

where there are gaps of efforts and whether effort could be re-distributed to meet priorities and objectives.

#### Coordination Councils:

The existing pattern of Coordination Councils will continue and they will be concerned primarily as Co-ordinators of inter-laboratory projects based on the plans of the Research Planning Groups and within the overall objectives set by the Governing Body.

**SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** I have gone through the Statement laid on the Table. A Committee was appointed by the CSIR the details of which have been given there. My question relates to the actual implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether it has been already on the implementing stage or in the process of considering stage.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** They are considered. As I have already said, the Governing Body has approved them subject to some modifications, and they are being implemented.

**SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** It has been stated in the reply that the Governing Body, CSIR at its meeting held on 19th June, 1978 considered and approved of the recommendations of the Committee with some modifications. May I know what are those modifications?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** The modifications are only in two respects. One is about the executive committee of the National Laboratory Institute which has been given by them. The modification is such that it will consist of the Director as Chairman, three Scientists, Administrative Officer, Finance and Accounts Officer, the Director-General, his nominee and three Members of the Research Advisory Council as Members. It shall be

responsible for internal management of the laboratory. Broadly it is the same but to make it effective, they have done this reorganisation.

The second modification is with regard to the Research Advisory Council. The recommendation is accepted with the addition of three members of the Research Advisory Council to be nominated on the executive committee of the Laboratory/Institute.

#### Theft of imported goods at Bombay Port

\*432. **SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing in 'Sunday Standard' Bombay of June 18, 1978 under the caption 'Thieving in Dock' regarding organised theft of imported goods in the Bombay Port;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to prevent such thefts?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the news-item is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Prevention of thefts is a continuous process and measures to improve the position have to be taken regularly from time to time.

Security and prevention of thefts at the Port are the joint responsibility of the State police and the Port authorities. The anti-Pilferage Committee set up at the Port reviews the theft cases regularly and suggests improvements in the security arrangements from time to time.

Government have asked the Chairman, Bombay Port Trust, to investigate fully and take suitable action against the erring employees. The matter has since been referred to State C.I.D. for independent investigation. Government have also addressed Maharashtra Government to investigate and take suitable action to ensure to proper action by the police.

News item

THIEVING IN THE DOCK

By Raja Chandran

*Sunday Standard,*  
Bombay, June 18, 1978.

Dock workers call her "Kayamchi Garodar Bai", the permanently pregnant woman. For 24 years she has been pregnant and her "special delivery" consists of stolen articles worth thousands of rupees.

Without the slightest hesitation, the middle-aged woman walks past the security at the Yellow Gate who let her out without hesitation, too.

All eyes are on her the moment she comes out of the docks. Her every step is watched—from the clutter of shops as well as the high-rise buildings nearby.

For the ordinary passer-by, the sight of this 50-year-old pregnant woman may present a curious spectacle, nothing more. But for some scores of men watching with hidden eyes, her ambling walk to Goa street ten minutes away is a viable business proposition.

This correspondent who smuggled himself into the dock and later followed her on her seemingly pointless journey was struck by the calculatedness of the entire operation.

At Goa Street she paused and stopped at a shop. The pot-bellied shopkeeper did not bat an eyelid as she dug her hand deep inside her saree

and took out a bundle. She placed it neatly beside an assortment of other electronic gadgets spilled all around.

For the woman, delivering the goods meant her role was over. Soon agents and other "shylocks" in the booming "dock thieving syndicate" will hawk the wares for a fantastic fee.

The "Garodarbai" is just one of the countless carriers who have made stealing a noble profession. She has five helpers who too are women. Though not always pregnant they are "able" to carry stolen articles out of the dock with the greatest of ease.

Police, Customs and various enforcement authorities, paid to check thieving, actually encourage it. There are no questions asked and watching these carriers flit in and out the dock gives the impression that they possess permanent passes.

A visit to the dock not only confirmed official connivance but also revealed the existence of several "thieving syndicates" which ensure that goods supposedly in the safe custody of the authorities are pilfered with masterly efficiency.

A 12-foot high wall, seemingly impregnable, encloses the dock area. The broken glass pieces a top and the wired fencing only fool the gullible. The massive Customs baggage counter is just four yards from the wall.

And yet, this spot is reportedly a haven for dock thieves. The wall is scaled by thieves with tremendous ease and the goods thrown over the wall into waiting vans below.

This section of the wall has become so used to the contraband carriers that tell-tale marks are visible on close examination leading right upto the fence. Even the fence tilts towards the lane below as if a symbol of defeat.

Another exit point is a lane where there is a Port Trust securing chowkie. Here, straight pay-offs and outs

ensure quick passage of the stolen goods for which according to insiders "strict security" is provided by the security officers themselves. Often a taxi cruises along screenches to a halt at the chowkie and discharges the goods to be picked up by carriers who are often in tattered clothes. The quantity discharged may be small but the activity is large.

At the Blue Gate on D'Mello Road in front of the Dental College, it is "open sesame" for urchins and lepers who infest the area. They keep making regular forays into the dock after greasing the palms of security men.

A sleepy-eyed policeman became instantly alert when he saw a five-year old girl trying to gain entry. This correspondent watching the "operation" a few yards away, saw the cop go back to his sleep moments after the girl handed him some coins.

She went inside the dark pedestrian corridor and returned minutes later with milk cane. She ran and gave the cans to a couple of youth sitting under a tree. She was amply rewarded with currency notes.

The Blue Gate, insiders say, is ideal for quickly-disposable goods and the main carriers here are urchins and lepers who are the cops' best friends in the docks and their worst enemies when drives against them are launched.

No one knows how many lakhs worth of property are pilfered from the dock despite the Government setting up an elaborate system of four independent security agencies. The Vigilance Officer is a Deputy Inspector-General of Police; there is the Deputy Commissioner of Police who with his staff controls the Yellow Gate; then there is the Chief Security Officer with the rank of Assistant Commissioner with his men, besides separate dock security watchman who are controlled by various sections.

Not all these agencies are totally corrupt. Talking to some officials, this Correspondent was surprised to

find an open admission of large-scale thieving.

Asked what the security agencies were doing, they said there were "inadequate transport facilities" and also that the telephones went out of order "now and again". But an engineer who has been watching these "shoody goings on" for years asked: "Why do they want transport and phones? A man with two feet can prevent thieving".

From what insiders disclose, the dock thieves are so well-organised that during big operations, all the phones in sensitive areas go dead. Many insiders are scared to talk about the ramifications of the "syndicates". They hint that some kind of official patronage from the "very top" is always there.

Rumours abound the docks which has become the breeding ground of Haji Mastans. One of them tends to suggest that a new syndicate may soon find an exclusive way to smuggle out goods—through a tunnel which starts in the Mobile Crane Section and ends up nearby hospital. In olden times, it was reportedly one of "Shivaji's exit routes and now the Great Maratha warrior must be turning in his grave".

Whenever there is a theft of Bombay Port Trust property, a complaint is promptly lodged with the Yellow Gate Police. But in the event of theft of private not always a complaint is lodged by the party concerned.

The Yellow Gate police to whom the Correspondent talked to plead ignorance to the number of private cases pending with them. According to the insiders, recently in an export consignment of tractors it was detected that some electrical accessories worth Rs. 20,000 were stolen.

The exporting party was diffident about lodging a complaint as the consignment would be delayed for investigation. There are reportedly

many racketeers who take advantage of this diffidence. Reliable sources said there are still many who exploit import consignment which are under-invoiced.

"We are thoroughly demoralised", lamented a dock worker who has seen thieving and smuggling taking place so brazenly for years. "Though negligible compared to the total turn-over at the dock, labour productivity is going down", he said.

Why doesn't the labour protest? I asked. Many quoted blood-curdling stories of ruthlessness. The most recent "disappearance" making the rounds is that of a technical supervisor who had complained to the police about these nefarious activities. He has not been heard of since and his family at Tirpav near Chembur has all but given up hope.

A knowledgeable insider echoing the fears of many disclosed: "When money does not buy silence, death is the inevitable outcome."

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:** The last paragraph of the statement talks about blood-curdling stories of the disappearance of some of the officials who were honest. In this report, it is said that people are afraid to be sincere. About security measures, what steps Government is going to take?

**SHRI CHAND RAM:** The Government is thinking of setting up or introducing the Central Security Force in place of the two agencies that we have deployed so far.

**SHRI VINODHAI B. SHETH:** Sir, I personally visited the Bombay Port and the Dock just 15 days before and the condition there is very primitive and security, of course, is not as much as is required by the importers. So, is the Government thinking of tightening the machinery of security by some modern means, that is, introducing closed Circuit TV, and ensuring that the imported goods are protected against theft and fire?

**SHRI CHAND RAM:** The news item is serious enough and various methods to detect the various thefts have been taken. The hon. Member has suggested some action to be taken and that we will consider.

**श्रीधरो बलबोर सिंह :** क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि ये सब चोरियाँ ऊपर से नीचे तक सब मिल कर कर रहे हैं और उन्हें रोकने के लिए सरकार को ठोस कदम उठाने पड़ेंगे ? क्या इस बारे में सरकार की कोई ऐसी पालिसी है कि जो लोग इन चोरियों में शामिल हैं, उन के खिलाफ इतना सख्त एक्शन लिया जाये कि इन चोरियों को रोका जा सके ? जैसा कि मैं ने कहा है, इन चोरियों में नीचे से ले कर ऊपर तक सब शामिल होते हैं, लेकिन घ्राखिर में किसी छोटे प्रादमी पर इल्जाम लग जाता है। सारे का सारा गोलमाल नीचे से ले कर ऊपर तक है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस को रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है।

**श्री चांब राम :** न्यूज घ्राइटम में भी बताया गया है कि नीचे से ऊपर तक मिले हुए हैं। हो सकता है कि इस में कोई सच्चाई हो। इस मामले को स्टेट सी० घ्राई० डी० के सुपुर्द किया गया है। और वे इनवेस्टीगेशन कर के अपनी रिपोर्ट देंगे। बी० पी० टी० के बेयरमैन को भी लिखा है कि चीफ सिक्युरिटी घ्राफिसर के खिलाफ सख्त एक्शन लिया जाये। इस के अलावा चीफ सेक्रेटरी, महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट, को भी लिखा है कि वहां पर उन की 500 के करीब पुलिस डेप्लायड है, उसके होते हुए ये चोरियाँ क्यों होती हैं। हम ने महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट और पोर्ट ट्रस्ट के बेयरमैन को सख्त कार्यवाही करने के लिए कहा है।

**श्रीधरो बलबोर सिंह :** मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि चोरियाँ हो चुकी हैं, उन के बारे में इन-क्याबरी हो रही है। मेरा सवाल यह है कि इन चोरियों को रोकने के लिए सरकार और क्या मेजर्ज एडाप्ट कर रही है, क्योंकि यह एक बहुत सीरियस मीटर है।

**श्री चांब राम :** मैंने अभी सेंट्रल सिक्युरिटी फोर्स के बारे में बताया है। शायद इसके इन्ट्रो-ड्यूस होने से हालात सुधर जायेंगे। माननीय सदस्य, श्री शेट, ने जो तजवीज दी है, मैं सोचा जा सकता है।

सैनिक कामिकों को जहदो सेवा निवृत्त करने की नीति

\* 433. डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का प्रब भी वही विचार है जो जनता पार्टी के घोषणा पत्र में दिया गया था कि सैनिक कामिकों की जहदो सेवानिवृत्ति