood group was also found in the garbage, and it looked like blood including the Plasma. There could not be any explanation for this sheer negligence on the part of the persons in charge of the Blood Bank.

Blood from which the Plasma is removed should also not be thrown out because such blood is used for transfusion into children suffering from certain diseases.

Certain irregularities were noticed earlier also in the functioning of the Blood Bank of the Red Cross in New Delhi.

The whole matter, therefore, needs urgent investigation. Precious blood donated by volunteers should not be thrown away.

(ii) NATIONALISATION OF JUTE MILLS IN WEST BENGAL IN THE CONTEXT OF ALLEGED LOCK-OUT BY JUTE MILL OWNERS

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE  
(Panskura): 47,000 Jute workers in

West Bengal have been thrown out of job by lock-out in West Bengal Jute industry. Already 13 jute mills such as Ludlow, Northbrooke, Dalhousie, Hoogly, Empira, Bally No. 1, Bally No. 2, Ganges, Sriram, Gaurishankar, Kelvin, Prabartak, Naskarpara Jute mills have declared lock out. The process is continuing. Out of these 13, five have been locked out in January and February of this year, which is supposed to be the year of productivity. A number of workers died of starvation due to these lock-outs and family members of 47,000 workers are in dire distress. The jute mill owners, it will be remembered, were given nearly Rs. 80 crores by the Central Government for raw jute purchase from jute growers last year. Very little part of that money was utilised for that purpose and the jute growers were terribly hit due to the very low price of their produce.

Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has recently given an open statement asking the Government for declaring jute as sick industry. Obviously they will go on for further lock-outs unless checked by the Government.

Experience of the jute growers, jute workers and the people in general is that the private jute mill owners were only looting the industry, putting both the growers and the workers in distress. The years in which the profit was fabulous they did not act differently and now taking advantage of glut in international market they are moving for getting the jute industry declared sick so that they can get more money from the Government.

But all jute mills workers organisations, including the Federation of Chalkal Majdoor Union (affiliated to AITUC) have urgently demanded immediate nationalisation of jute industry. I urge upon the Government, the Ministry of Commerce to take immediate steps in that regard.