

[Shri Jagadish Jani]

of rice per family consisting of five members per month. It is much less to meet the requirement of the family.

Therefore I request the Government to supply at least 1400 quintals of rice per month till the harvest is over. Apart from this the Government should take steps to accelerate the food for work programme in the district. Also I request the Government to increase the amount of stipend given to the tribal students.

I am again thankful to you for allowing me to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to the problems of the tribals in Orissa.

Reported Mass suicide by Cotton Growers in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Ma'dam Deputy Chairperson, it has been reported that 40 cotton growers committed suicide in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh. This has been confirmed by the District administrations though they put the number at 29. I think, the House is aware that in, the year 1970-71, the country had to import 8.5 lakh bales of long-staple and extra long-staple cotton. Since that year, the farmers of Guntur and Prakasam districts started growing these varieties. The total amount that was spent on the import of these varieties of cotton in that year was to the tune of Rs. 100 crores. At current prices, this would be of the order of Rs. 800 crores. Had the cotton growers of Guntur and Prakasam districts not switched over to growing these varieties of cotton, this country would have been saving the scarce foreign exchange resources on the import of these varieties of cotton.

"Madam; when this is the situation in these districts, it is surprising that neither the prime Minister nor Vahy

other Union Minister, nor even the Governor of the State, visited these places. They have not realised the seriousness of the situation. Moreover, cotton crop has not been included in the list of crops covered by the crop insurance scheme of the General Insurance Corporation. There are pesticides available in foreign countries to control the pests and white fly, like Lannate, Danitol and Triso. Unfortunately, the Government is not allowing the import of these pesticides but at the same time, synthetic pyrethroids which have outlived their utility in foreign countries, which are banned in other countries, are dumped into our country and this country is being used as a market for dumping these pesticides. There are outstanding loans worth about Rs. 60 crores due to the commercial banks. About Rs. 38 crores have been drawn from the banks on pledging and hypothecation of the women folk gold ornaments. So, through you Madam Deputy Chairperson, I appeal to the Union Government to write off the entire outstanding loans extended by the commercial banks to the cotton growers as they are already doing in case of several other industries. It need not be mentioned that about Rs. 5000 crores of loans extended to the industrialists are already being written off by the commercial banks as they are not in a position to recover the same. So, I hope, the Union Government would consider, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, writing off of the entire existing outstanding loans that are extended to the cotton farmers...

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat): Madam, while associating my self with the hon. Member's special mention, I want to bring to the notice of the Union Government that white-flies' menace has devastated the crop in Andhra Pradesh and it is now attacking the cotton crop in Gujarat, I would like the hon. Agriculture Minister to take immediate

diate steps to see that whitefly menace is totally curbed in the country.

Need to Settle the Grievances of Seamen in order to Avert a Deadlock in Shipping: Industry

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Madam, I am glad that when I am making this special mention hon. Shri Rajesh Pilot, the Minister of Surface Transport, is present here and I would like to draw his attention to the grievances of seamen in the shipping industry.

Madam, the industrial relations in the Indian shipping industry are in total doldrums because of the Government's policy. Madam, about one year back the Forward Seamen's Union of India, which is a recognised union and has its headquarters in Calcutta, filed a case in Calcutta High Court for getting up of a tribunal. The Calcutta High Court directed the Government to set up a tribunal and after a long delay the Government ultimately set up the tribunal, with its headquarter in Bombay, depriving the Forward Seamen's Union of taking advantage of the tribunal. The Union went to the Calcutta High Court with an appeal so that the headquarter is set up in Calcutta. Then the Calcutta High Court directed the Government to set up the tribunal with its headquarter in Calcutta.

Now, Madam, during the pendency of this tribunal the Indian National Shipowners Association based in Bombay is going to have wage negotiations with the NUSI, another union of the seamen, which is a scab union, which is subservient to the policy of the shipowners. When the wage negotiation is under the jurisdiction of the tribunal, how can the Indian shipowners' association have wage negotiations with a particular union, ignoring other unions which have gone to the court and to the tribunal? This is one matter.

The other point is, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is one Hinterland Seamen's Union and that is a majority union. It entered into the wage negotiations with the Shipping Corporation of India three years back. After the expiry of the wage negotiations the Shipping Corporation of India is going to have wage negotiations with a minority union, which is a union subservient to the policy of the Shipping Corporation of India, denying the advantage of these negotiations to the majority unions, particularly those unions which are recognised, which want to fight. Those unions are being denied all opportunities for having wage negotiations with the Government and the Indian Shipowners' Association and the Shipping Corporation of India.

If this policy goes on, if this policy is encouraged by the Government and if the Indian Shipowners' Association is allowed to follow this policy, there will be serious deterioration in the industrial relations. The Indian shipping industry is already in crisis. It is in recession. It is time when the Indian shipping seamen and other workers are encouraged to work hard. They should be brought round the negotiation table for settling their grievances. Therefore, this discriminatory policy of the Government is going to create further problems in the Indian shipping industry.

Since the Minister is here, I would draw his attention to this matter and I would request him to see to it that scab unions are not encouraged and the tribunal is allowed to function. During the pendency of the tribunal, there should not be any wage negotiations by the Indian shipowners with a particular union which is not before the tribunal.

Termination of services of certain employees by "standing~ conference Public enterprises. Bt Delhi

SHRI MOHAMMED-AMU* (West Bengal): Madam "Deputy- Chairman, "