

has been in continuous service for the last 10 years or 12 years or even 15 years. The thing is, if the service continuity crosses 240 days, as per the labour laws, they have to be permanently absorbed. That is the pretext under which these people are being thrown out every year like this. This is a very serious matter. 150 labourers have been thrown out of employment, that is, 150 families are starving because of this. This is a place where there is no legislative set up, no popular involvement of the people, excepting election of the Members to the Lok Sabha. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to see that these labourers are taken back and are absorbed on a permanent basis.

SHRI JOYTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): This is a very serious matter and the Government should say something about it.

(iv) OBSERVANCE OF CENTENARY YEAR OF 'VANDE MATRAM'

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the centenary year of Vande Matram, the composition of our National Song Vande Matram. This is not necessary for me to remind the House of the role that this National Song played in the struggle for our independence. This is known to everybody that millions of our people faced lathis, batons and bullets with the words Vande Matram Song in their lips. Many martyrs went to the gallows with the words Vande Matram Song in their lips. This was accepted not merely theoretically as the national song, but the word 'Vande Matram' was christened as our national mantram on the blood of so many martyrs and Vande Matram was accepted as the National Song.

I would urge the Home Minister to take adequate steps so that this Vande Matram Centenary should be observed. A small Parliamentary Committee may be set up and a special stamp in commemoration of Vande Matram Song may be brought out. The mass media and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry should also take notice of it. The Education Minister can also bring out a certain brochure and a national symposium in different parts of the country can be arranged; other programmes can also be organised. I hope the hon. Home Minister will take notice of it and discharge our patriotic duty towards this National Song of Vande Matram which was composed by rishi Bankam Chandra in almost the same year.

(v) CRISIS IN SMALL SCALE AND COTTAGE SECTORS OF THE SHOE INDUSTRY

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice of call Attention to call the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the crisis facing the small scale & cottage sectors of the shoe industry leading to lay-off and unemployment of thousands of workers as a result of the Central Excise Notification No. 88/77 dated 9-5-77, which reads as follows. I will read out only the operative part of it.

"The Central Government hereby exempt Footwear falling under sub-item I of Item 35 of the First Schedule to the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 (1) of 1944 from the whole of duty of Excise leviable thereon provided that:—

- (1) Such footwear is produced by or on behalf of a manufacturer; one or more factories, including precincts thereof, wherein not more than 49 workers are working or were working on any day of the preceding 12 months; and
- (2) That total equivalent of power used in the manufacture of such Footwear by or on behalf of the manufacturer in one of more factories does not exceed 2 H.P."

Then an explanation has been given as a footnote which is the source of all the mischief.

"Explanation:—

Where footwear, manufactured by a manufacturer is affixed with the brand or trade name, registered or not of another manufacturer or is purchased by another manufacturer, it shall be deemed to have been manufactured by or on behalf of such other manufacturer."

The explanation seeks to undo the concession that has been given in the first two paragraphs which I have read out. In operation, the exemption given to the small scale sector and cottage workers has been nullified by this explanation as most of the goods produced in the small scale sector are purchased by the large organizations both in the public and private sectors, and bear their brand names. The total value of the goods thus purchased from the small scale sector is of the order of two to three crores.

With the imposition of this duty, which is being levied on those footwears