

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

losing. We had negotiations with the millowners and also the textile unions. The millowners have also made an appeal to them and I take this opportunity to make an appeal to them today. If they have grievances they can be looked into and examined. If they like, I can refer it to arbitration. If they want us to sit round a table, I am prepared to sit round a table to discuss this, but the strike must be called off. The country is suffering a lot.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : मजदूरों के जो लाखों रुपयों के ड्यूज हैं, मिनिस्टर साहब उन्हें क्यों नहीं दिलवाते ? हैरानी की बात है कि वह मजदूरों को ब्लेम कर रहे हैं ।

श्री ल० न० मिश्र : मैंने मजदूरों का ब्लेम नहीं किया है । मैंने मजदूरों से अपील की है कि वे हड़ताल को खत्म करें और मिल मालिकों से कहा है कि वे मजदूरों की उचित मांगों को स्वीकार करें । मैंने यह भी कहा है कि यह मामला पंचायत, आरबिट्रेशन, के जरिये से तय किया जाये, या अगर भुभुके कहा जाये, तो मैं उन के साथ बैठने के लिए तैयार हूँ । मैं मानता हूँ कि मजदूरों की हालत खराब है, क्योंकि महंगाई बढ़ गई है । और खाने-पीने की चीजों के दाम बढ़ गये हैं । लेकिन मैं चाहूँगा कि हड़ताल जल्दी खत्म हो ।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : I thank all friends who have extended support to this proposal. I am also glad that the Minister has come forward with a categorical statement that he will take steps to see that jute mills are established in Orissa and other needy areas. I only wish that the terms of reference of the survey team would include looking into areas where quality jute is produced so that special emphasis could be placed on locating a mill in such an area. I again thank the Minister for making this statement. I thank all members belonging to all parties and all sections of the House who have extended their support. I wish that the proposed mill may be established by June 1971.

17.28 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION *Re* : CENTRAL FISHERIES CORPORATION

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI (Krishnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have come to raise this point in this House because conditions in Bengal are pretty bad as it is, as you know, and more unemployment in Bengal would certainly heighten that condition. Eighty-five years ago it was written about this city of Calcutta by Kipling, who was one of the great poets of the then ruling foreign power from whose clutches we have got out of, that it was a city of squalour, poverty and crime, a pestilential town kipling had described thus :

"Palace, byre, novel—poverty and pride—side by side And above the packed and pestilential town—Death looked down."

I am sorry to say that at the moment this is not untrue of Calcutta and Bengal.

I would like the Minister to answer some of my questions. It is proposed to wind up the Central Fisheries Corporation. In fact, it has been wound up. At first an assurance was given that the West Bengal Government would take it over.

17.29 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY *in the Chair*]

I understand the West Bengal Government has refused to take it over. I do not know what has happened. I do not know the inner working of the Government either. In any case, the West Bengal Government has not taken it over. The West Bengal Government may or may not take it up. Even so, it is going to be wound up.

There are 246 people engaged in this Fisheries Corporation. What is going to happen to them ? As the hon. Minister knows, I have myself seen him in this connection. I have written to him. The affected people have come running to us and they have been told that this matter is being considered and in case it is wound up the question of their absorption elsewhere

would be considered. You cannot take a decision to wind up an organisation until you have taken a decision about the absorption of the employees elsewhere. They cannot be thrown out. You have stated that you are going to absorb them in agencies like the Food Corporation of India, Modern Bakery and so on. Have you received any reply from them that they will definitely take over these employees. Once you wind up the Corporation, what is going to happen to these 246 employees who do not know where their next meal is going to come from? After all, they were not very highly paid staff. Most of them were very low paid staff. So, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that he must have all these employees in mind and see what he can do definitely for them before the central fisheries Corporation is wound up.

The position of fish in Bengal is pretty bad. So, why should we close up? If we have to close up because it is running at a loss, and, after all the Central Fisheries Corporation was running at a loss look into the cause of loss. It is really shameful that during 1965-66 to 1967-69 there was a loss of Rs. 20,37,022 on the Central Fisheries Corporation. But I would like to ask the hon. Minister why there was this loss. After all, fish and fish culture has a lot of scope in West Bengal. In their memorandum they proposed and set out to do many things. They were to erect factories in suitable places for the manufacture of frozen, canned or cured fish or any other type of fish product and to undertake their sale within or outside India.

Apart from anything else, no single refrigerated unit has been put up. Had it been put up, much fish that is lost today would have been retrieved and we could have exported it even from West Bengal. None of this has been done. Had that been done, maybe, that loss would not have been incurred.

Sir, there is so much dearth of fish. Actually, what is the need for fish in Calcutta? Calcutta needs something like 10,000 tonnes of fish a day. Out of this requirement only 3,500 tonnes a day was

available! Look at the drastic position—I may be excused for bringing in politics; it is not a case of politics—actually 40 per cent of this supply was supplied by the 24-Parganas fisheries. As a result of looting, prices have gone up and nothing has been available to the people of Calcutta. 110 Fisheries of 24 Parganas have been looted. Shri Hare Krishna Konar said publicly, "Go and occupy the fisheries; they are yours." The hon. Member, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu's party was in charge of the fisheries department when the UF Government was there. He is not here because he knows that it was so.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): Is he deliberately absent?

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI: I think so.

There was a particular committee put up by the UF Government. It was not a pro-Congress government by any chance. This committee was put up to find out where the benami lands existed in the fisheries, 33,000 acres of land were all claimed to be benami in the fisheries. When this committee went into this in detail, it was found that there was not a single fishery in the 24-Parganas that was occupying benami land. This was proved by a committee of the UF Government. So, to loot the fisheries because they were on benami land had absolutely no basis except the basis of loot which they went in for. This resulted in the shortage of fish in Calcutta.

Then, look at the pitiful state of the thing! Protein food in West Bengal mainly comes from fish because people are not used to too much meat. The poor man's protein is fish. What is the consumption of fish? If you see it, it will make you really weep. Fish consumption of Korea is 37 Kg. per head per year, of China 31 Kg and of India only 2.7 Kg. Out of this, you can imagine, what falls to the lot of the poor person in West Bengal or in India.

So, I would say that there is much to

[Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury]

be done. We can also take inland fisheries. I do not say that trawlers and so forth can be gone in for at once. We were supposed to get trawlers. What happened? The Japanese trawlers could not work because they could not work in tropical conditions, but have we exploited other avenues?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may try to conclude now.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : I have to make one point more. There is vast scope of developing fisheries. Why are you retrenching people when you can develop inland fisheries, swamp fisheries, river fisheries, estuarian fisheries etc. ? The whole of Sundarbans area lies underdeveloped. On 26th November, the hon. Minister said that Rs. 50 lakhs are going to be given for four years for the development of fisheries in the Sundarban area. I am very happy. But is it possible to develop any kind of fishery with Rs. 10 lakhs a year? I do not think any expert will give you that opinion. If you are going to develop fisheries, you give the money, have refrigerated vans, have refrigerated cartages and take out fish which is there for the people to eat and for you to export. You also absorb these youngmen so that they do not lose their jobs and they do not feel where the next meal is coming from.

I appeal to the hon. Minister to let them have some ray of hope in the dark days. I may just quote one line from Kipling again. Calcutta it is situated on a Bay. There is so much scope to develop fisheries. Even 85 years ago, Kipling described Calcutta in a picturesque way.

I quote :

“Where the cholera, the cyclone,
and the crow come and go ;
stands a city—packed away
Near a bay—”

Calcutta even in those days could be developed as a good harbour and also where fisheries could be developed.

I would, again, ask the hon. Minister to see that these boys keep their jobs and that fisheries are developed. There are in-

land fisheries. The Government is not taking them up in Nadia district where they could develop fisheries. Then, there are inland beels, Anjana and Navpara beels, which actually swarm with fish. Why can't they develop them? They should develop fisheries and make available fish to people to eat and at a cheaper price so that their health may improve and the health of the future generation improves.

I hope, the hon. Minister will throw a little light on this and I am sure the employees in the Central Fisheries Corporation will not outright lose their jobs and will have some real hope.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, I am against the decision of the Government or the Corporation for winding up the Central Fisheries Corporation. It has a history behind it. The hon. lady Member, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, has indirectly supported its closure...

SHRIMATI ILA PAL CHOU DHURY : I have not supported it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : On the ground that if the Central Fisheries Corporation is running at a loss, she suggested that it should be closed...

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : I have not said that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : At the same time, she also shed tears for the employees...

AN HON. MEMBER : Crocodile tears :
(*Interruption*)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if the Fisheries Corporation is running at a loss, whether there has been a proper inquiry. Merely because of mismanagement some particular Corporation, the Fisheries Corporation, runs at a loss, there is no reason why it should be closed down. Hundreds of employees will be thrown out of employment. In that case, if the Government

goes on working on deficit financing, then somebody will ask for the abolition of the Government itself. Then, if the steel plants run at a loss, they will ask for the abolition of the steel plants. There are many other Corporations and there is also the Railways. If they are running at a loss, are the Railways going to be abolished? So, I strongly feel that the Fisheries Corporation should not be closed at all. There should be a proper inquiry and, till the inquiry is conducted, there should be a parliamentary committee to go into the entire affair. Sir, these big fishery peripherals who are the root cause do not want this Corporation to come. They have sabotaged all the programmes of the Government because they want to sell fish in the Calcutta market at Rs. 12 or Rs. 14 per kilo.

I would like to know whether he will appoint a Parliamentary Committee to go into the entire affair and till such time, it should not be closed down and all employees should be restored to their proper jobs.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : सभापति जी, मैं भी श्री बनर्जी की बात का पूरा समर्थन करता हूँ। यह बहुत दुख की बात है कि सेंट्रल फिशरीज कारपोरेशन को बन्द किया जा रहा है क्योंकि उस में घाटा हो रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किन बजहों से घाटा लगा है? इस तरह से पब्लिक कारपोरेशन या सेक्टर घाटे की वजह से बन्द किये जायेंगे, यो फिर हमारा आर्बर्स ही खत्म हो जायगा, उस को बड़ा धक्का लगेगा।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उस से फिश की पर्याप्त सप्लाई नहीं हो रही थी या आप का फिश-कैचिंग अरेंजमेंट फुल कैपेसिटी पर इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रहा था या कोई बजह थी, जिस के कारण घाटा लग रहा था और आप उस को बन्द करने के लिए उतावले हो रहे हैं?

दूसरा सवाल—इस सवाल पर पहले

भी बहस हो चुकी है—कलकत्ता के लोग मछली खाते हैं, उसकी पूर्ति के लिए आप कौन सा दूसरा रास्ता अख्तियार कर रहे हैं, जिससे कि उन की मछली की मांग की पूर्ति बराबर समय पर होती रहे, खास कर चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान उस में डेफिसिट न रहे—क्या इस के लिये आप के पास कोई योजना है?

तीसरा सवाल—जो लोग उस में काम करते हैं, वे रिट्रेन्च किये जायेंगे, बेकार हो जायेंगे। क्या आप आश्वासन देंगे, गारन्टी देंगे कि जो मेमोरेण्डम आप के पास आया है और जिस पर आप विचार कर रहे हैं—एक आदमी भी अन एम्प्लाइड नहीं रहेगा, वे सब के सब एक-एक कर के ले लिए जाएंगे और जब तक वे एम्प्लाइड नहीं हो जाते, तब तक उन का अन एम्प्लायमेंट बेनिफिट मिलता रहेगा।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : सभापति महोदय, मैं भी यही समझता हूँ कि सेंट्रल फिशरीज कारपोरेशन को बन्द करना गलत है, जनता विरोधी कार्यवाही है। यह कहते हुए—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—

1. क्या इस को बन्द करने के पीछे फ़ैरी-वालों का कोई षडयन्त्र है और अगर कोई षडयन्त्र है तो क्या सरकार इस के बारे में कोई एन्कवायरी करवायेगी?
2. कलकत्ता में मछली का उत्पादन तथा उस की बिक्री की स्थिति क्या है—इस के बारे में मंत्री महोदय कुछ बतलाने की कृपा करें?
3. जब यह कारपोरेशन संकट में है तो जैसे आप दूसरे कारपोरेशनों की मदद करते हैं तो क्या आप—यह कारपोरेशन कायम रहे, इस के कर्मचारी बेकार

[श्री शिवचन्द्र भा]

न होने पावे—इस बात को ध्यान में रख कर इसे विशेष आर्थिक सहायता देने को तैयार हैं ? ग्राज की यह बहस 12 नवम्बर के तारांकित प्रश्न के उत्तर में चल रही है, उस में आप ने कहा है कि इस कारपोरेशन के अन्दर 277 कर्मचारी काम करते हैं, जिन में से 132 रेग्यूलर हैं यानी स्थायी हैं और बाकी 145 केजुअल हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इन 145 केजुअल मजदूरों को फौरन रेग्यूलर करने के लिए तैयार है ताकि अगर बदकिस्मती से यह बन्द हो जाय तो उन को गवर्नमेंट के किसी और डिपार्टमेंट में एबजाब करने में आसानी हो सके ? इन सारी बातों की एन्कवायरी होने के बाद ही सरकार को कोई कार्यवाही करनी चाहिये।

आखरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस के बारे में आप का अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक करने का विचार है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry. Your request has been received after time. According to the Rules, I am helpless.

The hon. Minister.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa) : The discretion of the Chair is always there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to violate the Rules.

The hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND

COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : I am thankful to Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri who has raised this discussion. She is one of our very senior colleagues. She naturally raised some doubts as to what would happen to the workers if the Corporation is wound up. I am glad that this discussion has given an opportunity to the Government to clarify the position. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri said that we have decided to wind up the Corporation. I may say, the decision has not been taken so far in this regard. We have not taken the decision and the matter is under consideration. But suppose for the sake of argument that Government comes to the conclusion that it is to be wound up, then, naturally, the future of the workers is an important one.

I may inform hon. Members, Shri Banerjee, Shri Ramavatar Shastri, Shri Shiva Chandra Jha and others that we are equally concerned about the future of the employees and we would not like that the employees should be thrown out. We would, in fact, try every possible way to see that the employees are given alternative employment.

Shri Ramavatar Shastri has quoted some figures. I would like to put the record straight. As far as regular employees are concerned, the figure is 132. The figure of casual workers is 125. The figures quoted by Shri Ramavatar Shastri includes part-time workers. He raised doubts about casual workers. It would be our effect to find alternative employment. Even in anticipation of the decision of the Government we have frozen the vacancies in five public sector corporations including the Food Corporation, Central Warehousing Corporation, Modern Bakeries, etc. We would take due care to see that they are accommodated in various public sector organisations and they are not thrown to their own fates.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri referred to development of fisheries and said that Central Fisheries Corporation was not making much contribution to development of fisheries in West Bengal. West Bengal is a very important location for the development of fisheries. Various developmental activities are going on. She is under the

(H.A.H. Disc.)

impression that Rs. 50 lakhs is the total amount. It is not so. Rs. 50 lakhs will be spent in Sundarbans alone over a period of 4 years: That is on the development of Sundarbans fisheries alone.

Normally development of inland fisheries is a State subject. We ourselves normally do not take up these activities. But in the case of West Bengal...

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I wanted to ascertain whether when Government would take into consideration the case of the employees of the Central Fisheries Corporation, they would also take into consideration the cases of those who are unemployed because of a fishing harbour becoming dangerous. There is a fishing harbour in Kerala, which is the property of more than 2000 fishermen, and which in danger of being silted...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. I am not allowing the hon. Member.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I was explaining that the development of inland fisheries is entirely the responsibility of the State Government. But in the case of West Bengal, we have gone out of our way and we have taken it up as a central project ; we have taken up the development of the Sunderbans inland fisheries as a Central project. That means that this is over and above what the State is expected to do from their own resources...

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : They give only 1 per cent.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is not correct thing to say that development of fisheries has not taken place in West Bengal. During the last four years, the production from inland fisheries has gone up in West Bengal from 1.34 lakhs tonnes to 2.14 lakhs tonnes, that is, it has gone up by almost 80 per cent. Despite the political problems and despite the fact that some of the fishry grounds had been looted, the production is going up in West Bengal. The West Bengal State has made quite a substantial provision of Rs. 2.80 lakhs during the Fourth Plan...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond-Harbour) : During the UF regime.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As for as the development of the infrastructure is concerned, on earlier occasions, references were made to the development of the Roychowk harbour to which reference has been made. I am glad to announce today that this Roychowk harbour has been finally sanctioned, and it would cost Rs. 1.80 crores and the Centre would be financing this project and it would come up.

As I had said earlier, one vessel of 104 feet which has been imported from the GDR is going to be made available and kept at the disposal of the Calcutta Harbour for development and survey of marine fisheries, I would only wish that the West Bengal Members who are very much interested in the development of fisheries would take up these matters with the State Government and use their influence so far as the development of inland fisheries and offshore fisheries is concerned and see that the State Government take more interest in the matter. I wish the necessary atmosphere is created in West Bengal so that the development of fisheries and the mechanisation programme gets impetus. I only wish for the co-operation of the hon. Members. As for as the Centre is concerned, we are doing everything possible.

In conclusion, I would assure all hon. Members that as for as the future of those employees are concerned, we would continue to attend to their problems and we would not throw them in the lurch.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : The fishing harbour at Azhikode near Kodangalur in Kerala is in danger of becoming absolutely useless, and thousands of workers there...

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not under discussion now. Now, this discussion is over.

We will take up the Discussion on Sugar Position and Cane Price.
