

[Shri Joytirmoy Bosu]

that the management is bent upon involving the employees in litigation which, in effect, will mean denial of a wage-rise awarded by the Tribunal for another five years

I would like to remind the management that the former British management of the Mazagon Docks from whom the concern was taken over by the Government of India in 1960, displayed a better attitude towards the award of the Industrial Tribunal of Shri Ahmed; which had imposed a burden of nearly Rs 20 lakhs in respect of the demands of the workers.

I strongly protest against the policy adopted by the management. I strongly urge upon the Labour Minister to prevail upon the management to withdraw the appeal and implement Mr. F. H. Lala's award. Not to do so would be tantamount to admission that the public sector is no better than the private sector in respect of the demands of the workers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): The imputations made in the hon. Member's statement are not correct.

Our policy has always been pro-labour and the Mazagon Docks sub-ordinate staff and the clerical staff are one of the highest paid employees in that kind of industry.

14.00 hrs.

So we have gone into appeal to the Supreme Court only because certain wrong and harmful principles were enunciated and we thought that it would be in the best interest of the country that this should be settled properly at the highest tribunal of the land. That is why we have gone to the Supreme Court and it is only to see that proper principles and guidelines are adopted in

such matters. We shall definitely accept whatever decisions are given by the Supreme Court in this matter. I want to say this again clearly that we have done our best to see that they get all the amenities. As I said, it is an undisputed fact that they are one of the best-paid workers in their category, in this industry, in the entire area. Therefore, Mr. Bosu's fears are completely unfounded and I would request him to use his influence—if he has any—to see that this matter is amicably settled to see that our vital national defence industries are not crippled by such unwarranted strikes.

(ii) FALL IN SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, DIESEL AND KEROSENE TO SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY (Chittoor): I would like to refer to the grave situation arising in the southern districts of Andhra Pradesh as a consequence of the sudden and steep fall in electricity, as well as diesel and kerosene supplies. As the House is aware, Chittoor district itself has got 90,000 pumpsets. They want electricity and diesel oil for those things. Not only Chittoor but adjoining districts are there which are affected. Whereas the total shortage of electric power is 50 per cent, the actual supply to the agriculturist is less than 25 per cent. And, from 25 per cent also there is this sudden and surprising fall which has taken place during the past few days. Several telegrams are pouring in continuously. Some action should be taken immediately to supply diesel oil to diesel pumpsets. Enough quantity of diesel oil should be supplied to them. Even kerosene is not available. This is a matter of grave concern to all of us and this problem should be immediately looked into and remedied. I request the Minister of Irrigation and Power; I also request the Minister of Petroleum and

chemicals to look into this matter immediately. They should step up the supply of electricity and regularise it to the agriculturists. They should take urgent action to supply the required quantities of diesel oil, kerosene etc, to these districts of southern Andhra Pradesh. Otherwise lakhs and lakhs of acres of land in this drought-prone and dry areas face imminent danger, which will result in very serious consequences. Therefore I request the Minister of Irrigation and Power and the Minister of Petroleum and Chemical to take immediate action in this regard, so that this situation may be remedied as early as possible. Thank you.

14.03 hrs

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1973-74—
contd.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE—
contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now resume discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture Shri Ishaque has to continue his speech. But before that, I would like to say that I have received a request from the Chief Whip of the Congress party to the effect that only seven minutes may be given to each speaker from the Congress Party because of the large number of speakers Shri Ishaque has taken four minutes already. He can take three more minutes only.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE (Basirbat): Sir, as I was saying, the Government's policy of wholesale trade in foodgrains has the blessing of the country. As you know, of the total workers in the country 43 per cent are cultivators and so the remaining 57 per cent of the total population constitute the consuming community. On the first count a majority of the people do constitute the consuming interest and this class will have blessing for the Government in its policy. Of the cultiva-

tors again, 90 per cent into the class of consuming interest, but they are periodical consumers only. Some consume for three months, some for six months and some for eight months. There are peasants having only two to three bighas of land who have to consume for ten months. Therefore, according to my calculation 96 per cent of the total population do constitute the consuming class. All these people will support this policy of the government to take-over. Only big jotdars and food-grain traders which constitute 4 per cent may oppose it. Therefore, I assure the government that this country is very much behind their policy of take-over. But the government must be pragmatic in implementing this policy otherwise this policy which could be the best friend of the country could also be the worst enemy if we do not or cannot implement it faithfully. I will suggest to the government to ensure people's participation in this policy. No doubt, there are good people in the administration yet I will ask the government to depend on the people's participation to make this policy a success. I will suggest that the issue of licences must be entrusted not to the government officers but with the Anchal panchayats. There are 60,000 anchal panchayats in the country. If we entrust this work to the anchal panchayats we would be ensuring public participation in the government policy and the policy of take-over will be a success.

I will again suggest that the petty traders be exempted from the mischief of licences because there are lakhs of people engaged in this trade who purchase one quintal of rice and wheat in one market and sell the same in the other. That is their only source of living. If these people are put to the restriction of licences they would not be able to pay licence fee and would be put to unnecessary troubles. These people should