4077 Motion re: AGRAHAYANA Report on Mid-term Appraisal of Third-Five Year Plan

Somebody said that in ten years we can make a spectacular advance. It is our hope that within ten years we shall cross the barrier which in economic jargon they say is the take-off stage. I thought in 1956 we reached the take-off stage in industry; but it does not seem to be a fact. But certainly, by the end of the Fourth Plan, we would have we will be able to say that no person who is decrepit, no person who is a destitute will allowed to starve and no person shall remain uneducated. My hon. friend spoke about employment. Does he consider it in isolation? If I deny education today, there will be no unemployment because people will be prepared to do earth work which they will not do when educated. Does the hon. Member realise that unemployment is man-made today, not because of vested interests of tycoons because of the addition every year of millions to the school-leavers. Unless we multiply industries and adopt various other methods to employ them, that will grow. The problem of tackling unemployment, not only current but also the potential one is not going to be easy. So, let everybody produce something; let every-That is the give some employment. policy we follow. If they do mischief with accumulated wealth, if they do things to the detriment of the welfare of the people, we have powers and we can look after that provided Members co-operate with me.

Shri Tyagi: Taxation measures?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari; Not only taxation, even punitive measures for preventing abuse of concentrated wealth.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Ask for these powers and we shall give gladly.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid that I have been sometimes refused those powers. But that is not the main requirement; that is something which we can manage. We are elected by adult suffrage and each one of 1712 (Ai) LSD—9.

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us has probably some lakhs of voters behind him. Do you mean to say that we are afraid of people who have got a few crores of rupees in their hands? Let them produce more. That can be syphoned off or even channelled for, better purposes. You may call this planning good, bad or indifferent. But it is something that has come to stay. It is a tiger. If you get off the tiger you will be caten up. Member there The hon you will have to face a revolution and all that. So long as you go on riding the tiger, so long as the plan goes on, people will be content because they see the evidence of the results of the Plan, but if we follow the advice from the right or from the left or from the hesitant centre, we are done for. We do not propose to disembark from the tiger at all. We will ride the tiger, and, I should say, we shall reach our goal, God willing.

17.26 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—Contd.

LOCK-OUT IN LILLUAH WORKSHOP OF EASTERN RAILWAY

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now take up the Calling Attention Notice.

Some Hon. Members: Tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will go on till 6 O'clock today.

Shri Venkatasubbalah (Adoni): As per the statement laid on the Table by the Minister of Railways, the lock-out has been going on since 25th November. I would like to know whether any efforts have been made to lift the lock-out and enable the worker to resume work so that production may not be hampered.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Dasappa): The administration is in continuous touch with the people there who seem to represent the union. Unfortunately, there is no one

[Shri Dasappa]

who is coming forward with some sense of responsibility to deal with the administration. That has been our great difficulty.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Serampore): This is a long statement and a stereo-type one which has been given as in all cases where any labour dispute arises. However, may I know whether the hon. Minister can give us an assurance positively that there will be no victimisation and that the lockout will be lifted and the work resumed with all the workers who were working just prior to the day on which the lock-out was declared, and may I also know whether the dispute regarding the working hours which have been raised from 42 to 48 will be sympathetically considered?

Shri Dasappa: I think my honfriend there is an experienced labour leader. It would be impossible to give an assurance with regard to a hypothetical offer. I would be glad to consider it most sympathetically in case any person responsible there offers any such thing as this. Pending that, I am afraid it would not be in public interest to answer any of these hypothetical questions.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuzha): I am sure that the Government also now knows that some gentlemen who thought that they represent the workers really do not represent their real feelings. I know why the Government is not taking steps directly to approach the workers, to meet them, and talk to them and then settle the issues with them, because the Government knows that they cannot do anything with so-called representatives really collaborated with the authorities there?

Shri Dasappa: I am glad to state that continuous efforts were made during those days commencing from the 25th on which day they had to declare an unpaid holiday and the

other mishap occurred. On the 26th, 27th, 28th and even up to Saturday, the 30th, they made every effort, they gave them every chance, they issued notices as to what would be the implications of a strike of this nature, and I am sorry to say that none of them tried to co-operate with the management.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I would like to know what steps have been taken or are being taken by the hon. Railway Minister to see that a no-victimisation assurance is given, and whether the demand which has been put forward by the workers will be considered sympathetically, and that later on a declaration is made that no worker will be victimised and the lock-out should be lifted? What is the apparatus, when no worker is coming forward? After all, production cannot suffer indefinitely.

Shri Dasappa: The hon, Member konws very well that it is not the policy of the Railways to victimise anybody. It is only in cases where they may have resorted to violence or misconduct or things of that nature that a certain amount of discipline has got to be maintained. I am sure my hon. friend will also co-operate in this respect and see that where normal constitutional means are not resorted to there should be some amount of discipline. Subject to that over-riding consideration, I am prepared, as I have already said, to deal with the question as sympathetically as possible.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapelli): In view of the fact that this Lilluah workshop had been working only 42½ hours a week prior to the emergency, unlike any other railway workshop in India, may I know whether the Government would consider the question of paying for these 5½ hours a week in addition, which will go a long way towards easing the situation, along

with the assurance that the Minister has now given that there will be no victimisation?

Shri Dasappa: I think this question has been already discussed with him and he has been told that there was an honourable agreement on the part of these labourers that they would work for 48 hours without demanding anything during the emergency at any rate. There are a number of workshops in the railways where prior to this agreement, the hours of work were less than 48. Therefore, reopening the question like this with regard to one workshop would lead to a terrible complication and I do not think my hon. friend would be justified in trying to make Lilluah an exception to the general rule.

Shri Nambiar: May I seek a clarification?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No; you have put a question and you have got the answer. Shri Daji. He is not here. No more questions.

Shri Mohammad Elias (Howrah): It is in my constituency. I know all the details of what has happened there. May I put a question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He cannot. He is not a signatory.

Shri Mohammad Elias: I was dealing with the situation; that is why I could not put my signature. In the past, such opportunities have been given to ask questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will he kindly sit down? I cannot make an exception.

17.32 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT ON MID-TERM APPRAISAL OF THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN—Contd.

Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar): Sir, at this fag end of the fourth day of the debate on the mid-term appraisal report, I am afraid I will cover some of the points already covered by many of the speakers today. After hearing so many speakers, particularly our

Finance Minister, I am sorry that I have to traverse some of the ground which has already been covered. But there is no way out and I hope you will excuse me for that.

I am also not one of those who want to say that the Planning Commission has done nothing and that the Plan should be scrapped. It was amply explained by our hon. Finance Minister and some hon. Members that it is actually a national plan. Is it not a fact this Plan was discussed threadbare by this House and after that this House gave the green signal to the Government to go ahead with it?

Shri Yashpal Singh: There is no quorum,

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let some hon. Members have the opportunity to speak

Shri P. C. Borocah: It is a national Plan and it is our Plan, whatever may be the vices and virtues in this Plan. The report has given us a chance to suggest as to how to improve things. Our criticism should be such that we offer some suggestions by which the plan can be implemented successfully and the Plan targets may be achieved. So, our criticism should be constructive. It does not mean that we should be hiding the deficiencies and the deficits that the Plan has suffered from. They should be discussed and they should be remedied.

I am sorry, I will have to refer again to some of the shortfalls of this Plan. which have already been mentioned by a few of my hon, friends, It is true that while our population is fast increasing the expansion of the economy is slowing down. After thirteen years of planning, mass poverty has still persisted in this country, and it is in the same state as it was in the beginning. The rate of growth of national income has not been commensurate with our needs and objectives; it has fallen short of our expectation by over 50 per cent. The per capita income according to 1948-49 prices in 1960-61