

and thrown into the streets. Besides this development and because of it, a fear has spread out in the other workers, employees and the general public in the area that the Mill itself would be closed down shortly making the lives of thousands of people miserable.

It is said that this has become inevitable as the Mill was running at a huge loss. But facts show that the workers are in no way responsible for it. Generally the cost of manpower has been going down from year to year and the value of their production increasing year by year. While the cost of manpower was 33.1 per cent in 1982-83, it came down to 30.2 per cent in 1983-84 and to 28.8 per cent in 1984-85. So, the value added by them per month has gone up from 300 to 950 and to 1101 in the same period. So, the National Textile Corporation has been responsible for inefficient running and incurring of losses. The National Textile Corporation has been neglecting the Mills in the South and particularly the Mills in Andhra Pradesh since there is no corporation of its own as in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Despite Mr. Ajit Singh, the Chairman of the National Textile Corporation, visiting this Mill at the instance of Mr. Vengal Rao, Minister of Industry, nothing useful has come out of it. Mr. Vengal Rao himself promised on the occasion of the Warangal Municipality giving him a reception that necessary funds to run the mill would be made available to see that it runs. But funds have not come to save it. On the other hand, the process of closing down has begun by retrenching 700 workers. This retrenchment is going on not only here but even at Chirala Textile Mill in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, the Government of India's new Textile Policy of amalgamation has brought disastrous results and the workers are so much disappointed and demoralised

at this result. So, it should be taken up seriously as a matter of urgent public importance, which affects employment, production and the people. The hon. Minister for Textiles must see immediately that retrenchment in Azamjahi and Chirala mills is stopped to save the workers. Thank you.

Need to continue the crop insurance scheme

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairperson, through you I would like to bring to the notice of this august House and the Government of India a matter of public importance about the continuation of the crop insurance scheme. Madam, on the basis of the experience of the pilot crop insurance scheme between 1981 and 1984, the Government of India formulated a comprehensive crop insurance scheme for implementation from kharif 1985 season by the various State Governments. Andhra Pradesh was the first State to join the comprehensive crop insurance scheme. Paddy, jowar, ragi, maize, green gram, black gram, groundnut, gingily and horse gram were included under this scheme. The number of farmers covered in Andhra Pradesh is as follows: In 1985-86, 6.42 lakhs. In 1986-87, 7.09 lakhs. In 1987-88, 8.96 lakhs. The premium collected is as follows: In 1985-86, Rs. 386.24 lakhs. In 1986-87, Rs. 448.60 Lakhs. And in 1987-88, Rs. 592.37 lakhs.

The area covered in Andhra Pradesh is as follows. In 1985-86, 14.05 lakh hectares. In 1986-87, 12.53 lakh hectares. In 1987-88, 21.81 lakh hectares.

Madam, there has been an increasing demand from the farmers that commercial crops like cotton, tobacco and sugarcane should also be brought under the purview of this scheme. But unfortunately the Government of India have informed that the implementation of the comprehensive crop insurance scheme under notified crops

(Shri Narreddy Tulasi Reddy)

is being reviewed and requested the State Governments not to notify the areas and crops for kharif 1988-89 till a decision is taken by them. They have also asked that the banks may be advised not to collect the premium during kharif 1988 till a decision is taken by them.

Madam, due to this decision the farmers not only in Andhra Pradesh but in the entire country will suffer considerably in the event of adverse seasonal conditions. Hence I request the Government of India to complete the review immediately and continue the scheme including for commercial crops with immediate effect.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.
Smt. Ratan Kumari.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति महोदया, मैं इनका समर्थन करता हूँ. सहयोग करता हूँ।

Alleged Mishap in Ordnance Unit, Itarsi

श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी (मध्य प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति महोदया, रविवार, दिनांक 23.8.88 के 'हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स' में छपे समाचार के अनुसार इटारसी, मध्य प्रदेश स्थित आर्डनेंस फैक्टरी में पिछले पांच महीने में छः एक्सीडेंट हुए यह चिन्ता का विषय है। इटारसी की आर्डनेंस फैक्टरी जर्मनी के सहयोग से कोई सात वर्ष पहले स्थापित की गई थी। इस फैक्टरी में मिसाइल और टैंकों में इस्तेमाल होने वाला अत्याधुनिक विस्फोटक पदार्थ बनाया जाता है, इसलिए इस फैक्टरी का महत्व और बढ़ जाता है। प्राप्त समाचारों में कहा गया है कि इस फैक्टरी में पिछले पांच महीने में छः बार घटनाएं हुईं। घटनाओं की तारीखें हैं—3 मार्च, 1 और 20 अप्रैल, 5 जून, 4 और 16 अगस्त, 1988। इन घटनाओं में कभी तो पैक्टोमेट पाउडर की जगह पत्थर पाए गए, कभी मशीनें खराब हो गईं और कभी फैक्टरी के

किसी हिस्से में आग लगी। लेकिन सबसे खतरनाक घटना 16 अगस्त को शाम 4 से 5 बजे के बीच हुई।

[The vice-chairman (Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya) in the Chair]

ऐसी ही एक भयानक दुर्घटना 710 नंबर की वर्कशाप में हुई जिसमें 300 किलोग्राम की विस्फोटक सामग्री पूरी तरह से जल गई। अभी मार्च में जबलपुर आर्डनेंस फैक्टरी में आग लगी जिसमें करोड़ों रुपये का गोला बारूद जल गया। उसके बाद मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति गंभीर चिन्ता का विषय बन जाती है। इनमें कोई सीख नहीं ली जा रही है। और उनको रोकने के लिए आवश्यक उपाय नहीं किए गए हैं। मेरा मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि वे इन घटनाओं की स्वयं जांच कराएं ताकि तथ्य सामने आएँ।

कुमारी सईदा खातून (मध्य प्रदेश) :
महोदय, मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री की ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी की मेंबर हूँ और चूंकि यह घटना हमारे प्रदेश में हुई है, इसलिए इसकी जांच की जाए।

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA (Uttar Pradesh): Hon. Vice-Chairman, I want to associate myself with what has been stated by the hon. Member. This ordnance factory which is established at Itarsi is very important from the point of view of safety and security of the country. It produces highly explosive powder which is used in the missiles and tanks. In fact this is the only factory producing this material. But unfortunately, it has been plagued by accidents during the last five months which occurred six times. The cause of these accidents may be either conspiracy of some extra-territorial agency, or the intra-union rivalry on the issue of appointment of the Manager who has been appointed there and on the transfer of the earlier Manager. So, in either case, keeping in view the security of the country and importance of this factory, I feel a thorough