

MR. SPEAKER: O.K.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cattle are also dying in the village.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you supporting it.

SHRISHIVSHARAN VERMA: Livestock is dying and all the trees are engulfed and a horrible accident has taken place. That is why the government should pay special attention to it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the use of narcotics has increased, especially among the youths during the last several years which is really a matter of concern.

In Madhya Pradesh, opium is cultivated in our area and about one lakh quintals of poppy husk is produced. Since the demand for brown sugar and smack in the refined form of opium has increased now, the cost of "dodi chori" which was at one time burnt, has increased from Rs. 10,000/ to Rs. 30,000/- per quintal in Punjab and Rajasthan.

One lakh quintal of opium poppy so produced illegally there. The Madhya Pradesh Government issued license for this but now there is discrimination in the issue of licenses. The license fee for traders has been increased from Rs. one thousand to Rs. 25,000 per year but on the other hand, the sales tax has been reduced from 12% to 5%. For this reason, small traders have left this trade. A few big traders have organized groups and made cartel for smuggling and illegal production of opium poppy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if these people are spared, in one year they will earn profit of Rs. 100 crore. The smugglers will be benefited. Through you, I would request the hon. Finance Minister, that the smuggling of Poppy husk is ruining thousands of families and therefore there is need to check it through

a legislation which would enable the Centre to issue licenses instead of the State administration.

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that this is an importune issue and I have reiterated that a policy should be made regarding opium wherein the interests of the farmers are also protected.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. Please sit down comfortably. Why are you repeatedly taking so much trouble?

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA: My constituency is the largest producer of opium. The State Government has taken steps within its limitations. Whatever has been done for licensing is a separate issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Bombay-South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have repeatedly raised the matter of the closed textile mills in Bombay, in this House. On the one hand, the Government is unable to open those textile mills which have been closed and on the other hand, some other mills are going to close down. Due to the closure of some mills of N.T.C.-the National Textile Corporation-thousands of mill workers would get unemployed. According to an estimate 25,000 mill workers would be rendered unemployed due to this closure. N.T.C. invited tenders to sell the land of a few mills, to certain individuals. Those tenders were to be opened at 9 AM on 20th April, 1992 but the mill workers gathered the office and opposed the move. The tenders could not thus be opened. In this connection, I had asked the

hon. Textiles Minister a question, in this session of the Parliament as to whether they are going to sell that land. He said that this would not be allowed. But even then they are going to sell the land of that mill. Action should be taken against the corrupt officials of N.T.C and inquiry should be done by the C.B.I, as in the case of R.C.F officials. I had raised the matter of the theft in the railways. That is being examined by the C.B.I and the Railway Minister has accepted that there was a theft of railway property worth Rs. two crore. The corrupt practices of General Managing Director, Technical Director (sales,) Purchase Director and Finance Director and the other officials should be probed. They purchase low quality raw material and spare parts of machinery. The machinery goes out of order frequently. Tenders are filled in the name of bogus party and only one party is awarded the tender. They fill the tenders in different names. The contractors and officials are in league with each other. These officials who are in collusion with contractors sell the produced goods at a lower rate. The cloth which is purchased by the army, the police and in hospitals is done through the service agents, whereas there is no need for that. Small machines are sold as scrap and all these machines work well in Bhiwandi and Ahmedabad, outside Bombay. I would request you to hold an inquiry into the loss being suffered by the N.T.C which is to the tune of Rs. 25 lakh every month. Thorough enquiry should be conducted. The Textiles Minister should give an assurance that the Government will not sell this mill and will not let the N.T.C mill to close down. I am grateful to you, for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that Finance Minister and the Government everyday declare that the sick industrial units would be sent to the BIFR for their rehabilitation as BIFR is the *panacea* for the recovery of the sick units. A large number of cases of such sick units were sent to the BIFR, but you

would be surprised to know that some seats of the BIFR members are lying vacant for long. Two of the existing members are going to retire soon and no measure has been initiated to fill up those posts. As a result, the BIFR cannot hear hundreds of cases due to shortage of Board member personnel. When the BIFR is itself sick, how can it take care of the sick units? If cases remained without hearing for months together, how will those sick units be rehabilitated?

Secondly, Sir it is a body without much powers. Who cares for its decisions? Many of its recommendations are not obeyed by the financial institutions. One such example from my constituency is the case of Kanoria Jute Mills. It remained closed for several years and 4,500 workers are out of jobs. The rehabilitation case was referred to the BIFR and after a series of sessions, an acceptable package was finalised and the BIFR recommended for re-opening of the Kanoria Jute mills. All the concerned parties including the workers, a new management, banks and financial institutions were present and accepted the terms. But, the workers were forced to suffer by accepting a lower wage for a few years. The BIFR went out of its way to accept that package.

It instructed the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and the Industrial Reconstruction Board of India (IRBI) to supply funds within one month. The jute mills are re-opened and the workers are trying their best to work hard to make the unit viable. They are taking less wage for the last 14 or 15 months. But the funds are not forthcoming. The workers are in serious situation. If the funds has not been supplied by IRBI, the unit will be closed again. IFCI and IRBI should release funds immediately. It is a serious situation.

The Finance Ministry and the Textile Ministry should take care of it so that the funds are provided on time and the factory is not closed down. I request the Government