

Bangalore about fifteen years ago, but closed it in July 1975 and then re-opened it after three months by imposing a 35 per cent wage cut and higher work norms on the workers. Since reopening, its Marketing was done first by M/s. Shaw Wallace, and then by M/s. Madura Coats.

While the Binny management could not renew the contract with M/s. Madura Coats because of differences on the formula for costing it decided to close down the unit employing about 400 workers, mostly women, belonging to the economically weaker sections. The ostensible reasons advanced were 'high wages' and low productivity. But actually the consolidated monthly wages ranged from Rs. 115 for a beginner (rising upto Rs. 190 in the fourth year) to Rs. 294 for a skilled employee with twelve years of service, and all this after an upward wage revising in 1979. The Management has covered up its deficiencies and failures in regard to production efficiency, etc.

The Binny Garment Workers' Union while demanding the reopening of the factory, offered to form a labour co-operative for carrying out production work only. When management failed to respond, the workers decided to form Women's Multi-purpose Co-operative Society and asked the factory to be leased out to them for a couple of years. The management preferred to keep the factory idle but refused to lease it out to the retrenched workers.

Thereafter the workers asked for the entire factory, viz., machinery, buildings and land, to be sold to the Co-operative Society. When the management negative even this, despite the fact that it was seeking permission of the State Government to dispose of many properties, the workers asked that a plot of vacant, unused land adjoining the Garment Factory be sold to the Society to enable it to erect a new shed and relocate the factory. The management is not prepared even for this move.

The workers have deposited all the money they got by way of retrenchment compensation and gratuity etc. in the bank as initial share capital in spite of their poverty and non-earning of wages since June 4, 1981 when the factory was closed down.

The union representatives have met the Central Minister of Commerce, State Chief Minister and Labour Minister the State Labour Department officials, as also the Chairman of the IDBI which is financing Binny Ltd., and the Government-nominated Chairman of Binny Ltd. The women employees have staged a dharna before the Vidhan Soudha, the Chief Minister's residence, and before the company's head office, besides undertaking a 10-km long walk to demand that they be given a chance to rehabilitate themselves through the constructive move of setting up a co-operative venture to reopen, relocate and run a closed manufacturing unit.

I would urge the Government to intervene in this matter at once, and enable the workers to take over the closed unit and earn their livelihood.

(vii) SUPPLY OF WHEAT AND RICE TO WEST BENGAL

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): For the last few weeks in the Statutory Rationing (S.R.) areas of West Bengal, including the city of Calcutta, the full quota of three kilos of rice and wheat are not being available from ration shops. Either wheat or rice is in short supply in most of the shops in S.R. areas. In the villages the supply in modified ration (M.R.) shops in some districts has totally stopped. In some other districts, it is extremely sporadic.

The Food Corporation of India is totally failing to supply even the foodgrains that they have in their godowns. Moreover, the Central Government allocation of foodgrains to West Bengal which is theoretically 2 lacs 8500 tonnes per month, never really reach,

West Bengal in any month; sometimes even half the amount does not reach in a month.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Due to this and the consequent failure of ration supply in a deficit State like West Bengal the prices of food-grains are steadily increasing in all areas of West Bengal causing great hardship to the poor.

The Minister of Civil Supplies should immediately see so that supply is rushed and the situation can be remedied.

12.17 hrs.

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill to establish a bank to be known as the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for providing credit for the promotion of agriculture, small-scale industries, cottage and village industries, handicrafts and other rural crafts and other allied economic activities in rural areas with a view to promoting integrated rural development and securing prosperity of rural areas, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Clause 2—(Definitions)

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): I beg to move:

Page 1, line 14,—

after "includes" insert—

"horticulture"(14)

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): I beg to move:

Page 1, line 15,—

after "farming", insert—

"horticulture". (15)

PROF. N. G. RANGA: There is no need to speak for me, Sir, as I have already expressed myself.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: The hon. Minister is accepting my amendment and, therefore, there is no need for me to speak.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Though I am advised by the Law Department that the word 'agriculture' includes 'horticulture', in order to make it clear, I agree to accept the amendment moved by my respected friend, Prof. Ranga.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

Page 1, line 14—

after 'includes' insert—

'horticulture'. (14).

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 15 moved by Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 15 was put and negatived.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—Establishment and incorporation of National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): I beg to move:

Page 4, line 25,—

for "Bombay"

substitute "Calcutta". (17)