

[श्री युवारज]

कटिहार की बन्दी के फलस्वरूप लगभग चार हजार मजदूर और उन पर आश्रित बीसों हजार उन के पारिवारिक सदस्य भूखों तड़प-तड़प कर मर रहे हैं। जब श्रमिकों की स्थिति चिन्ताजनक दीख पड़ी तो जिला पदाधिकारी, कटिहार के प्रतिवेदन पर लगभग 6 लाख रुपये के मुफ्त खाद्यान्न का वितरण श्रमिकों के बच्चों एवं वहनों के बीच कराया गया। परन्तु दो माह तक जल कर सहाय्य वितरणबन्द कर दिया गया। उत्तरी बिहार का एकमात्र यह सब से बड़ा जूट उद्योग है जो प्रबन्धन की कुव्यवस्था के कारण बन्द है।

कटिहार उत्तर पूर्वीय भारत का प्रवेश द्वार है और उत्तरी बिहार की एक-मात्र नकदी-फसल जूट है जिसे किसान इस मिन में व्यापारियों के द्वारा बेचते थे। कटिहार, पूर्णिया सहरसा, भागलपुर-उत्तर आदि जिलों के बीच स्थित अकेला यह जूट कारखाना सब से बड़ा जूट का खरीदार था। लगभग चार हजार मजदूर तीन-तीन पालियों (शिफ्ट) में काम करते थे। ये मजदूर और इन पर आश्रित परिवार सभी भूखों मर रहे हैं। लगभग तीन सौ मजदूर भूखों, भ्रनाहार, कुपोषण तत्व पर आघातित रहने के कारण मर गये और उन की भ्रनाहार मौत जारी है। कोई दिन ऐसा नहीं बीतता है कि एक-आध मजदूर न मरते हों। जो शेष जीवित हैं उन की शारीरिक स्थिति नर-कंकाल जैसी हो गई है। बिहार राज्य का यह इलाका सब से गरीब और पिछड़ा हुआ है। प्रधान मंत्री, वाणिज्य मंत्री श्री मोहन धारिया, श्रम मंत्री, उद्योग मंत्री, आदि, सभी बरिष्ठ व्यक्तियों से निवेदन किये गये, परन्तु अब तक कारखाना चालू नहीं हो सका। थोड़े दिनों के बाद जूट वाणिज्य से उद्योग में हस्तांतरित कर दिया गया और अब जूट उद्योग-विभाग में आ गया है।

प्रतः जूट उत्पादकों एवं मिल के श्रमिकों तथा उन पर आश्रित परिवार बूढ़े, बच्चे, मां-बहनों के प्राण रक्षार्थ भारत० बी०एच०एम० जूट मिल्स, कटिहार को टेक-आवर कर काल-बद्ध कार्यक्रम की तरह शीघ्रातिशीघ्र चालू करने की ओर में सरकार का ध्यान द्राष्ट करता हूँ।

(v) REPORTED POWER POSITION IN MAHARASHTRA DUE TO ACUTE SHORTAGE OF COAL

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): It is reported that the power position in Maharashtra State has become critical due to acute shortage of coal. The super thermal power station at Koradi has got stocks sufficient for a day only. The nearby Khaper Kheda power station has stocks for only 36 hours. One of the 25 M.W. set at Khaper Kheda has already been shut down because of lack of coal. If no coal reaches Koradi within the next 24 hours, one 120 M.W. set there would have to be shut down as reported by Member, Technical, Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

Since power from Koradi goes far into Western Maharashtra upto Sholapur, Karad etc., the resultant power shortage and load shedding would affect all parts of the State. It is further reported that barring Parli Vajinath which is fed by Singarenj coalfields, Ballapur and other power stations in Maharashtra have four to six days stock of coal while normally they should have at least 15 days to a month stock.

Repeated efforts by the Board to prevail upon the WCL to ensure full and regular supplies of coal to power stations in Maharashtra had not borne fruit. The matter was taken up at the highest level by the Board, even upto the Union Energy Minister but to no avail. It is reported that lack of coal would delay the commissioning of the new 200 megawatt set at Koradi power station from which we

would have helped to meet the power shortage in Maharashtra.

The matter is serious enough to call for immediate attention and action by the Central authorities concerned. I hope, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would convey this to the Minister for Energy and other Ministers concerned.

I am glad, the Prime Minister is here. He has a special concern for Maharashtra. Therefore, I hope, he would also put in a word to the Energy Minister. They say that production of coal is in abundance and it is lying at the pitheads. The other day, the Railway Minister told us that there was no shortage of wagons. Then where is the bottleneck? Why is the coal not reaching the power stations?

12.48 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill 1978, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th April, 1978, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1978."

With your permission, I would like to point out that there is a printed mistake in bottom line two of the Report. What is printed as 'on' should be read as 'no'..

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1978."

The motion was adopted.

TOBACCO BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, I introduced † the Bill.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 4-8-78.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.