

rural sector is so very conversant! Further, the draught animal power cannot be replaced by mechanical devices unless the size of the average farm holding is increased. The animal energy in agricultural operations today is only 100 days in a year. This could be bettered by new cropping patterns and improvement in animal drawn implements and vehicles. With added potential of rural transport we can achieve optimisation of animal energy. The other benefit is the fuel generated by animal dung and compact of raw material for Gobar Gas.

With 3,000 slaughter houses in the organised sector, 40 million animals every year provided 7 lakh metric tonnes of meat. The unorganised slaughter is almost the same quantity.

Hence I call upon the Government to have serious re-thinking on the animal as power for added energy to uplift the rural sector.

(ii) REPORTED MOVE TO ACQUIRE SCIENTIFIC HELP FROM WEST GERMANY TO EXPLORE MINERALS FROM THE OCEAN BED

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):** The reported move for the Government to acquire from West Germany a research vessel for dredging mineral nodules from the ocean floor has caused concern among oceanographic scientists in our country.

The Government is understood to have recently entered into an agreement with Government of West Germany in terms of which the Government of West Germany shall provide sophisticated equipment and build a research vessel for India to collect data of exploitable deposits.

Scientists of our country are of the view that the decision to go in for West German technology might hamper the development of indigenous talents in the high technology area. They further pointed out that indigenous technology has made considerable progress and is now in an

advanced stage. As for example, the research vessel 'Gaveshani' which scooped mineral-packed nodules from the Indian Ocean in January last was manufactured at the Garden Reach Workshop in Calcutta, relying on the available indigenous talent and technology. Only a few sophisticated equipments were imported for the vessel.

The India's ocean bed mining holds out a very bright prospect and all efforts are to be made for the fullest exploitation.

In order that the potentials can be fully exploited, it is essential that India shall have to develop its own self-reliant technology. Any agreement for foreign collaboration in the area where indigenous technology is available, shall not be in the national interest.

In view of the fact that indigenous technology is available in the area of Sea-bed mining, it is not desirable to have collaboration with West Germany.

It is, therefore, urged that the Government should review its decision, if already taken, and a statement by the Ministry of State for Science and Technology is called for to clarify the position of the Government in this regard.

(iii) REPORTED TOKEN-STRIKE ON 21-4-1981 BY WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER SECTORS IN DELHI.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah):** Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The workers employed in industrial, commercial and other sectors in Delhi are on one days token strike to-day (21-4-1981) in support of their demand for Rs. 500/- minimum wage for unskilled workers, abolition of contract and casual labour, guaranteed supply of essential items at subsidised