

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

वह काम से जाता है तो उस के स्वागत करने की बात तो क्या उस के काम करने की भी कई दिनों तक नीबत नहीं आती। इसलिये हम अपने माननीय उपमंत्री से कहेंगे कि जहाँ आज इस कानून के जरिये से आप हिन्दुस्तान के संचित धन का बहुत बड़ा नहीं तो काफी हिस्सा लेने जा रहे हैं वहाँ आप को इस बात का पूरा ख्याल रखना होगा कि जो मैशीनरी इस कानून को लागू करने और टेक्स इकट्ठा करने के लिये आप बनावें उस के चुनाव में बहुत बड़ी सावधानी बरतनी चाहिये। केवल पबलिक सर्विस कमीशन से नियुक्त होने से ही ईमानदारी का परिचय नहीं होता। यूनिवर्सिटियों से लम्बी चौड़ी विधियाँ हासिल कर के सरकारी नौकरी में प्रवेश पा जाना ही कोई ईमानदारी का लक्षण नहीं होता है। इस तरह के कानून को लागू करने के लिये मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसे लोगों की एक विशिष्ट कमेटी बनानी चाहिये कि जो शिक्षा का ख्याल रखे और दूसरी ओर नये ठाट बाट का भी ख्याल रखे, लेकिन यह ख्याल पहले रखे कि वह एक ईमानदार व्यक्ति होना चाहिये। और बातों में नम्बर दो भी हो तो कोई बात नहीं, लेकिन ईमानदारी में नम्बर एक ही होना चाहिये। हमारे देश में ईमानदारी की जो कीमत है वह कुछ आज कम है और दूसरे गुणों की जो कीमत है वह कुछ ज्यादा है। इस को कम करना होगा और ईमानदारी की कीमत को बढ़ाना होगा।

Mr. Chairman: It is now 12-45 and I have to take up the half an hour discussion. Notices have been given by certain Members. One of them is Mr. Jasani.

#### DISCUSSION RE BIDI INDUSTRY

श्री जसानी (भंडारा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आज इस सदन के सदस्यों के सामने इस देश के एक बहुत बड़े गृह उद्योग बीड़ी व्यवसाय

के सम्बन्ध में कुछ बातें रखना चाहता हूँ। शायद हमारे में से कुछ भाइयों को यह ख्याल होगा कि इस बीड़ी के गृह उद्योग का आज के दिन हमारी आर्थिक व्यवस्था के अन्दर कितना बड़ा और महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। यह बीड़ी व्यवसाय हमारे देश के एक कोने से दूसरे कोने तक उत्तर से ले कर दक्षिण तक और पूरब से ले कर पश्चिम तक हमारे देश के हर एक गांव में फैला हुआ है और इस बीड़ी उद्योग में हमारे ६ लाख भाई काम कर रहे हैं और आज इस गृह उद्योग के जरिये जो कुछ भी उत्पादन होता है, शायद हमारे में से कुछ भाइयों को यह ख्याल होगा कि हम सौ करोड़ रुपये की बीड़ी साल भर में बनाते हैं, परन्तु आज जिन पूंजीपतियों के हाथ में यह गृह उद्योग है, वह अब इस गृह उद्योग का यन्त्रीकरण करना चाहते हैं और बीड़ी बनाने के यन्त्र हमारे इस देश में तैयार हुए हैं, एक तो बम्बई में तैयार हुआ है और दूसरा बनारस में तैयार हुआ है। मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि इस बीड़ी उद्योग के जरिये सरकार को आज करीब ११ करोड़ रुपये की एक्साइज ड्यूटी (Excise Duty) मिलती है, अब हमें यह देखना है कि इस यन्त्रीकरण का हमारे इस देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था के ऊपर क्या असर होता है? आप यह जानते हैं कि अभी फाइव ईयर प्लान के अन्दर जो हम नये उद्योग खोलने जा रहे हैं और जिन उद्योगों में हमारा ७०० करोड़ रुपया लगने के बाद पांच साल के अन्त में हम केवल चार लाख आदमियों को काम दे सकेंगे, परन्तु अगर इस बीड़ी व्यवसाय का यन्त्रीकरण हुआ, और वह यन्त्र जो बारह आदमी का काम करता है वह इस बीड़ी व्यवसाय में दाखिल हुआ, तो करीब करीब पांच लाख आदमी उस में से बाहर निकल जायेंगे। आज हमारे देश में बेकारी का सवाल बड़ा एक्शूट (acute) होता

जा रहा है और हम देखते हैं कि हमारी बड़ी बड़ी जो इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, उन में कुछ लोगों को काम मिलता है और कुछ को नहीं मिल रहा है। अगर हम तमाम इंडस्ट्रीज के सम्बन्ध में हिसाब लगायें, तो हम पायेंगे कि हमारे देश की बड़ी बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज में ५७ लाख आदमी काम करते हैं। सब से बड़ी इंडस्ट्री आज हमारी टेक्सटाईल (Textiles) की है जिस में करीब दस लाख आदमी काम करते हैं, उस के बाद रेलवे का नम्बर आता है जिस में करीब आठ लाख आदमी काम करते हैं, और इस गृह उद्योग में ६ लाख आदमी काम करते हैं, और मैं बतलाऊं कि प्रश्न केवल ६ लाख आदमियों का ही नहीं है, क्योंकि अगर हम इन ६ लाख काम करने वालों के साथ में जो उन के डिपेंडेंट्स (dependents) हैं उन की भी अगर हम गिनती करें, तो आज बारह लाख से अधिक आदमियों की रोटी का सवाल हमारे सामने है और मेरा निवेदन है कि अगर इस यन्त्रीकरण के द्वारा बारह लाख आदमियों की रोटी का प्रश्न उपस्थित होता है, तो शासन का यह काम हो जाता है कि उस पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक सोचें कि उसके बारे में वह क्या करे। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे यहां जो इंडस्ट्रियल ऐक्ट है उस में इस तरह का एक क्लॉज (clause) है जिस के जरिये जो नयी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, उस में मशीन के ऊपर हम रोक डाल सकते हैं। इस के प्रतिरिक्त मैं आप को याद दिलाऊं कि हमारे भारतीय संविधान की जो तैत्तालीसवीं धारा है उस में हम लोगों ने यह तय किया है कि हम काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज की रक्षा करेंगे और काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज को जहां तक सम्भव हो, बढ़ाने की कोशिश करेंगे तो समापति महोदय आज यह जो प्रश्न हमारे सामने पेश है, हमें सोचना चाहिये कि हम इस के सम्बन्ध में क्या करें? कोई भाई अगर यह तर्क करें कि यन्त्रीकरण करने से बीड़ी का उत्पादन बढ़ सकता है तो उस को करने में

क्या हर्ज है, तो मैं अपने उन भाई से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे सामने केवल उत्पादन बढ़ाने का सवाल ही नहीं है, हमारे सामने एक ह्यूमन फैक्टर (human factor) भी है कि हमारा औद्योगीकरण ऐसा होना चाहिये, हमारी इंडस्ट्रीज इस प्रकार की हों जिन में हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा आदमियों को रोटी दे सकें, इसलिये मैं यह कहता हूँ कि इस के सम्बन्ध में शासन को तुरन्त विचार करना चाहिये।

**Mr. Chairman:** I would suggest to hon. Members that this is not a matter in which they should go on with long speeches, because the trouble will be that the purpose for which it is intended will not be achieved. Therefore they should be more factual and they may give some suggestions. The last ten minutes I propose to give to the hon. Minister because his reply will be an important part of the discussion.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik—Central):** I have to state the following facts during the short time that is at my disposal.

In our economic life, cottage industries play a very vital part. Our country is already over populated and the question of unemployment is everyday on the increase. We cannot afford to see a position in which 5 lakhs of people are likely to be thrown out of employment. It will be a very serious problem for the country from every point of view and just to avoid that, the only remedy is to stop mechanisation of this industry. The urgency and the importance of this matter cannot be exaggerated. In the initial stages, the prevention of the mechanisation of this industry can be easily achieved. Supposing now the machines have already come in the market and we have purchased and installed them in certain factories. Very rapidly the whole industry is likely to be mechanised. At that stage it will be very difficult for the Government, even if they have the means, to arrest the progress of further mechanisation. For the present, the industry is not concentrated in a few cities. It is spread throughout in hundreds of villages and a few towns. It serves the purpose of supplementary business to thousands of agriculturists. At the present juncture, when we are trying to find out fresh avenues for employment for thousands of people who are in need

[Shri G. H. Deshpande]

of employment, if we do not take urgent steps in this matter, then we will have to face a very serious situation. That is why we want to place this matter before the House, before the Government and before the hon. Members of this House and urge upon them the necessity of immediately trying to have some preventive method by which mechanisation in this industry can be arrested. It could be done by two ways. In a recent Act which we passed, there is a provision that if any concern wants to produce any fresh article, it will have to do so with the consent of the Government. Government can prevent local factories from purchasing these machines and if there will be an attempt by the capitalists to import machines from foreign countries, they can be prevented from doing so. If these two steps are taken, I am sure the progress of mechanisation can be arrested and the unemployment problem can be saved to a very large extent. I have done.

**Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk):** My friends have put the matter before the House. This bidi industry may be mostly called a rural industry. The widows, disabled persons, and others, in the villages prepare bidis and send them to factories. Thus many people are engaged in this industry. If mechanisation which is proposed to be brought in is taken in hand, then, according to our calculation at least 5 lakhs of people will be out of employment. The Government, according to the Five Year Plan, is trying within five years to give employment to 4 lakhs of people only. It will have to be noted that 5 lakhs will be added and this will be a burden to the Government.

We are bound by our Constitution to look into this matter. Article 43 says that we must promote rural cottage industries but this cottage industry when hampered will be a burden to the Government. So I request not only the Commerce Ministry but also the Labour Ministry and the Planning Commission to look into this matter and take such steps as are necessary. I think there will be no obstacles when Government wants to take steps to save this cottage industry which we are bound, by the Constitution, to promote.

**Shrimati Maydeo (Poona South):** While smoking is not considered a virtue, to discuss publicly bidi-making industry would mean encouraging sin. (An Hon. Member: It is a necessity.) But, considering the implementation of the Five-Year Plan,

we are thinking of how best to encourage cottage industries. Bidi-making can be considered as one of them. This occupation does not require any big capital or any implements to start with. With only Rs. 5 in hand, we can earn something every day. More than half the employees are women in the bidi-making industry. When we look at the facts and figures, we find that, along with looking after their children and home, women can earn nearly one rupee per day by making bidi. It is required to find out such an occupation that there will be easy consumption of the finished goods. You will find that this bidi is being consumed in such large numbers every day. Therefore, what I feel is that it will be criminal even to think of importing machinery for bidi-making which is the easiest possible manual occupation. The industry is such that it can easily be decentralised. So, I would request the Government to put a ban on importing machinery. I would also request those who have taken up this matter in their hands to pursue it earnestly until they get success.

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam):** Mahatma Gandhi himself gave a place to the bidi industry when he inculcated the spirit of Swadeshi. I am coming.....

**Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru):** If the hon. Member would only ask some questions, we may also get a chance.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think that would enable some more hon. Members to take part in this discussion.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I am putting the question. I am coming from a State where this bidi-making is carried on as a cottage industry on a wide scale mainly attached to tobacco shops, big and small. Any dislocation of that industry would lead to serious unemployment in my State, a State which is affected by the depression in the coir industry and also in the handloom industry. This is a perpetual problem—the question of mechanisation in this and similar fields—which Government will have to encounter. I would like to impress upon the Ministry to devote attention sufficiently early before the situation gets out of control. May I know whether Government has already introduced any sort of licensing system or intends to introduce any to those who want to mechanise this industry, and also whether the Government intends to prohibit altogether the adoption of the machine method? I would like clarification on these points.

**Shri Nambiar (Mayuram):** Apart from the fact of mechanisation and prospective retrenchment, may I know whether it is a fact that in the southern parts, in the Madras State, Travancore-Cochin and Mysore States, the bidi industry is much affected due to shortage of wagons for the supply of raw materials like leaves, tobacco etc., and whether also it is a fact that recently there was a cut in the dearness allowance of the bidi workers, and thereby a cut in the total emoluments of these workers, which has created much difficulty to them? May I know whether the Government are aware of these facts, and whether they will do something towards redressing these grievances?

1 P.M.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shri Doraiswami.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I am not Veeraswami. I am B. S. Murthy.

**Mr. Chairman:** I called Mr. Doraiswami. You can ask a question also.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether, after introducing this mechanisation, the Government will take all possible steps for providing alternative employment for these retrenched people?

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal):** I want to know the position with regard to the refund of the increased licensing fees which were realized by the Government. Some time back, about 1951, the licensing fee was increased and there was a representation from the bidi dealers all over India, and Government decided to cancel that order. I want to know whether that amount—a huge amount was realized from the bidi dealers all over India—has been refunded.

**Shri Raghavalah (Ongole):** In my parts.....

**Mr. Chairman:** A little louder.

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** He has not yet reached his normal voice. He is only gearing up.

**Shri Raghavalah:** In our parts this industry is run on a co-operative basis. So many workers subscribe the share capital of one rupee, or two rupees, or five rupees—something like that—and just start this industry on a co-operative basis. As a result of the levy of so many taxes like the Sales Tax, the co-operative industry has not been able to flourish and the workers are not getting enough profits which they should get when there is an industry run on a co-operative basis. So, in order to encourage this co-operative industry, may I request

the hon. Minister to assure the workers in this industry that any kind of taxes or these duties and all this fee will not be levied on such a large amount that it amounts to discouraging the industry on a co-operative basis.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore) rose.—**

**Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes):** He is an interested party.

**श्री बुलेकर (जिला हांसी - दक्षिण) :**

क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि बुंदेलखंड और रीवा स्टेट जो हैं जिस को घाप बिन्ध्य प्रदेश कहते हैं उस में लाखों दरस्त तेंदू के हैं और उन की पत्ती ग्रहमदाबाद, बम्बई वगैरह भेजी जाती है। वहां पर इस समय लकड़ी और लकड़ी का कोयला मंहगा होने के कारण हजारों वृक्ष प्रति वर्ष काटे जाते हैं और इसलिये सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर भी होना चाहिये। यह जो हजारों दरस्त हर वर्ष काटे जाते हैं इस की वजह से कुछ दिनों में बीड़ी इंडस्ट्री खत्म हो जायेगी और हजारों आदमी जो वहां काम कर रहे हैं उन का नुकसान होगा। इसलिये मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि बुंदेलखंड, मध्य भारत और बिन्ध्य प्रदेश के जो खिस्ते हैं उन में जरूर कोई कानून ऐसा लागू होना चाहिये जिस में कि बीड़ी के उद्योग में काम आने वाली जो पत्ती है उस के दरस्त के काटने की मनाही हो।

**श्री जांगड़े (बिलासपुर—रक्षित—अनुसूचित जातियां) :** मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि मशीनों के प्रयोग से अभी जो सम्पत्ति का विकेन्द्रीकरण मजदूरी के रूप में हजारों मजदूरों के पास जा कर होता है, वह कुछ व्यापारियों के पास में करोड़ों रुपये के इकट्ठे होने से रुक जायेगा। यानी इस प्रकार से धनवानों को और भी धनवान और गरीबों को और भी गरीब नहीं बनाया जा रहा है ?

दूसरी बात जो मैं जानना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि अभी लाखों मजदूरों को

[श्री जांगड़े]

काम नहीं मिलता क्योंकि वे शारीरिक कमजोरी के कारण कोई और काम नहीं कर सकते। वह केवल वो हाथों के सहारे बीड़ी बनाते हैं। अगर बीड़ी का धंधा उन को नहीं मिलेगा तो क्या उन को कोई दूसरा धंधा मिल सकेगा? नहीं मिलेगा। आखिर सरकार उन को कौन सा दूसरा धंधा दे सकेगी?

**Mr. Chairman:** Let the hon. Member put a question.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** The bidi industry is not one of the scheduled industries under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Will the hon. Minister kindly consider the feasibility of including it by a suitable amendment of the Act if mechanisation in this industry takes place on a large scale?

**Mr. Chairman:** I am calling upon the Hon. Minister to reply.

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** I should begin by saying that Government appreciate that this question has been raised on the floor of the House. This question assumes importance principally not from the production point of view, but from the employment point of view. It has been common experience that wherever in the case of existing industries mechanisation has come in, it has normally resulted in displacing small scale workers who have received employment in that particular industry—just as it happened partially in the case of handlooms.

Earlier we might have had a look at this question from the point of view of efficiency of production and other factors. But we do recognise that in the case of an industry like the bidi industry where a large number of workers find their employment and subsistence, it becomes necessary seriously to consider as to how far we should permit mechanisation. As my friend, Mr. Chaudhuri, said, it. Technically today, as the law stands, we have no power to intervene and say that those machines shall not come into existence. However I might for the information of the House say that this problem is before the Central Government and we have indicated our disapproval of mechanisation trespassing into this field. The question

has principally arisen in two States, Bombay and Uttar Pradesh. Our information is that in Bombay there has been an attempt at evolving a machine which will result in greater production with less labour. Our information also is that this machine is not yet on the market, that the machine that was said to be evolved was something of a complicated machine and that the Bombay Government was also cognisant of this matter. We further understand that the original inventor, or the man who devised it, had sold his own rights to another concern. But we have to envisage the possibility of this machine coming into existence, because there is nothing wonderful about it. Government do consider that from the employment point of view, this is a question that should be considered seriously and we are grateful to the hon. Members who have raised this debate for having raised a note of warning betimes. I am happy to state on behalf of Government that this question of mechanisation in the bidi industry will receive our attention. Because fundamentally we are opposed to mechanisation of any particular sector of industry resulting in unemployment, especially at a time in the economic history of our country when it is as important to maintain unimpeded the course of employment as to develop increased production. I am quite sure that hon. Members of the House will give us time to consider this matter; it is not a matter of urgency in the sense that the machines are not yet in the market. It is very good that questions are raised when there is yet time to correct the situation. And I should think there is no question of information in this matter. There is no particular aspect on which I can enlighten the House, further than what it has already been enlightened. The facts are there. A number of workers are there. The fact also that poor people are engaged in this industry is there. It is also equally patent that it is important to give consideration to the possible effects of mechanisation.

I hope hon. Members will be content with this assurance at this stage.

**Shri Nambiar:** Sir, we had raised some other points also.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes, Sir. The principal point to which our attention was drawn was the mechanisation of this industry, its effect on employment.

We had not sufficient notice of the other points and I have denied myself the luxury of dealing with those points because I am not fully prepared with them. If we had a little early notice of this and if we had more time—and I do not think hon. Members would like to sit for some time more—I would have been very happy to deal with those points and I am quite sure we would have given the information to the hon. Members in good time. How-

ever, I wish them better luck next time.

**Shri Nambiar:** Is he sure that we will not sit for some time more?

**Mr. Chairman:** The House will now stand adjourned till 8-15 a.m. tomorrow.

*The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Friday, the 15th May, 1953.*

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