

Their second demand is to regularise the services of their daily workers and casual workers. The total strength of this Farm is 1,134 permanent workers and 300 casual workers. The casual workers are working there for the last 10, 15 years, since its inception, but they are still being treated as casual workers.

The management of the plantation is hostile to the demands of the workers. The workers have been knocking at the doors of the management on several occasions. Repeatedly year after year they went to the management saying at least they should be treated as employees in the same way as the State farm are treating their employees, but the management is not responding with the result a very prosperous undertaking is withering away. This is of national importance, because this is one farm where collective agriculture succeeded. So, through you I would request the Government, since the management by itself will not do anything, to solve this issue and since the strike is continuing since April 1993 and even then no attempt has been made to meet the workers and negotiate with them to settle their demands for the opening of the farms, the Government of India should depute a senior officer to go to the farms, meet the workers representatives and take some steps to resolve the crisis.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): It is a very serious problem. Last week, in fact, I had given a notice for a special mention on this. So, I associate myself fully with these sentiments.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): This problem was brought to the notice of the Agriculture Minister two weeks back. Actually we are losing a very developing farm consisting of 6,000 acres, when all sorts of cultivations are going

on for the last ten years. This farm is a very profitable farm for the last six years. The entire thing is new in a difficult situation. We met hon. Minister and he promised us to send somebody to negotiate with the workers, but so far nothing has been done. Unless something is done quickly, we are going to lose the entire thing. So, I fully support the Special Mention made by my hon. friend, Shri Sreedharan.

Distressing conditions prevailing in N.T.C. Mills and other sick public sector units in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): I rise to make a Special Mention on the rapidly deteriorating and distressing industrial situation in both the Central and Andhra Pradesh State-owned sectors. In particular, I want to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the life and death question of the N.T.C. owned textile mills and the ailing Andhra Pradesh industrial scenario, which refute the repeated assertions of the Government that rapid industrialisation is round the corner. The nationalised textile industry is collapsing like a house of cards.

The new policies pursued by the Government have created a devastating crisis to the 109 nationalised textile mills and 15 Government managed mills. Fortynine of them are branded as sick and 14 of them are deemed to be almost closed. By March 31, 1993 the accumulated losses of all sick textile mills are estimated to be at Rs. 2,734 crores and the continuation at this situation would result in retrenching 80,000 so-called surplus workers. It was planned to modernise 30 units with

[Shri Moturu Hanumantha Rao]

Rs. 140 crores, which is yet to take-off.

While the fate of these mills has been hanging in suspense endlessly between modernisation and closure their losses, production capacity and production has been going down further and further.

Between 1990-91 and 1992-93, the loss went up from Rs. 192 crores to Rs. 442 crores—more than double. Capacity utilisation in spinning has gone down from 72.9 per cent to 52.7 per cent and in the weaving section from 62.7 per cent to 35.6 per cent. Yarn production came down from 98.8 million kgs. to 77.5 million kgs., while that of cloth came down from 600 million metres to 300 million metres.

While retrenchment and partial payment or non-payment of salaries due to lay-offs and closures have become the orders of the day, the so-called voluntary retirement offer of golden hand-shake scheme had been availed of by only 28,000 workers. In the Azam Zahi mill in Warangal, for the last 22 years the Government had invested about Rs. 2.69 crores for modernisation. The promised aid for its rejuvenation by the hon. Prime Minister and the Textile Minister who hail from the same place had not materialised. But on the contrary the strength of the workers has gone down from 2000 to 800. About 1070 workers have opted for voluntary retirement scheme and 10 disappointed workers died of heart attack. The cruel joke is that the surplus land of this ailing factory is put on sale to provide funds for the NTC mills to revive mills elsewhere.

In Andhra Pradesh, State-owned industries like Allwyn, A.P. Scooters, A.P. Steels, Republic Forge Company and A.P. Heavy Machinery and Engineering plants are starved for want of working charges. They have been

declared sick and they are being offered for sale to big businessmen. Allwyn refrigerator unit and furniture unit are being offered to Voltas. The watch unit is being offered to Singhanias and the bus unit to the APSRTC, while other units find no buyers at all. The Kurnool Paper Mills are being sold to the Thapars. Both Voltas and Thapars are bargaining to get them at cut throat prices. So they are just waiting on the fence. The prestigious Centrally-owned IDPL unit at Hyderabad itself is before the BIFR, while the ACC cement factory in Mangalagiri has been on lock-out for long.

While the Government is caught in the mania of privatisation and is begging after the industrial magnates, no attempt at retaining or revitalising even the existing industries is being made.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to change its devastating course and do everything to save the indigenous industry and labour from this ruinous path... (Interruptions)... Madam, are you associating yourself with my special mention?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just because I sit here, I do not associate myself with every special mention.

Before I adjourn the House, I must say that we have been left with only 28 minutes for the Short Duration Discussion on Bofors. Some Members have taken excess time than the allotted time. Now in these 28 minutes, minor parties will get very little time. So I hope that within one hour we will finish the Short Duration Discussion on Bofors so that it will be over today.

श्री संघप्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
मैडम, दिसकशन तो ओवर हो जाएगा,
लेकिन बोफोर्स का मामला तो दसियों
साल ओवर नहीं होगा। ... (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at forty-eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock, **THE VICE-CHAIRMAN** (Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan in the Chair).

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Recent verdict of swiss supreme court relating to Bofors—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): We will take up the short-duration discussion regarding the recent verdict of the Swiss Supreme Court relating to Bofors. Mr. Madan Bhatia to continue. One minute, Mr. Madan Bhatia. The Deputy Chairman has already announced it. Hon. Members, I would like to remind you that the time... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Twenty-eight minutes left.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No. There is no time left. We have taken excess time. So I request all the Members who are going to speak to cooperate and speak briefly. Mr. Bhatia.

SHRI MADAN BHATIA (Nominated): Madam Vice-Chairman, yesterday, I had dealt with one aspect on the basis of which the whole case was sought to be built up by the opposition against Mr. Quattrocchi that he had filed the appeal. I had dealt with the aspect as to what led him to file the appeal. But it may be said "Well, he may have been justified in filing the appeal. But the appeal has been dismissed" I would ask only one question of the hon. Members on this side. Have they gone through his

grounds of appeal of the judgement by which his appeal has been dismissed? I want to draw the attention of this hon. House just to two paragraph from the judgement of the Federal Court of Switzerland as to what this Court has held on merits about Mr. Quattrocchi. At page 14 of the judgement, it is said:

"The request shows clearly its purpose."

It refers to the request which had been made by the Indian Government through the CBI for mutual aid. "It emanates from the FIR that Bofors did have recourse to intermediary agents despite the manifest opposition manifested by the Indian Government. Considerable sums have been paid to the firms entrusted with the task of representing the firms in India." This judgment is based upon the material which was produced by the Government of India and the CBI before the courts in Switzerland. What was the material? The FIR and nothing else and the FIR is referred to in this judgment and the judgment says that "according to this FIR, it is the case of Government that there were intermediary agents and the money was paid into the accounts of these intermediary agents and some other people, into their accounts in Switzerland." But what is their finding? (*Interruptions*) I will just read one line. "The appellant seems certainly to be unconnected with the litigious contract." This is the finding given by the Federal Court of Switzerland while dismissing his appeal that so far as Quattrocchi is concerned, on merits, he is not concerned with this contract at all. Despite this finding, I am sure, this judgment must have been available to one Member, who has evinced his relationship with Hinduja's but deliberately, knowingly, for sinister reasons and for political motives, he has suppressed a reference to this particular judgment. Why was his appeal dismissed? His appeal