

, [Shri Mohammad Amin}

want to bring a matter of urgent public importance before this House and through you draw the attention of the Minister concerned to the problem.

, A multi-storeyed complex for housing the offices of government undertakings is under construction at Lakshmi Nagar, Delhi. It is a multi-crore project and briefly known as Twin Tower Complex. The project was undertaken by the Public Enterprises Services Association. Subsequently, in August, 1987, this body was merged en bloc with the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises. Consequently all assets and liabilities and employees were merged with SCOPE. However, SCOPE terminated the services of all 35 ex. employees of PESA in February 1988 without assigning any reason. At the same time the work which would normally have been done by these employees has been entrusted to a private architect. This private architect has been entrusted the job of cost control and quality control. These are vital aspects of any project. Also this is against the Government's policy where public money is involved.

In reply, to an Unstarred Question No. 4288 dated 22. 3. 88, the Minister of Industry said in the Lok Sabha that these employees were rendered surplus and their services were terminated. Madam, this is a very serious situation in which the public sector works are being handed over to private contractors and, service of these employees terminated after reclassifying them as surplus. How could they become surplus when the job on life project is going on at full scale? There is something fishy about the issue. I therefore request the Minister to make a statement in the House outlining the Government position on this issue with few particular reference to job security for the Government employee and what positively the Ministry can do in this case

-Need to instal Public Sector Units in Gujarat.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat).
Madam, I am raising a sensitive issue through this Special Mention because we are passing through a very extreme and critical textile crisis. Perhaps 25 per cent of the closed mills in India are now located in Gujarat. Thirty three mills are already closed and more than 5, 00,000 workers are unemployed. Some of them have really gone mad; some of them have committed suicide. Therefore, through this Special Mention, I request the Government that it must start some public sector units in Gujarat so that more employment opportunities are available.

The Textile crisis has its own impact. It requires different kinds of solution. But I am here on a different point. In Gujarat, the Central investment in the public sector as compared to other States is much less. The latest figures available with me upto 1987 are—out of Rs. 68, 000 crores investment, in Gujarat it was around Rs. 3, 000 crore. I am happy that in some States it was more. In Maharashtra it was Rs. 11, 000 crore. In Madhya Pradesh it was Rs. 8, 500 crore, in Bihar Rs. 7, 000 crore and in A. P. Rs. 8, 000 crore. In Gujarat it is just coming to around 4 per cent; in the four States it is coming to around 50 per cent. I have no quarrel with that, nor am I raising the issue from a narrow point of view. But you know that Gujarat has given from its own quota some of the known Ministers. In the past there was Mr. Sactoba. Patil. from Swatantra Party also we had sent MPs. Today also Mr. Shiv Shanker is there and in the past Mr. Pranab. Mukherjee was there. so we never considered from a narrow-minded point of view or any such thing. It is growing growing.

The overall employment in the public sector throughout India is around 22 lakhs, but in Gujarat it is just 49,000, which means less than two per cent. So, looking at all these facts and figures, one has to consider that more employment opportunities should be made available.

The ratio and proportion of public sector investment in Gujarat is going down. That is unfortunate. In 1974 it was seven per cent, compared to the all-India investment. In 1981 it was 5.4 per cent and now it has come down to 4.2 per cent. So, compared to the all-India investment, our ratio is going down while our national resource? which are exploited are much more. Gas is the recent thing. Oil also is a known thing and our State Government has cleared certain vital projects like the Hajira gas cracker project. Then there are projects for electricity and several power houses and for the broad-gauge railways. The State Government has laid great emphasis and requested the Central Government to undertake some projects, but it seems that either very few projects are being cleared or the pace is very slow. So, when there is an emergency to clear these projects in view of the textile crisis, I think the Government should take sufficient care and precaution to see that Gujarat should not feel that whom they are suffering, even then the Centre is not in a position to help them.

— Madam, as you know, the drinking water problem is very acute in Gujarat. More than one-third of Gujarat is suffering from famine and now it is, the fourth year, of famine. Water scarcity there is horrible but still, no big project is coming up there.

The Narmada project was almost cleared, as we understood it, but recently when Planning Commission Member came to Gujarat, he said that it has not been cleared, already we have Rs. 300 crores, but even for providing drinking water there is not much has been done. Some research work should be done to find

out why there is a fourth year of famine, whether the famine is likely to recur again or not and what the causes are. Some such research work has to be done.

Saurashtra and Kutch joined the Gujarat State in 1960, but not a single public sector project has come up in that while Kutch is a very backward area.

Therefore, all these things should be taken into consideration. I regret to say that the approach taken by our Departments sometimes is not just correct and would not be tolerated. They should take a more constructive approach. Recently the Textile Minister announced a Textile Committee for review. But there is no labour representation, no people's representation on it. They are saying that labour participation is a constitutional right nowadays, and there is a guideline, but they do not want to put labour representatives in this sort of committees. This is also deplorable. The whole people's view should be taken.

SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat):
Madam, I support this.

Grave financial crisis in Gujarat

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat):
Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government and, particularly, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture, to the fact that Gujarat's financial position has become precarious because of a monthly expenditure of Rs. 100 crores on scarcity relief works and another Rs. 10 crores for paying wages to Government employees. This anxiety was expressed by the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Amarsinh Chaudhari, and he has personally drawn the attention of the honourable Prime Minister to this abnormal situation.

Madam, Gujarat has been facing an unprecedented drought situation for