

13.44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED AFFAIRS OF SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA

SHRI MALLIKARJUN (Medak): Madam Chairman, I am raising a matter about the victimisation of captain R. D. Kohli, Shipping Corporation of India. Luckily the hon. Minister is also available in the House; he will know it.

Captain R. D. Kohli who is number 2 in the Shipping Corporation of India as the executive director has also acted as managing director/chairman of SCI for over six months soon after after the former chairman/managing director Mr. Srivastava left SCI to take up a foreign assignment. Now captain Kohli has been superseded by five of his own juniors who are now placed above him on the board of SCI. These five officers are far junior to captain Kohli; knowledge-wise he is rated as the most knowledgeable person in the field of merchant navy. This is a clear-cut victimisation of Capt. R. D. Kohli. Reference 21st July, 1978 *Economic Times*:

"The fact that some functional directors will also be superseded as a result of the appointment of five new executive directors on a higher salary scale would appear to have created heart-burning in the Shipping Corporation. There are signs of demoralisation at senior levels, particularly among persons who have put in long years of service and at least one functional director is understood to be contemplating resignation."

Shipping circles suggest that the political influence—I do not know whether the political influence refers to Mr. Chand Ram. The Minister of State in charge of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport or some other political influence.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): It has no foundation.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I do not know. Since you are present I am saying it. I do not know whether the political influence refers to you or some other political influence. Don't get agitated.

"Shipping circles suggest that the political influence appears to have played a major part in the selection of some candidates. Otherwise, the contribution of the senior-most person, Capt. Kohli, would not have been brushed aside."

Thus, apart from financial loss, Capt. Kohli will lose much of the image he has earned for himself in the shipping world by dint of sheer hard work and dedication.

The matter deserves a thorough investigation to prevent any future victimisation of loyal bureaucrats in the hands of politicians.

(ii) REPORTED ARREST OF EMPLOYEES OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF PUNJAB.

SHRI BHAGAT RAM (Phillaur): The police of Chandigarh Union Territory arrested 313 employees of Education Department of Punjab up to this date without any provocation from the employees side. The Ministerial Staff Association is peacefully agitating since long for their quite genuine demands such as additional staff in proportion to the increased work load, release of selection grade, recall of deputationists, etc. On 21st July while the employees were staging dharna peacefully before the resi-

dence of the Education Minister, the police of Chandigarh shamelessly arrested 89 employees including the President, Secretary and almost all the important office-bearers of the Association. The employees again staged dharna on 27th July, 3rd August and 10th August in support of their demands and for release of their leaders and workers. The police again arrested all those who were peacefully staging dharna. Now the number of arrests has reached 513. The police attacked the hunger-strikers and demolished their camp which was started 80 days before. There is great resentment among the employees of Punjab. The work in the Education Department of Punjab is entirely disturbed and is almost at a standstill. It is highly undemocratic and is undesirable from a Government committed to the restoration of civil liberties and rule of law.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to stick to the text.

SHRI BHAGAT RAM: Only three more sentences. There is hardly any time when prohibitory orders under section 144 are not imposed in Chandigarh to curb the trade union and other democratic activities. This reflects the inefficiency of the administration to deal with the normal situation without the help of the police.

I therefore, demand that all the arrested employees should be immediately and unconditionally released and the Home Minister should make a statement on the shameful act of the police and warn the concerned authorities.

(iii) FACTS REVEALED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH re. INDIAN ECONOMY.

डा० सश्री नारायण दाशिय (मंदसौर) : सभापति महोदय, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के बारे में जो कुछ तथ्य "नवभारत टाइम्स" के दिनांक 14-8-78 के अंक में प्रकाशित हुए हैं और जिनके सम्बन्ध में व्यावहारिक आर्थिक राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान परिषद का हवाला दिया गया है, वह अत्यन्त ही गम्भीर एवं आश्चर्यजनक हैं। साथ ही सरकार के समझ एक चेतावनी के रूप में है। समीक्षा में कहा गया है कि जो कदम मंहगाई को रोकने के लिये उठाये जा रहे हैं, उनका लाभ थोक व्यापारी ले रहे हैं या खुदरा दुकानदार, लेकिन उपभोक्ता तक वह लाभ नहीं पहुँच रहा है।

समीक्षा में यह भी कहा गया है कि थोक के भावों में जो गिरावट आती है, वह खुदरा भावों में नहीं दिखाई देती। समीक्षा में वितरण व्यवस्था को दोषपूर्ण बताया गया है तथा इसमें सुधार की अपेक्षा की गई है। कुछ मामलों में स्थिति को मिश्रित भी बताया गया है तथा कुछ मामलों में तुरन्त योग्य कार्यवाही की अपेक्षा की गई है। इसमें यह भी कहा गया है कि औद्योगिक विकास की दर जो पहले 10.4 प्रतिशत थी, वह घटकर इस समय 3.5 प्रतिशत रा गई है। इसे बढ़ाने हेतु कोई प्रभावी कदम नहीं दिखाई पड़ रहा है तथा उद्योग सम्बन्धी नीति का भी विकास पर कोई अनुकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ रहा है।

सरकार द्वारा मूल्यों को नीचे लाने अथवा उन्हें स्थिर रखने हेतु भी प्रभावी कदम उठाये गये हैं, किन्तु आम जनता को इसका जो लाभ मिलना चाहिये वह कतिपय त्रुटियों से नहीं मिल पा रहा है।

मैं यह कहना आवश्यक समझता हूँ कि यह मामला गम्भीर आर्थिक चेतावनी के रूप में है, सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में अपनी नीति को स्पष्ट करे कि इस प्रकार आम उपभोक्तार्थों के लाभ के लिये तथा औद्योगिक विकास की दर को स्थिर रखने के लिये क्या कदम उठा रही है। मैं चाहूँगा कि संबंधित मंत्री महोदय, इस बारे में बकसब्य बने की कृपा करें।