

तरफ पूरा ध्यान दें और उनसे कह दें जो इंचारज हैं कि अगर आप ठीक तरह से काम नहीं करते हैं और हमको कम से कम दस परसेंट पन्द्रह परसेंट का फायदा नहीं देते हैं तो आप इस योग्य नहीं हैं कि आपको यहां रखा जावे, तो मेरा ख्याल है कि मजदूर होकर वह ठीक काम करेंगे। लेकिन चूंकि उनसे कोई जवाब तलब नहीं किया जाता है इसलिए उनको मौका मिल जाता है और हर साल नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है जिससे डेफिसिट बजट बनता है और फिर टैक्स लगाना पड़ता है। तो अगर हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी या प्राइम मिनिस्टर एक कमीशन मुकर्रर करके हर एक पब्लिक सेक्टर की प्रोजेक्ट की जांच करवाएं और उसमें जो अधिकारी इस तरह से निकम्में हैं उनसे जवाब तलब किया जाए तो अवश्य उनमें फायदा हो सकता है क्योंकि हम देखते हैं कि प्राइवेट जो फार्मस हैं जो टैक्सेज भी देती हैं, इतना खर्चा करती हैं तब भी दस बीस और तीस प्रतिशत तक फायदा वह करती हैं और इन्हें कोई इनकम टैक्स नहीं देना पड़ता, कोई और टैक्स इनपर नहीं लगता। इन सरकारी उपक्रमों पर तब भी वह घाटा देते हैं। तो मैं तो यह कहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इसके ऊपर ध्यान दें। मेरा ख्याल है कि अगर उन्हें कसा जाय और रेलवे को भी और पब्लिक प्रोजेक्ट्स को भी तो आइन्दा साल देखेंगे कि डेफिसिट बजट नहीं होगा। आज हम एक विशेष सक्ल में पड़ गए हैं। बाजार में तेजी होती है तो सरकारी कर्मचारी तनस्वाह बढ़ाने की मांग करते हैं, पे कमीशन बैठता है, मजदूरों के लिए वेज बोर्ड बैठता है, तनस्वाहें बढ़ती है और फिर उसका असर बजट पर पड़ता है, फिर डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग होती है। इससे बचने का तरीका यही है कि जो हमारे पब्लिक सेक्टर के प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं और रेलवे है इनमें ठीक तरह से काम हों और मैं समझता हूं कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री इसके ऊपर ध्यान देंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ जो वजट उन्होंने रखा है मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI (Bombay-North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the budget presented by the Finance Minister and

I congratulate him for bringing such a budget at a time when the country is taking a turn and a new direction on its onward march towards creating conditions for the establishment of a socialist society. The budget as a whole, is all stimulant to the economy as it stands, without being provocative to any section of the society.

The parties which have made an attack on the budget, both inside the Parliament and outside,—probably these are the parties which are now talking of the interests of the people but during the elections they did not understand the interests of the people, and the people have rejected them. But now they talk about understanding the people. But the budget shows that it is only the Finance Minister and the Government who have really understood the interests of the people, and they have brought these proposals here. These proposals deserve whole-hearted support from all sections of the people, whether in the rural areas or urban areas.

It is true that there have been certain taxes because of which there have been attacks on the budget. But a proper evaluation of a budget can be made, not on the basis of any isolated proposal here and there incorporated in the budget. The budget can be properly evaluated by the context in which it is put up. It is the economic context of the situation of today that has given effectiveness to the budget.

It is the nationalisation of banks, it is the nationalisation of insurance, it is the promise which the Finance Minister has given about the two Bills which are to be brought forward—one about acquiring power to government for purchasing property at prices recorded in the sale deeds as well as the new Bill which has been promised for discouraging the practice of benami transactions in land and property—these along with the already existing institutions which have come for checking the monopoly—have raised the creative value of the budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may continue his speech tomorrow. We have now to take up the Half an Hour discussion.

17-30 hrs.

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

SETTING UP OF THE MILLS IN ORISSA AND OTHER STATES

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kandrapara): Mr. Chairman, on the 26th May there

[Shri Surendra Mohanty] were two unstarred questions on the subject of setting up jute mills in Orissa and some other States in implementation of the recommendations of the committee that had been appointed to go into this question. But I must confess, the two written answers left me in the dark as much as I was when I had drafted the question. In that context I had requested for this half-an-hour discussion and I am grateful to all those because of whom this discussion has been made possible.

It may be recalled that a committee had been appointed in keeping with an assurance which the hon. Minister had given on the floor of the House. It may further be recalled that just on the eve of the dissolution of the last Parliament, on 16th December, 1970, in course of a discussion on a motion for setting up jute mills in Orissa, the hon. Minister was more than anxious to set up a committee which would immediately go into the question of setting up of jute mills in Orissa and some other eastern States. I would quote from the proceedings. The hon. Minister said :—

“It goes without saying that Orissa’s plight is very bad. Orissa as a jute-growing State should have a mill and, therefore, I propose to set up a committee very shortly, tomorrow or the day after, to make a quick survey of jute-growing district of Orissa, Bihar and Assam also.”

When Shri Ranga intervened and asked, “What about Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam?”, the hon. Minister was so anxious to receive this report that he said :—

“If you like, Andhra Pradesh will also be included, but it will take time. We want to finish the survey in three months’ time so that I can do something about it.”

My question is: Why that sense of urgency is not reflected in the subsequent proceedings of the Government after they had received the report? The answers to the unstarred questions, to which I referred to earlier, reveal that the report is still under consideration. The House is anxious to know from the hon. Minister what exactly are the issues which are baffling the Government and why the Govern-

ment is taking so long a time to consider? How long will the Government take to examine the report? These are some of the aspects which this House will be interested to know, because this committee had been appointed in keeping with an assurance which the hon. Minister had given to this House.

As I have said earlier, the Minister is more than convinced about the need for setting up a jute mill in Orissa. I will give here certain figures from which the House will consider for itself the legitimacy or otherwise of the demand of Orissa for a jute mill. Andhra produces 2,60,000 bales of jute and has four mills; Assam produces 11 lakh bales of jute and has got one mill; Bihar produces 7,61,000 bales of jute and has three mills; West Bengal produces 36,99,000 bales of jute and has 64 mills; Madhya Pradesh without producing jute has got one mill and U. P. also has three mills without producing any jute, whereas Orissa which produces nearly 6 per cent of the total produce of jute, that means, 6 lakh bales, has none.

In that context I would urge upon the hon. Minister to consider that, in the absence of a jute mill in the State, the jute growers do not get even half the price which the speculators and the middlemen fetch in the Calcutta market for Orissa jute. The State Government in this context has been repeatedly urging upon the Government of India for a jute mill in the State. In 1970 the State Government’s request had been turned down under the plea that there was no market for Indian jute products. But in 1962 the jute committee, which had been appointed to go into this question, had recommended *inter alia* in its report :—

“However, India’s output of jute goods has not increased in proportion to the rise in the world consumption of goods in the last decade. Whatever may have been the circumstances which in the past prevented a larger share of increased world market coming to the Indian jute industry, it appears necessary to take energetic measures now to increase exports and take the fullest possible advantage of the increased world demand.”

This demand has become all the more imperative in the context of the present crisis

in Bangla Desh or East Bengal. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of this recommendation, the Government during the current Plan period proposes to set up new units, particularly, in Orissa. If the Government feels any difficulty in setting up a jute mill in Orissa, we are entitled to know the reasons. It can be said and, perhaps, it will be said that in view of the jute mills in West Bengal undergoing difficulties in obtaining international market, it will serve no useful purpose if the jute mill proposed to be set up in Orissa also produces the same range of jute goods. The Orissa Government has already mentioned in their feasibility report as to how Orissa's market can sustain not only one jute mill but two jute mills in the State to meet the internal demand. So, the plea that the jute goods have got no international market will have no bearing on the subject. It is imperative that Orissa which produces 6 per cent of the entire jute produced in the country—when it is going without a jute mill, when the jute growers, the peasantry, are not getting even an economic price for their jute—a jute mill is set up in Orissa without avoidable delay.

Lastly, the most important question in this regard is whether the jute mill is going to be set up in private sector or in public sector. I would urge upon the Government not to allow the private sector to set up a jute mill in Orissa because it is the very private sector which has been exploiting the peasantry for all these years through their middlemen and through their agents. Therefore if a jute mill is allowed to be set up in the private sector, the field of exploitation will shift from Calcutta market to Orissa. The Government of Orissa have also submitted to the Central Government to set up a jute mill in the public sector and, failing that, if that is not found possible, the jute mill should be set up in the co-operative sector and the private sector will have nothing to do with it.

In conclusion, I would like the hon. Minister to state here categorically whether in keeping with the earlier assurances and in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee that had been appointed, a jute mill is going to be set up in Orissa during the current Fourth Plan period.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk) : I would like to know when the Committee is

going to submit its Report and I would like the Government to see that it is expedited. As the hon. Minister and the Ministry are convinced of the setting up of some jute mills in Orissa, why has the Committee been appointed? What are the difficulties? Why should a decision not be taken as early as possible?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, when taking a final decision on the question of setting up new jute mills, they are going to bear in mind the recommendations of the Srivastava Committee Report which has laid down in order of priority that the first priority should be given to making existing uneconomic jute mills economic and the second priority should be that mills which are running fairly well should be modernised and made more efficient.

The third priority should be that mills which are lying closed should be opened.

The fourth priority should be starting of new mills.

I am not against opening in Orissa or anywhere else; please don't misunderstand me.

I would like to know from the Minister whether in this task of starting new mills these priorities laid down by Srivastava Committee are going to be followed or not, because, there is a good amount of idle capacity in the industry as it exists at present, and I also want to know whether any new mills which will be set up will be oriented primarily to the local market for jute goods and thirdly I want to know whether,—as Mr. Mahanty suggested,—whether it will not be in the private sector but either be in the public sector or in the co-operative sector.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Mahanty for raising this subject in the House in this session.

You will remember, Sir, that sometime in December, as Mr. Mahanty pointed out, our old colleague Mr. Surendra Nath Dwivedy raised this very question in the House and I assured him that a Committee would be set up. Mr. Samanta wanted to know about the Committee. I wish to tell him that this Committee

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

was appointed, the Committee had made a survey and submitted a Report and that the Report is presently under our examination. There are of course some problems about which I will go into detail in a few minutes.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta raised some questions about uneconomic units being made economic and about the Srivastava Committee. It is very important to consider all this, especially, since we have very limited resources. We have to apply our mind to this aspect. We have number of mills in this country, especially in Bengal, which are out-dated, old, uneconomic, and have to be modernised.

We have a provision of Rs. 3 crores for modernisation of jute mills. Unfortunately this has not been used by the jute mill owners and we have been persuading them, pressing them, that they should modernise especially in the present situation when we have been facing tough competition in the matter of jute products abroad. Of course, it is a fact that in the last few weeks the situation has improved a little bit because of the situation in Bangla Desh but if the jute industry has to survive, all the old mills have to be modernised.

The products of jute are used for sacking, hessian, packaging, jute carpeting and for many other purposes. I am glad to say that some good results have been achieved as a result of research work carried in the uses of jute. Only two days back I was having a look at some of the samples of jute products produced in the the Research Institute. It was difficult for me to believe that it was jute product; it looked like raw silk, very good for tapestry or curtain etc. And, therefore, jute has to serve these needs also. The basic point which Mr. Mohanty raised is the question of backward States, like Bihar, Orissa, Andhra, Assam, etc. Orissa is backward; there is no doubt about it. If the jute growers have to be removed from exploitation it is necessary that the State should come into the picture and do something about it.

We have already set up a Jute Corporation for the marketing part of raw jute. Your district and my district produces jute. Bengal produces a large quantity of jute. Bangal has a number of mills. There is no question of

want of urgency on the part of the Government. The urgency is there.

I want to assure the House about this. This idea of having jute industry in other States, or having diversified industries, is with us in principle. I agree with it. I am for it. I shall see to it that the backward States like Orissa and Bihar and Assam and Tripura and Andhra Pradesh too get some new mills or modernised mills. As you know, the investment in a new mill is about Rs. 2½ to 3 crores. That is the investment required for setting up a new mill. Therefore, it is not so easy as to say that we should go at it immediately.

The committee has made some recommendations. I shall not like to go into the details because the recommendations are under examination, and we do not want to commit ourselves to any of the recommendations made by the committee. I would only assure hon. Members that the committee's recommendations will be examined, and we hope that the detailed examination will be completed within three months' time.

To some extent, the delay was unavoidable. As I would put it, there were many factors which had caused this delay. The situation in Bangla Desh has also been one of the main reasons. Our attention was diverted to that. To be very fair to the House, I would also confess that I too had not much of time to apply my mind to this problem, because of the elections and the fact that after the elections I had gone abroad. But I am now seized of the matter, and I shall assure the House of this much that I shall see to it that the idea of setting up new mills in these backward States materialises.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** In which sector?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA:** Shri Surendra Mohanty wanted to know whether we were going to have it during the Fourth Plan. I would not like to say anything at this stage; it depends on a number of factors. But I shall try to see that something is done. The Fourth Plan as it is today does not contain any provision for a new jute mill in Orissa or Bihar. So, we shall have to make new provision for it, and the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry will have to be persuaded

for that purpose, and especially the Finance Ministry, because we need foreign exchange also, and in fact, the foreign exchange content for one mill is quite heavy. Therefore, these things have to be sorted out. If we are able to sort them out, there is no reason why Orissa or Bihar or Assam or Tripura or even Andhra Pradesh should not have a new mill.

The other question is whether it would be in the public sector or the co-operative sector or the private sector. We shall prefer the co-operative sector and will encourage people to come forward and set up new mills in the co-operative sector. The co-operative sector is our first preference. If for any reason the co-operative sector does not succeed for the reason that they have no finance etc., then I would prefer the public sector. But suppose the co-operative sector and the public sector both do not work? I do not think they will not work; they will work; in fact, why should they not work? The main idea is to give mills to these backward States, so that the growers are benefited, the workers get employment and the people of the area get something out of the new industry. So, I do not rule out completely the private sector. I do not rule it out. But conditions will be there. They must set up new mills, and they must make their investment and so on. But the private sector will be the

last choice. The first is the co-operative sector. The second will be the public sector and the third can be the private sector. I do not think that I shall give it to the private sector, but I am not ruling out the private sector. If both these other avenues fail, then we might allow the private sector to come in.

I have nothing further to add. I would only say that the urgency is there. I do understand and appreciate the problem and the need for new mills. I am one of those who have known this problem. I still feel that it has been very unfair that the jute industry has not been diversified so far. It should have been diversified a long time ago, and the backward States like Orissa, Bihar, Assam and Tripura and Andhra Pradesh, which grow jute should get the benefit; they grow jute, and, therefore, there is no reason why they should not get the benefit of a new mill in their area. This idea is therefore there. The committee's report is before us. We will examine it, and as I stated earlier, we will come to some conclusion within three months' time.

17.50 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, June 8, 1971/Jyaistha 18, 1893 (Saka).*