

था लेकिन वह उन को नहीं मिला। उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने भी यह ज्यादाती की है कि जहां पिछले साल 8 रुपये क्वींटल के हिसाब से आलू रखा गया था, वहां उन्होंने इस साल 13 रुपये क्वींटल का रेट तय कर दिया है लेकिन इसके बाद भी शीतगृह के मालिक लोग प्रसन्न नहीं हैं। किसानों की बैलगाड़ियां शीतगृहों के सामने खड़ी हैं और पुलिस की मदद से डंडे मार मार कर किसानों को वहां से हटाया जा रहा है और स्वयं अपने पैसे से आलू खरीद कर टुक के टुक शीतगृहों में भरे जा रहे हैं। इस तरह से वहां पर किसानों की बहुत दुर्दशा हो रही है। जिला प्रशासन से कहा गया। जिला प्रशासन से जो अधिकारी वहां पर भेजे गये, तो हीली की छुट्टी पड़ जाने के कारण दो दिन का मौका और उन्होंने दे दिया जिस के कारण शीतगृहों के मालिकों ने किसानों से सस्ते दामों पर आलू लेकर भर लिये ताकि वे अच्छा मुनाफा कमा लें। एक और षडयंत्र वहां पर चल रहा है कि प्रदेश के बाहर आलू का जाना बिल्कुल बन्द कर दिया, उस का लदान बिल्कुल बन्द हो गया और वैगनों की कमी बतवाई गई। इस तरह से और भी दूसरी चीजें हैं जिन की वजह से ऐसी हालत वहां पर पैदा हो गई है। इसलिये मैं आप के माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित कर रहा हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में एक तो ओलों के कारण आलू खराब हो गये और इससे किसान मर रहे हैं और दूसरी ओर हमारे यहां उत्तर प्रदेश में यह तमाशा चल रहा है कि मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हम ने लगान माफ कर दिया लेकिन लगान छः गुना लगा दिया गया। इससे किसानों की बहुत दुर्दशा हो रही है। हम चिल्लाते हैं कि अब तो किसान का बेटा गद्दी पर बैठा गया है और किसानों का हालत सुधरेगा लेकिन दूसरा ओर किसान इस तरह से लुटते जा रहे हैं।

इसलिए मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत भारत सरकार का ध्यान इस मामले की ओर आकर्षित कर रहा हूँ।

(IV) REPORTED STRIKE IN DURGAPUR FERTILIZER FACTORY

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN (Burdwan) : Mr Chairman Sir, our country is mainly based on agriculture. The whole economy of our country depends mainly on agricultural production. Fertiliser is an essential commodity to produce crops. Sometimes not only food but also industrial-crop production is being hampered in our country due to shortage of fertilisers. The production in the Durgapur Fertiliser Factory of the Fertiliser Corporation of India only some days back had been completely stopped due to general workers' strike.

Now the technical supervisors of the Durgapur Fertiliser Factory of the Fertiliser Corporation of India will go on mass casual leave on March 31 in protest against the Corporation's policy of pursuing double standards in respect of status and pay structure for technical officers. The supervisors have already begun an indefinite relay hunger strike on 26th March, 1978. If this threat materialises, the country would have to suffer a huge loss and the whole cultivation works will be severely hampered again.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister-in-charge to this and request that he should take this matter seriously and come out with a statement setting forth the steps taken by the Government to prevent the hunger strike and to fulfil the demands of those officers. Government should take immediate action in the matter to meet the demands of the officers and to avoid the stoppage of production of fertiliser which is a very important product for our people and for our industry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJI (Jadavpur) : Now, on political grounds the locations of offices of government undertakings are being fixed. This is a very serious matter. The office of the Fertiliser Corporation is being shifted from Calcutta.

AN HON. MEMBER : The MPs of West Bengal have submitted a joint representation to the Minister (interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJI :
An all-party MPs' Delegation went to the petroleum Minister to protest against that. What is being done there ?

13:22 hours

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS,
1978-79—contd.**

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY—contd.

MR CHAIRMAN : Now we take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Industry.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi will continue his speech.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I was speaking yesterday about the reversal policy of the Ministry of Industries thereby creating unemployment instead of employment in this country. Like the bidi industry there are many other industries that are facing closure and unemployment due to the policy or the continued policy of the Industries Ministry.

The coir industry is a traditional industry in Kerala; it employs 1.3 lakhs of people and the weaving sector is about 7,000. The mechanization has created a problem; the mechanisation will create unemployment for all those people in the weaving sector. As my colleague Mr Rajan demanded, I only demand the Minister to make an inquiry as to how the licence has been issued. I agree it was not done in your time; it was done by the previous regime; I admit that is true. My only demand is that it may please be inquired into as to how it happened. The Coir Board has not recommended his application. I was a member of the Coir Board. The Chairman forwarded the application of this particular gentleman saying 'only for the production of mattings'. It came to the Commerce Ministry it had been manipulated and tempured with and made into 'coir products'. He has given on undertaking that he will never make mats but will make only mattings. But he is producing mats. It was all manipulation done in the Commerce Ministry. The Coir Board Executive Committee appointed a Committee to inquire into the matter and the Coir Board Secretary who is a party to all this manipulation and corrupt practice and some other officers confessed to the Committee; 'We made a mistake; please do not punish us'. Now what is the latest position? This licence was obtained on fraudulent grounds and the industry has been installed in some other State and the management is instigating some other State to take up this case with the Centre. The Centre is now between two States.

As I said, mechanization in the Coir industry would create unemployment for 70,000 people. This, therefore, requires to be considered carefully.

The report also deals with the export of coir products. The country earned Rs. 22.77 crores last year for the export of coir products and year before last the export was for Rs. 19.38 crores. There has been an increase. This is in spite of the fact that they say that there is competition from Ceylon. I would like to tell the Minister that there is no competition from Ceylon at all. It is wrong and the letters that you receive from abroad are all manipulated by Mr. Ravi Karunakar and his firm. Now, out of this total export, the coir yarn accounts for 50% and the mats only account for 21%. That means that the foreign exchange that you are earning by way of export of coir mats is only Rs. six crores. On account of the mechanization, they are now offering the products at 50% of the earlier prices; that means, it will come down to Rs. 3 crores only. We can earn one or two crores more by export of mechanised products. For this, you are going to throw out of employment some 70,000 people. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to consider all these aspects and make an enquiry and see whether the people involved in the issue of licence for mechanization need to be punished. The Ministers can be ignorant about certain matters, but it should not be expressed in public. Shri Mohan Dharia went to Cochin and showed his ignorance about this matter. I wish, the Ministers should be a little more versed with the subjects and should not clash with the State Government.

I do not know, if the Ministry have made any study with regard to the non-agricultural establishments in the country. There are 2.95 million such establishments in the country today; 1.61 million are in the rural sector and 1.34 in the urban sector. The total number of workers employed by these non-agricultural establishments is 25.1 million. Out of these 25.1 million people, about 22.2 millions are the hired workers—I call them the bonded workers—in the rural as well as the urban sector. These are the people who are under-paid. When you speak of employment, have you made any study of the problems of these people? Have you thought of giving full employment to them and can you get any other benefits for these people? The problems of the hired workers of the non-agricultural establishments have to be looked into properly; you must have some programme to give them proper employment. In fact, this