

To our bad luck these 150 workers were taken to Korea. As soon as they entered into the ships they were asked to work continuously without any rest. If anybody showed any reluctance they have been beaten black and blue. Not only that, as per a report appeared in the press, 32 workers escaped. They came to Ernakulam. They met the pressmen and narrated their tales of woes which we could not hear without tears in our eyes. These 150 workers were taken and were asked to work continuously. After one month's suffering, 36 people managed to escape. They reached Kerala last week. They gave a description of their sufferings which shocked everyone. Indians are working in four Korean ships and they were asked to work continuously for hours together without any rest. One of the workers said, "I could not urinate for days together as I was kicked on my abdomen by Koreans. I have no other option but to commit suicide." Many workers jumped into the sea for escaping. They were rescued and were put back on the job. One worker had a fever with a temperature of 110°C. Then, what did they do? They took that man and threw him into the deep freezer of the ship. How can we think of these things? He has been rescued by some other people. This is the situation. So, I call upon the Government of India to take action against the Korean shipping company, Seo Woo Corporation, Pusan, Korea. This company has recruited people on a written contract. There are international labour standards. No international labour standard has been followed. Only we poor Indians are recruited for \$200 per month salary, only \$200 whereas American workers get \$1,500 wages per hour. Our workers are recruited for \$200 per month. We are treated like this. Therefore, I request the Labour Minister especially the Minister of External Affairs to see that this kind of people are debarred and blacklisted and suitable action be initiated against them. The

suffering workers may be given protection by the Government of India. Some immediate steps should be taken by the Government. I request the Labour Minister to take note of these points and take some expeditious steps. Thank you.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the submission made by my senior colleague. I would request the Government to make a statement on this matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Anyway, the hon. Minister has assured us that he would look into the matter.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the serious matter raised by our senior colleague. The entire people of Kerala are concerned over this issue. I entirely agree with whatever Mr. Balanandan has submitted. I request the hon. Minister to respond on this issue.

RE: BAN ON IMPORT OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM INDIA BY EEC COUNTRIES.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House and to the Government regarding serious implications of the European Economic Community's decision to ban import of fish and fishery products from India. There is an urgent need for the Government's intervention to save this industry. Actually 40 per cent of our exports are targeted to these countries. The value of our exports to the EEC is to the tune of Rs.1,000 crores. If the ban is continued, then, it would affect lakhs of fishermen and lakhs of workers engaged in this industry. Sir, some countries are trying to impose such non-tariff restrictions on our exports in order to exert pressure on us and also to

extract concessions from us. Sir, you must be remembering, the United States of America made a big propaganda in their country that the garments we exported to the United States of America were highly inflammable. Such tricks are resorted to by some of these countries to put India in a tight corner.

I also request the Government to gear up our quality control mechanism to go into this question and to see that these food products are processed and handled in a hygienic condition. I request the Government to take into consideration the magnitude of this question and to discuss this issue with the European Economic Community to safeguard our national interests and also to protect lakhs and lakhs of fishermen and workers engaged in this industry.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात): महोदय, पिल्लै जी ने जो कहा है, मैं उससे एसोसिएट कर रहा हूँ क्योंकि यह हजारों फिशरमेन के परिवारों का स्वाल है। परदेशी लोगों की यह चाल हो रही है कि इंडिया से यह एक्सपोर्ट न हो। बहुत लंबे समय से लाखों फिशरमेन, जो यहां भी डीप फिशिंग चल रही थी, उनकी मांग कर रहे थे कि बंद होनी चाहिए। यह बाहर के देशों की एक बनाई हुई चाल है, जिस पर हमारी सरकार जरूर सोचे और गरीब फिशरमेन लोगों के लिए कुछ न कुछ रास्ता निकाले। धन्यवाद।

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Ramachandran Pillai in calling the attention of the Government to the serious situation that has arisen due to the decision of the countries belonging to the European Economic Community banning the import of fish products from India.

Sir, if this decision is implemented, it will create a very serious situation in India. We have a very long seashore. About 80 lakh fishermen and their families are there. We are exporting about Rs.3000 crores worth of fish products. The European countries are the main consumers. As such, if this decision is implemented, the fishing industry and

the fish-processing industry will be in doldrums. The life of the lakhs and lakhs of fishermen and the other people who are associated with this process will be in great difficulty. And it will affect the economic situation of various States also, including Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and other States.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to take serious measures to see that the export to these countries could be renewed. Of course, the Government of India will have to take one or two other measures also regarding the quality of the products. The hygienic conditions in which they are processed will also have to be attended to. All the necessary steps will have to be taken. With these words, I conclude.

RE. CRITICISM OF SAINTS BY UNION MINISTER OF WELFARE AT A PUBLIC FUNCTION IN CHANDIGARH

श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल (गुजरात): थैंक यू सर। सर, हमारे मंत्री जी सदन के बाहर कैसे शब्दों का इस्तेमाल करते हैं, वह मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन के सम्भने रखना चाहती हूँ। आज सुबह मैं एक अखबार पढ़ रही थी। अखबार था — “पंजाब केसरी”, जिसका पन्ना नंबर—7 पर मेरी नजर गई। हेडिंग लाइन बनी थी — “साधु तो झमेबाज हैं, उन्हें रगड़े लगाए जाने चाहिए — रामव्यालिया जी”। फिर मैंने पूरा अखबार पढ़ा। उन्होंने चंडीगढ़ में प्रवचन दिया है। इसमें लास्ट पैराग्राफ से मैं उल्लेख करना चाहती हूँ। उन्होंने आकाशवाणी तथा दूरदर्शन पर साधुओं के बारे में प्रसारित होने वाले कार्यक्रमों व धारावाहिकों की आलोचना करते हुए कहा “कि यह साधु तो झमेबाज हैं, उनके रगड़े लगाए जाने चाहिए। अगर मैं संबंधित मंत्रालय का इंचार्ज होता तो आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन पर इन झमेबाज साधुओं के कार्यक्रम व धारावाहिक बंद करवा देता” उन्होंने कहा “कि मैं तर्कशीलों का समर्थक हूँ।”

सर, हमारे मंत्री जी ने ऐसे जो शब्द कहे हैं, इन पर मैं अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज कराना चाहती हूँ। इन मंत्री जी ने समाज का और हमारे साधु-संतों का अपमान किया है।