

## [English]

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw through you the attention of the House and of the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Textiles to the decision of the Government to declare surplus all the Central Government employees in two departments of the Government. 208 employees have already been declared surplus in Calcutta by the Export Inspection Agency. If the decision is implemented in full, 2,000 employees will be declared surplus.

In the Textiles Department, JCI is also going to declare surplus a large number of employees in the north-eastern and eastern India. So, on these issues, I demand that the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Textiles takes note of the situation. There is already a great resentment among the employees.

It will create problems. It has come as a direct result of the new Economic Policy of the Government on liberalisation and the IMF dictated policy of reducing manpower. This matter will have serious repercussions. So, I demand that the Government should withdraw that order and declare the surplus as null and void and all the employees should be retained.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** Sir, this matter had been raised earlier also but we do not find any response from the Government. I myself raised it and Mr. Chidambaram was there. But there is no response. A total of 208 employees and officers of a Government organisation called the Export Inspection Agency have been served with notices of retrenchment by giving them three months salary on the plea that they have become surplus. When we are trying and when this country is trying to export more, we are going to do away with an agency which will ensure the quality of export goods. This is a strange phenomenon. And what will happen to those employees? They were asked to give an undertaking on whether they would be agreeable to join other places or establishments of the Government or not. And many of them gave such an undertaking

but even that undertaking is not being accepted. They were asked to give their options and they gave their options. But they are not being given alternative jobs. What will happen to them? They came to me. Employees in the age group of 45-50 came to me. They said that for no fault of theirs they are losing their jobs. And we are told certainly that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy's decision is being implemented. You are not implementing the decision to reinstate the dismissed workers on the plea that that decision was taken by an earlier Government. And this time, when getting rid of employees, you are scrupulously following the anti-workers decision of the previous Government which was your hand-picked Government. I want to know the Government's reaction on this matter. Has the process started? Is this the effect of liberalisation, that the Government offices will be closed one after the other and the workers will go to the streets with no alternative jobs, not even with proper retrenchment compensation? You are not giving compensation as VRS which is being given by big public private enterprises. What will these people do with three months salary? Therefore, Sir, this is not a matter which should be just looked into casually by the Government. They must seriously look into this matter and give their reaction. We want a categorical declaration that such a thing will not happen in future and that retrenchment will be stopped so that the whole matter may be reviewed. (*Interruptions*)

## [Translation]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Somnathji has rightly said that the Government which cannot provide job has no right to remove any one from service. .... (*Interruptions*)

## [English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** Mr. Anadi Charan Das is also on a very important point.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY :** Sir, the Minister should make a statement on this matter. This is a human question.

I want to know as to whether there will be any response to our demand or not. This is a very serious matter. ....(Interruptions)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** Is getting rid of Government employees that causal and easy matter ? Are you asking them to get out after putting 30 to 40 years of service ? How can it happen and what will they do ? What will 40 year old or 50 year old employees or even 30 year old employees do ? Are you giving any alternative employment to them ? This is a very serious matter. Sir, I do not wish to make it an issue of confrontation. But I am appealing to the Government that this is a matter where human element is involved and future of the Indian people and their families are involved. They are on starvation. They are asking us. What will be our reply to them ? I am asking the Government to answer. They are saying that for no fault of theirs, they are being removed. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please ask the Government to make a statement on it. (Interruptions)

[English]

**SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN (Amroha) :** Sir, so far as the export of sports goods are concerned, it is very essential that the quality of the goods which are to be exported should be maintained and there must be an agency which should monitor the quality of these goods.

Otherwise, the reputation of the manufacturers will go down and the orders that we get from the foreign countries will be cancelled or reduced. Therefore, I suggest that this kind of an agency which is monitoring the manufacture and quality of these sports goods should be maintained.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) :** In the last week only, I drew the attention of the Government with your permission to the problem being faced by the Jute Corporation of India, about which some re-

ference has been made along with a reference to the employees of the Export Inspectorate. The JCI is to go in for the purchase of raw jute from the market. Jute season has already started in North Bengal and some other parts of the Eastern Region. Though the jute season is already on, the JCI has not yet been given any instructions as to whether they would purchase jute from the market or not. No operation in this regard has been started and no instructions are given. On the other hand, it is being stated that the Government proposes to close down the JCI or at least contract the operations of the JUCI. Last week also I drew the attention of the Minister to it. I expect that there should be a reply from the Government's side on this very important issue. Sir, while supporting the case for the employees who have already been retrenched, I want that the Government should make its position clear with regard to the JCI....(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please sit down.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar) :** Sir, this is a very serious matter and I have given you notice. It is not a question of 208 persons getting retrenched. As the paper reported, about 2,000 people will be retrenched once the new Trade Policy is implemented and export inspection system is done away with by the new Trade Policy. This will affect the jobs of 2,000 employees who are presently employed in different parts of the country. That is why, before implementing any policy, it is very important for the Government to see that nobody is retrenched in this hour of crisis, when the problem of unemployment is mounting up in a bigger way. I demand that the Government should come out with an assurance that these employees are not retrenched.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) :** On this question, all sides of the House do agree that it should be viewed from the humanitarian angle. Since our national interests are seriously involved in this, I appeal to you that there should be a consensus on not retrenching the employees.

**DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA** (Balasore) : Sir, vast areas of North Orissa in Balasore ..... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : This is what exactly happens when everybody wants to speak at the same time.... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : Will you please wait for some time ? You may speak after some time.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** (Shri Arjun Singh) : Sir, a very important point has been raised and it is obviously a question which deserves close attention.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN** : Sympathetic consideration too.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH** : Sympathy cannot go out of close attention! In the light of what has to be done, I will draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce to it. I will talk to him. I will certainly request Shri Chidambaram to make a statement.. (*Interruptions*)

**DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA** : Sir. This is relating to Inter State Flood Control Project of river Subernarekha near Chandil in Bihar. Vast areas of North Orissa in Balasore and Mayurbhanj district and a portion of West Bengal in Midnapore District have been sustaining great loss of human life and property worth crores of rupees, due to devastating floods in the river Subarnarekha every year.

The Flood Control Project was sanctioned and taken up by the Government but due to paucity of funds, the project is being delayed. The field channels for irrigation have not yet been completed. Due to the paucity of funds the State of Orissa has not properly attended to this project as a result of which it is getting delayed.

I, therefore, appeal through you to the Union Government to interfere into the matter and complete this project as early as possible.

**SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA** : Sir, I would like to invite your attention to the fact that on 12th March, 1991, Hon. Speaker gave a ruling in this House that a Committee was constituted, consisting of Justice J.B. Sawant, Justice P.D. Desai and Justice Chinnappa Reddy, for making enquires into the conduct of a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice V. Ramaswamy on the basis of an impeachment petition filed by Hon Shri L. K. Advani and others.

Now, what has happened is that though the Committee is there but Justice Sawant is not functioning because the Government of India has not issued the notification. Justice Sawant says that unless the notification is issued by the Government of India, a sitting judge of the Supreme Court cannot function. Therefore, the impeachment proceeding is withheld. To add insult to the injury the former Law Minister,.....\*..... created a confusion and acted in a most.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Please do not mention his name; he is not a Member of this House.

**SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA** : Sir, at that time he said that this Committee has ceased to function. That was wholly unconstitutional and illegal.

Therefore, I request the Government, through you, that the Speaker's ruling for constitution of this Committee should continue even if the Lok Sabha ceases to function. I, therefore, appeal that that Committee should continue and the Law Minister should issue the notification with regard to the functioning of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : You have to sit now. You cannot force anything like that.... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is a very important one.... (*Interruptions*).... The then

\*Not recorded.