

Government's indecision about its continuance

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Madam Vice-Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious situation created in regard to the Mica Trading Corporation of India Limited because of the total indecision and negligent attitude of the Government towards the Corporation.

Madam, this Mica Trading Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the MMTC of India Ltd., under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce. Since November, 1992 the employees and the officers of the Mica Trading Corporation who number more than 1000 are not getting their salaries. Previously also the payment of their salaries was irregular.

Madam, following the decanalisation, the Government had appointed T.C. Reddy Committee in April, 1990 to recommend merger of the Mica Trading Corporation with the MMTC. Prior to the decanalisation, the Mica Trading Corporation was earning huge profits. But after that, the profits started falling down. And, though the Committee recommended merger of the Mica Trading Corporation with the MMTC and the Cabinet approved of it, it was not implemented. Later on, in December 1991, the Cabinet again decided that instead of merger, the Mica Trading Corporation could be revamped and measures be taken so that the Mica Trading Corporation could be self-sufficient and properly revamped. But even those measures have not been implemented. As a result, neither the merger nor the revamping has taken place and the Mica Trading Corporation is in the red. And, now the employees are not getting their salaries. The MMTC which is required to fund this subsidiary has stopped funding it. As a result, not only all sorts of work in the Corporation have stopped but even the employees are not getting their salaries. They are starving.

In this condition, I request that the Government should take steps to start payment of salaries to the employees of the Mica Trading Corporation and at the same time, the Government should take effective measures to either merge the Mica Trading Corporation with the MMTC or revamp it properly so that it can function profitably and profitably and the industry can survive. Thanking you.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Hon. Members I have an announcement to make.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Deputy Mr. Ney Lopes,

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the Delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here, they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Brazil. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of the National Congress and the friendly people of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Shri Viren Shah. Not present. Shri Pragada Kotaiah.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Consequences of export of cotton and cotton yarn

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Vice-Chairman, at the "

outset, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter adversely affecting the handloom weavers.

I fully appreciate the anxiety of the Government to help the producers of cotton to have remunerative prices for the cotton grown by them. We are fortunate that cotton growers have been producing cotton sufficient to feedfully the textile mills and also to meet the requirements of others using cotton, particularly for production of hand-spun yarn. Formerly, the country was spending huge amounts of foreign exchanges on imports of cotton for supplying to the textile mills. Now, that is not there as our farmers have reached the stage of producing cotton enough for meeting the requirements of the country, for internal consumption and also for export to countries abroad.

Based on the estimated figures of production of cotton announced by the interests concerned, exports of cotton are allowed though not regularly but now and then. The Government has since allowed exports of 15 lakh bales of cotton. But I doubt that the benefit does not reach the producers of cotton, but reaches the profiteering agencies which are actually exporting cotton. No doubt, presently it is a source of earning foreign exchange needed by the country. But we are not assessing the consequences thereby.

Besides the exports of cotton, unrestricted quantities of cotton yarn are exported. More than 126 million Kgs. of cotton yarn was exported in the year 1991-92 and the yarn exports in the year 1992-93 are going up further. The Government in its 1985 Textile Policy assured that the policy of the Cotton Corporation of India would be reformulated for stabilising the prices of cotton for the benefit of its producers and consumer and also assured that the prices of cotton yarn would thereby be regularised to help the handloom weavers, who are the main consumers of cotton yarn. But the exports of cotton and cotton yarn have resulted in undue and unrestricted hike in prices of cotton yarn, hitting hard the handloom weavers, who are unable to find a market for their products produced at high prices in the face of competition of the long

protected textile mills and also the powerlooms, which are free from labour laws and fiscal levies.

In case the exports of cotton and cotton yarn cannot be stopped, to keep down the prices of cotton yarn to help millions of handloom weavers, our beloved Prime Minister, who has very kindly promised to protect the handloom industry, may kindly consider to collect cess of not less than Rs. 5 per kg. of cotton and cotton yarn exported and use the proceeds to reduce the prices of cotton yarn to help the handloom weavers. Thank you. Madam.

Need to take necessary measures for the Safety of Life and Property of Indians in Afghanistan

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया (पंजाब): मैडम चाइस चेयरमैन, मैं आपको सेवा में अफगानिस्तान में जो हिन्दुस्तान के लोग सालों से रह रहे हैं, उनकी हालत पे ज़ार आपके नोटिस में लाना चाहता हूँ और आपके माध्यम से हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार से यह गुज़ारिस करना चाहता हूँ कि उनके इतने बुरे हालात पर वह फौरी तबज़ूब दे और उनका अगर वहाँ रहना मुश्किल हो रहा है, तो उनके हिन्दुस्तान वापिस लाने का इन्तज़ाम करे और यहाँ पर उनकी रिहब्लिटेशन का इन्तज़ाम करे।

आज अफगानिस्तान में सूरतेहाल यह है कि वहाँ पर हिन्दुस्तानी ओरीजन के जो लोग हैं, उनके घरों को लूटा जा रहा है, उनकी औरतों को बोइज्जती की जा रही है/रहकाम की जा रही है और लड़कियों को छीना जा रहा है और उनकी फरियाद सुनने वाला नहीं है। उनके बच्चे स्कूलों में नहीं जा सकते, बाज़ार में नहीं जा सकते और उनके लिए वहाँ पर उनकी ज़िन्दगी बबाले जान बन गई है। वे लोग जब भागकर हिन्दुस्तान आने की कोशिश करते हैं, जब वे ट्रकों में आते हैं, तो मुजाहिदीन हैं, वह उनसे उनकी नक़्दी छीन लेते हैं, उनकी औरतों को, उनकी बहनों को छीनने की कोशिश करते हैं और इन सूरतेहाल में बहुत से लोग भागते हुए हिन्दुस्तानी ओरीजन के रास्ते मारे भी जा चुके हैं। इनकी ख़बरें अख़बारों में रोज़ आम जाती रहीं हैं।

उसके बाद जब वह पाकिस्तान पहुँचकर, हिन्दुस्तान के साथ जो ट्रेन जोड़ती है, समझौता एक्सप्रेस, उससे हिन्दुस्तान आने की कोशिश करते हैं, तो उनकी हालत और भी ख़राब हो गई है क्योंकि पिछले दिनों छः दिसम्बर के हालात के बाद हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के दरम्यान जो ट्रेन चलती थी समझौता एक्सप्रेस, पहले जितने दिन चलती थी, उससे आधे दिन भी अब नहीं चलती है। तो वह लोग जो अफगानिस्तान से हिन्दुस्तान डर के मारे मौत के मुँह से निकल कर आना चाहते हैं, तो ट्रेन में इतनी भीड़ होती है कि उन लोगों का आना, ट्रेन में अपने सामान के सफ़र करना बहुत मुश्किल हो रहा है।