

[Dr. Nagen Saikia]

Even the autonomy of the judiciary in the country was eroded for which people started losing confidence in the Government, in the Parliamentary democracy and even in the judiciary of the country. When the corruption in high places was also seen to get sanction, who could have confidence in the Government?

Moreover, uneven distribution of wealth, social injustice and such other things divided the people with sharp contrast of haves and have-nots. These are some causes which are responsible for the growth of terrorism in the country. Sir, the sense of deprivation, the sense of being neglected, the economic and industrial backwardness of the State, the fear of being swept away—their cultural heritage, their identity and their right and power—by the floods of infiltrators are some of the root causes behind the growth of discontentment and uprising of terrorism in Assam. Therefore, Sir, the patriotic, dedicated, energetic youths should not be alienated by merely deploring them; but the country will have to assure the guarantee of social justice, equal distribution of wealth, restoration of all values and restoration of autonomy of judiciary and the effectiveness of the Parliamentary democracy in the country. Only in this way the country can persuade the youths to lay down their arms and to extend their help and cooperation for building up their own motherland.

Therefore, while deploring all sorts of violence, I charge the Congress (I) for the growth of extremism in the country by their misrule and misdeeds and urge upon the new Government to make ways for having dialogue and discussions with different groups to find out solutions to the problems.

Plight of small Scale Industrialists of South Zone

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak on an important issue affecting the whole of South India. The small scale industries play an important role in the industrial development and export promotion of India. The share of small scale sector in total export is about 30 per cent and nearly 1020 crore persons are employed in this sector alone. Therefore, balanced development in all regions in India is imperative. The single largest purchaser from this vital sector is the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals. One of the important functions of the DGS & D is to help indigenous industries in the manufacture of new items or to develop their capacity throughout India. Their policy and their implementation has a vital bearing on the development of small scale industries. From the statistics available in the annual reports of the Department of Supply, Ministry of Commerce for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, I understand that the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals purchased material from SSI, during the said period, from the Northern Zone, to the tune of Rs. 530.80 crores, from the Western Zone to the tune of Rs. 188.31 crores, from the Eastern Zone to the tune of Rs. 173.99 crores and from the Southern Zone to the tune of merely Rs. 32.70 crores. This means that the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals had purchased from the Northern Zone goods worth sixteen times more than what they had purchased from the Southern Regions. Out of the total purchase worth Rs. 924 crores, they had purchased from the South only to the tune of Rs. 32 crores. It is a deliberate discrimination against the South.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I had already brought this issue to the notice of this august House twice. Since I could not receive any reciprocal response from the side of the Government, I have decided to raise the issue now through this special mention. I could notice only one response and that is in the annual report of the Department of Suply. They mentioned:

“The States of the Southern Zone have been complaining of a low volume of share of DGS & D purchases. In order to examine this matter and give recommendations for increasing the share, a working group had been set up with the representatives of the Director of Industries of the Southern States as members and DS & D, Madras, as Member-Secretary. The report is awaited.”..

From this version what I can infer is that the Department came to know this sorry state of affairs after having complaints from the States concerned. The terms of reference, if any, have not been mentioned in the annual report. I think there is no stipulation prescribed to submit the report within a specified period.

One among the assigned roles of the Internal Work Study Unit of the DGS & D is to suggest improvements and streamline the procedures. What did they do so far in this regard? In this regard, entrepreneurs of small-scale industries from the Southern Zone feel strongly that either there is some in-built leuna in the purchase system itself or there is a powerful lobby to advocate for the Northern Zone. Which is correct? The bureaucracy only knows. Anyhow, this is not conducive for balanced development of all regions and national integration.

I therefore, appeal to the Government, through you, Sir, that they should ponder over this issue carefully and take remedial actions failing which there will be a strong feeling in the South that South India is being neglected even in the commercial arena. I hope the Minister concerned will do justice to the people affected by relieving South Indian small-scale industrialists from this precarious condition and I request the Minister to take immediate action to give them their due share of the purchases made by the DGS & D.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Sir, this is another instance how some parts of the country are getting uneven treatment in some important quarters. Therefore, I want to associate with the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : I am afraid he has posed the issue in a regional context. The Minister for Planning and Programme Implementation is sitting here. In the entire country, small firms are facing serious problems. I think it must be engaging the attention of the Government to do something by way of correction so that the entire small-scale industry is brought to light, of course, keeping in view the regional needs.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Sir, it is a very serious matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : You have raised your points.