

the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Tenth Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Transport (Department of Surface Transport) Reservations for, and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Shipping Corporation of India Limited

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 1986

SECRETARY-GENERAL Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 1986, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th November, 1986"

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table

RE DISALLOWING OF QUESTIONS

MR CHAIRMAN Now we will take up Calling Attention I make a request to the House that we should try to finish the Calling Attention before lunch, at 1 30

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Madhya Pradesh) Sir, before you take up Calling Attention, I would like to draw your attention to a very important point

MR CHAIRMAN You should have come to me

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, questions are being disallowed on flimsy grounds. Today I received a notice from the Secretariat saying

MR. CHAIRMAN Mr Vajpayee, you should have come to my room. I will look into it because I cannot decide it in the House You should have come to me and I would have looked into it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE Sir, always you are Shielding them. But it is very difficult to come to you.

MR CHAIRMAN You want my assistance or you want to mention? If you want to mention you mention; if you want my assistance you come to my room

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, I had been to your room—I was accompanied by Advanji. A question was disallowed regarding Churhat Lottery on the ground that the matter is being looked into by a Parliamentary Committee. This is untenable Today I have got a letter from the Secretariat saying that the question cannot be allowed regarding unemployed graduates because a Parliamentary Committee is looking into the matter. Sir, we have so many Parliamentary Committees, there are statutory committees and all subjects are being looked into by Parliamentary Committees. The questions should not be disallowed on this ground

MR CHAIRMAN I will look into it

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Labour unrest and unemployment due to increasing incidents of lock-outs, lay-off, closures and sickness in industrial sector

MR CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, you should take only 15 minutes and try to finish it by 1 30.

SHRI K MOHANAN (Kerala) Sir, we have to go home and take our spouses also.

MR CHAIRMAN. Because we have to adjourn by 5 O'clock, I want to see that some work is done. It is only a request to you (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour to the labour unrest and unemployment due to increasing incidents of lock-outs, lay-off, closures and

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

sickness in industrial sector and the steps taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, there has been a marked improvement in the industrial relations situation in the country during 1985 compared to 1984. The number of disputes (strikes and lockouts) declined from 2094 to 1716, the number of workers affected from 19.5 lakhs to 10.7 lakhs and the mandays lost from 56.03 million to 29.37 million. Similarly, the number of lay-offs in industrial units has come down from 847 in 1984 to 665 in 1985 with the number of workers affected also steeply declining from 1.4 lakhs to 0.99 lakhs. Though the number of industrial closures (due to reasons other than industrial disputes) has marginally increased from 188 in 1984 to 203 in 1985, the number of workers affected has sharply decreased from 72,000 to 31,270 during the same period.

According to provisional estimates, this declining trend has been maintained even during 1986 (January-August) with number of disputes standing at 986, workers affected at 9 lakhs, loss of mandays at 14 million and the number of industrial closures with workers affected at 145 and 15,000 respectively. During January-June, 1986 the number of units laying off and the workers affected were 242 and 34,000 respectively.

Available data on industrial sickness indicate that the number of large and medium sick units has come down from 1832 in December, 1984 to 1778 in June, 1985 although the number of sick small scale industrial units during the same period has increased from 93,282 to 97,890. Government have taken a series of steps to combat industrial sickness and rehabilitate sick industrial units through a package of assistance extended by the banks and financial institutions.

In the light of the foregoing facts, Government do not consider that there has

been increasing labour unrest and unemployment due to increase in the incidence of industrial disputes, lay-off and closures.

Government have been keeping a close watch over the industrial relations situation in the country. Potential areas of labour unrest and disputes are being continuously monitored in order to see that preventive action is taken to resolve disputes and remove the causes of industrial unrest at the incipient stage. The industrial relations machinery both at the Centre and in the States continue to make efforts to settle industrial disputes through preventive mediation, conciliation, adjudication and arbitration as provided for under the existing labour laws. Emphasis is being laid on holding tripartite consultations before major issues concerning labour policies and programmes are formulated. A number of tripartite industrial committees for industries such as Coal mines, Non-coal mines, Engineering, Jute Cotton Textiles, Chemicals, Cement, Plantations, Leather Goods, Building and Construction and Road Transport have been re-constituted. Important issues of immediate concern to the maintenance of harmonious industrial relations are being discussed in these tripartite fora from time to time.

It has been the constant endeavour of Government to improve industrial relations not only by taking steps to prevent labour unrest but also by maintaining a constant dialogue with employees and employers.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, after going through the statement made by our hon. Labour Minister, it only seems that while Rome was burning Nero was fiddling.

The point is, the Labour Minister unfortunately fails to depict the dangerous situation in the employment sector. While the greatest aggression is being committed on the Indian working class by the big industrialists and monopolists in the way of illegal lockouts and lay

offs, the gentleman who heads the Labour Ministry comes to the conclusion that the Indian industrial relations have improved. The point is that the employment situation in the country is dangerously alarming. Officially it is being stated that about two crore eightythree lakh people are unemployed, but in reality according to our estimate or the estimate of eminent economists more than one-third of the labour force of the country is either fully unemployed or partially unemployed. Therefore, this is the situation in which we seek to discuss not only the industrial relations, but the condition prevailing in the employment sector.

Who does not know that the greatest labour force of the country is the agricultural labour? Even after thirty-six years of India's freedom, no law has yet been enacted concerning the welfare of the biggest labour force. Statutory minimum wage been denied to them. There is no employment guarantee given to them. Minimum wage of the agricultural labour is much below the minimum fixed by the Government. Even the maternity leave for the pregnant agricultural women workers is denied. This is the situation in the sector of agriculture where the largest volume of labour force of the country resides. This is because the Government has refused to carry out land reforms, this is because there has hardly been any generation of additional labour employment opportunities in the rural sector. All that is being said is that the Government has been launching employment generation schemes and poverty alleviation programmes. I call them a total hoax because the work that is generated is casual in nature.

The most important part of the story is that job opportunities in the country as a whole are declining steadily and it is not in the private sector only, it is also in the public sector. It is because the growth of the Indian economy is slow and tardy. I claim that the Indian economy has entered into a phase of abject stagnation. Therefore, generation of additional employment opportunities is shrinking. This is one part of the story.

Another part of the story is that the people who are already thereon, the jobs are being thrown consistently violating the labour laws and the Government remains as a shameless spectator. Lock-out, lay-off, retrenchment closure is a common feature throughout the country. The point is that an attack is being launched by the owner of the machine on the man who runs the machine.

In our country there has always been a jugglery of statistics, particularly supplied by the Ministers, because the Ministers have been supplied with by the people who work in the department. I have also got another set of statistics. The Labour Minister has been cunning in quoting number of cases. He did not say how much were the number of mandays lost. According to a reply of an unstarred question the Minister has stated that mandays lost due to lock-outs in 1984 was 16,068 million days. Just one year after, it has gone up to 17,957 million mandays. Therefore, increasingly lock-out has been affecting the mandays. I would like to know if that is an evidence of improvement of industrial relations for which the gentleman who heads the Ministry seems to be boasting. Madam, the point is, the lock-out had been taking place violating the laws of the land. At least there has been one Government in the whole of India which had demanded that there should be an enactment by the Central Government banning retrenchment, lock-out and lay-off. It is no other Government than the Government led by the Left Front in West Bengal.

DR G VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY
(Andhra Pradesh) Andhra Pradesh also

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA Of
course, Andhra Pradesh also

Now, the point is there has been no response? What does it mean? It means objectively the Government of India does not want to ban lock-out and lay-off. What is the result? It is resulting in total violation of labour laws by the big industrialists everywhere in the country.

[Snr] Gurudas Das Gupta]

Madam, if you will not mind, let me quote some of the facts and instances. I hope the Ministry concerned will take note of it.

The HOPE textile in Indore under great Poddars was locked out for the last 8 months. Do you know the reason? They wanted to sell the excess land at exorbitant price and the Madhya Pradesh Government did not allow it since illegal sale of excess land was not allowed. Therefore, they have locked out the factory.

Madam, in Amritsar, Punjab, a weaving and spinning mill has been locked out by the management. The reason was the extremists had threatened the Hindu workers. Therefore, the threat by the extremists is being used as an alibi to lock-out the factory.

Madam, Alembic Glass unit in Bangalore has just been locked out because the management wants to shift the factory to some other place where the labour is cheap.

In West Bengal the great Birlas have locked out the West Bengal Electrical Construction Company. There is no question of taking any prior approval from the Government.

The Victoria Cotton Mill under Birlas in West Bengal has been locked out. What does the Government officials belonging to the Central Government say? They have said that the Textile Commissioner has informed them that the management has not even the courtesy to apply for approval. Birla saheb is much greater than the Government of India. Why should they care? I am stating facts on an all-India scale.

My State of West Bengal happens to be the worst victim of the aggression being committed by the monopolists. These have been abject aggressions and West

Bengal seems to be the greatest victim of lock-out and lay-off at the present moment of time. Only within a span of two days three jute mills have been locked out rendering 15,000 workers jobless.

At the present moment of time in West Bengal 10 jute mills are locked out, 2 textile mills, 17 engineering units, 270 big and 110 small units are closed down. This is the picture of improvement of industrial relations which the gentleman who leads the Labour Ministry is boasting of.

Madam Chairperson, on an all-India scale about 75 textile mills are under lock out. In Faridabad, near Delhi, 35,000 workers have been laid off recently.

Even the N.T.C., Madam, of the Government owned private sector have retrenched the workers. The NTC have thrown out of jobs nearly 15,000 workers undaunted of any violation of labour laws. That is how the Government is being run.

Madam—You must have learnt of Ram. Our Indian mythology speaks of Ram. But there are many Rams not as benevolent as mythological Ram. There is one Bharat Ram. He has a DCM factory. They have decided to wind it off. The reason was, they would like to sell the property at an exorbitant price and that will fetch much greater profit than what they will earn by running the factory.

Madam, these are some of the instances, the manner in which the labour laws of the country are being violated with impunity.

Madam, the Planning Commission has suggested that the public sector units which cannot be nursed back should be closed down. Madam, may I ask the Minister concerned, why there is a health disorder in some of the public sector units? Not mental disorder. It is because of the totally corrupt, inefficient management policy.

I had been to Durgapur and there two thermal units were closed down, because there was a fire. Why there was a fire? Because some of the recommendations of the previous enquiry committee was not carried out. Therefore, mismanagement leads to disorder and disorder is being used as an argument to close down the factories. Madam, at least, the Labour Minister has been kind enough to accept sickness as a growing menace. Sickness or I should call it fraud of sickness is being committed on the working class and on the Indian economy as a whole. What is the figure? In 1983, there were 66062 sick units. Within a span of two years, it has gone up by 50 per cent and now it is 99,668. Mr. L.K. Jha is there. He should corroborate what did the Reserve Bank of India state about it. The Reserve Bank of India has stated that only in two per cent cases, it is labour indiscipline which has resulted in sickness. In 98 per cent of the cases, it is mismanagement, corruption, downright loot and violation of the laws of the land that is responsible for the growing menace of sickness of the units, and even after that, Government remains a shameless spectator. Law is being drafted, commission is being appointed and something shall be done, maybe, in the next century to prevent sickness, corroding the Indian economy. That is what we are to learn from our learned Labour Minister. But what is the fate of the poor workers? One lakh factories are closed. It means about 1 crore of workers have been thrown out of jobs and even then, our great Labour Minister says, industrial relations has improved. Sickness has become the most profitable business of the Indian industrialists all over the country.

Madam there is also another technique—I call it invisible retrenchment. What is this invisible retrenchment? In most of the Government concerns, when people retire, an employee dies or a person leaves the job, no recruitment takes place to fill up the vacancy. Therefore, non-recruitment in the places fallen vacant as a result either of retirement or death is being continued. That is a new form of invisible retrenchment. I will just give an example of

National Textiles Corporation. The National Textiles Corporation has reduced its work load by 17,000 in course of two years. The Government itself is indulging in retrenchment. R.B.I. has stated that Government itself is increasing the prices. Now, I say, Government itself is indulging in retrenchment in our own country.

Madam, you must have heard of a hand-shake. "Aap tho namaste jante hai, hand-shake nahin jante", but there is a hand-shake and this is not a general hand-shake but a golden hand-shake. This golden hand-shake is the new high technique being taken to by the employers to get rid of a person. It is a premature retirement. Madam, Payment of compensation is being held out as a bait to force a man to go out of job and this is being practised mostly in the public sector. Madam, the Railways have decided to reduce its man-power from 17 lakhs to 10 lakhs. This is to reduce the labour force by 3 lakhs. Madam, the slogan that is being raised everywhere, particularly, in the public sector is that there is excess manning. Everywhere, the Government is haunted by the theory that there are excess people and since there are excess people, therefore there must be retrenchment. Particularly, the bogey of excessive manning is being raised in coal and steel. There is a tendency to displace. (Time bell rings) Madam, I will take two or three minutes more—the labour by computerisation also. Taken together, I say that the situation in the employment sector is dangerously alarming and it arises out of unashamed aggression being committed on the Indian working class by the industrialists and I warn, I take the floor to warn irrespective of political affiliations that Indian working class is not going to take the aggression lying down. If the present situation continues their is bound to be confrontation and the responsibility of confrontation and its consequent impact on economy shall lie not only on the people who run the industry but also on the people who remain silent spectators when this crisis is continuing. The Government policy is responsible for breeding unemployment, retrenchment, lock-out and lay-off. I can give the example of the prestigious . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Two or three minutes more, I beg of you. I am at the end.

श्री गुरुदास प्रसाद : बहुत बड़ा सवाल है
इतका ।

उत्तरदायित्व : इसलिये दे दिया थोड़ा
सर्जनेवाला वरिए

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Thank you, Madam, for your indulgence, motherly indulgence. Let us take the case of Bharat Heavy Electricals, a prestigious Central Government institution. It has run into a crisis because of lack of Government orders. Why there is lack of Government orders? Because the Government has started to have a craze for import from outside. Since there is a craze for import from outside, therefore, there is lack of orders. And since there is lack of orders, therefore, Bharat Heavy Electricals, a prestigious institution is in a crisis. Madam, a ninety-year-old man known as Morarji Desai is said to have a fad for prohibition. Now it seems that a much younger person, maybe half his age, is having a fad or a craze for import, excessive import. And this philosophy of excessive is landing the Indian economy in a total mess, which is seriously affecting the employment sector and the industrial sector.

Madam, just to give another example, the Government decided to import synthetic granules and as a result, the jute industry was affected.

Madam, the situation is that while the number of job-seekers is on the rise, the job opportunities are getting dangerously reduced, as a result of the Government policies. There is total absence of land distribution. And since there is no land distribution—only 10 per cent of the land was distributed—there is hardly any scope for additional job opportunities in the rural sector. Thirdly, Madam, there is total neglect of the rights of agricultural labour. Fourthly, Madam, there is total

and abject failure on the part of the Government to protect workers from illegal closure, lock-out, lay-off and retrenchment, leading to industrial sickness in the country. The Government itself is following a policy which is breeding unemployment. Madam, the Government which has declared an amnesty for FERA violators, is also responsible for violation of labour laws in our country.

Therefore, Madam, I only suggest that the Government of India's policy, its total economic policy, should be re-shaped to meet the situation arising out of the increasingly alarming employment situation in the country. When more than 50 per cent of the labour force in the country is unemployed. It will have its repercussions on Indian politics also. Bhindranwale and his army had their strength in the unemployed youth of Punjab. The Gorkhaland agitation has its influence mainly among the unemployed youth. Therefore, the problem of unemployment must be fought with radical policies and in order to do that, radical policies must be evolved. The Government must take it as a national problem.

While concluding, I would only say that the statement given by the hon. Minister is devoid of any truth. It does not reflect the gravity of the situation. The hon. Minister is only ignorant of the present situation, which has arisen out of the menacing problem of unemployment. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukomal Sen.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) Now, sisterly indulgence.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: And brotherly cooperation.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Madam, I am disappointed at the statement. It is most disappointing that while in the country thousands of workers have been thrown on the street and hundreds of industrial units are getting sick and a number of them are being locked out or closed, at that time our hon. Minister

has come out with a self-complacent statement, a statement, full of self-eulogy, I hope that the hon. Minister will be bold enough to face the reality, instead of hiding certain facts. If we see the history of the last three or four years or particularly in this decade we find these lockouts, closures and sickness have severely gripped the industrial climate of our country and there is no admission of this grave reality by the Minister in his statement. I am not going into the figures of 1983-84. Let us take 1985. There were increased lockouts and closures in industrial units and more and more industrial units were getting sick. Why? Why was it happening? No argument no explanation, has been offered by the honourable Minister why these industrial units are being locked out or closed or are getting sick. Here the honourable Minister said in a very complacent mood that in 1985 the total mandays lost were only 29.37 million as compared to 56.03 million in the previous year. Even out of these 29.37 million mandays lost during 1985, I would like to know how much of it was due to lockout, how much was due to closure, and how much was due to strikes. I find from one statement by the honourable Minister in reply to an Unstarred Question in 1985 that out of the 29.37 million mandays lost, the mandays lost due to strike were 11.414 and due to lockouts 17,957. So, the loss due to strike was less and the loss due to lockouts was more. So, whether the units will be locked out or they will be opened will depend on the mercy of the managements. And this deteriorating situation is due to the policy of the Government, the policy of industrial management. It is not due to strikes, not due to workers' agitation, but it is due to the merciless exploitation of workers, due to the severe greed on the part of managements to extract more and more from workers. That is why managements resort to lockouts and closures and the Government remains a silent spectator. This is a fact which the Government should have admitted. Now, one point the minister made was that sickness in

smaller units is more than in larger and medium units. We know very well in our country at the present moment the number of sick units stands at as much as one lakh out of which most of the units are smaller, small-scale units. What is the reason that small-scale industries are getting sick more and more? Is it due to the policy of the Government, that the Government follows, such a policy that only larger units will be able to survive, not the smaller ones? I give you one example. When we had a discussion on the new Textile Policy, we warned that due to the new policy more and more weavers, powerloom workers, handloom units, will be ruined and that the policy of the Government is to pamper bigger units which can spend more money, which can resort to diversification and modernisation and which alone can survive, that the smaller units, particularly powerlooms, will be ruined. It, in fact, has happened now. The Minister also stated that smaller units are getting sick more and more than the larger ones. It is due to the faulty policy, faulty industrial policy, of the Government. Now the problem is before industries are closed, they get sick and ultimately they are closed. What is the policy of the Government to revive the sick units? Here the function of the Ministry of Industry also comes in, the function of various other Ministries also comes in. The Government has set up the IRBI for financing the sick units in order to revive them. What is the purpose? I will give you one more example. In West Bengal, there are 116 units which the IRBI took up for revival by giving assistance. But, out of the 116 units, they have been successful only in respect of 37 units and in the case of the other they could not succeed at all. What is the reason? The reason is that the IRBI and other such financial institutions are acting in such a way that they are not helpful to the units which are going sick.

Now, Madam, when the industrial units go sick—it is reported in the various news-

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

papers and it is being mentioned by other sources also and to a certain extent, there has been admission by the Government also—huge amounts of bank money, are locked up in the various sick units. According to one estimate, about five thousand crores of rupees are locked up in the sick industrial units. Whether it is five thousand crores or less is immaterial. But it is a fact that huge sums of bank money are locked up in these sick units and reason is, as my friend has pointed out and even as the Reserve Bank of India's evaluation has pointed out, mismanagement. It is due to mismanagement and it is due to corruption and nepotism and it is due to these factors only that most industrial units are getting sick. It is not only due to mismanagement or corruption or exploitation or nepotism but it is also due to the policy of the Government that industries are getting sick and even very viable units are getting sick due to the bad policies of the Government. In this connection, I would like to point out certain things.

Now, what is the condition of the wagon industry? The entire wagon-building industry in the country is being seriously curtailed. It is because the Railway Ministry was not placing any orders and the wagon-building industry is hungry for orders. They have the capacity to build wagons for the Railways to the full extent but they were not getting the orders. That was the position earlier when the industry was on the verge of ruin. But, because of the movement of the workers and because we took up the issue in Parliament, some orders have gone to them and the industry has started working now. I would like to cite another example also.

In Durgapur, there is the ACC—Babcock Company factory and this was a premier and important factory and this was built in our country for manufacturing boilers for our power plants. Now, what is the condition of this factory? It has other units also in Karnataka and a total of 7,000 workers are employed in these units. Now, Madam, this factory was manufacturing very-high-quality

boilers for our power plants which are essential for our country. But this Company does not get any orders and this Company is order-hungry. Because of lack of orders, Madam, this Company is going into liquidation and they have gone to the Bombay High Court for getting liquidation orders. Now, what is the reason? They are not getting orders at all. But, in our country, we find that now thermal plants and other power plants are coming up for which boilers are necessary. Now BHEL is cornering all the orders since it has also started manufacturing boilers. But they are also not in a position to supply the boilers, to meet the orders, in time since they are taking orders beyond their capacity. Why not the BHEL take the responsibility of parting with a part of the orders and giving some to Babcock? Why can't the Government take over Babcock so that it survives and get some orders as a part of BHEL so that these seven thousand workers are saved and the wagon-building industry is also saved? (*Time bell rings*) One minute, Madam. It is due to the policy of the Government that even very viable units are being ruined and are going to be ruined and they are going to be destroyed.

Now, take the case of Bengal Potteries. It is a very big unit and it is also a premier manufacturing unit in china clay in West Bengal. Now, what is the condition? This was taken over by the Central Government long back. But they are not nationalising it and the IRBI, instead of giving working capital to them, is providing money for the wages and salaries of the workers. Unless the IRBI and the other financial institutions provide working capital, term loans and other types of loans for the survival of such industrial units, it would be very difficult for them to revive. Just by giving money to these units for the wages of the workers, you cannot make these industries survive and they will not survive. (*Time bell rings*). Just half-a-minute more, Madam.

Now, take the fertilizer units. Fertilizer industry is not a private industry and it is a Government industry now. There

are units in Namrup, in Barauni, in Durgapur and in Haldia and now all are to be closed down. What is the reason? Is it due to the fault of the private people? It is the fault of the Government only and it is because of this only that, when our country is boasting of Green Revolution for which fertilizer is very much necessary, these four fertilizer units are going to be closed down. It is because of the policy of the Government only. (Time bell rings). It is due to the policy of the Government only our country is facing such a situation. Now, Madam, I would like to put two or three questions to the Minister.

Will the Government consider taking more prohibitive measures against the management to prevent lock-outs and closures?

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATIL (Gujarat): And strikes also.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: With regard to strikes, you have already done it. (Interruptions) You have done it through ESMA.

SHRI K MOHANAN: It is the right of the workers. (Interruptions).

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: You have already done it through ESMA. And it is because of lock-outs that workers are thrown out. (Interruptions)

SHRI K MOHANAN: They are like serpents. (Interruptions).

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN Second question is whether the Government is prepared to take over the national six closed and locked out industrial units. Last question is whether the Government will nationalise Bengal Potteries, whether they will take over ACC Babcock and whether they will stop the decision of closing down the four fertilizers units of Durgapur, Barauni, Haldia and Namrup.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, देश में छंटनी, तालाबंदी, रिट्रैबमेंट आदि के कारण जो श्रमिकों को बेरोजगारी का सामना करना

पड़ रहा है, उसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने बहुत अच्छा वक्तव्य दिया है। अगर हम उनके वक्तव्य को देखें तो ऐसा लगता है कि देश में सब तरफ शांति और अमन है। परन्तु जब पालियामेंट के बाहर निकलकर दिल्ली में ही कारखानों का दौरा करते हैं तो ऐसा लगता है कि जगह-जगह लॉक आउट है, रिट्रैबमेंट हो रही है और तालीफें बढ़ रही हैं। ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार की नीति ही बन गई है कि टेक्नालॉजी का इपोर्ट किया जाए, मशीनें और कंप्यूटर इपोर्ट किए जाए और आधुनिकीकरण के नाम पर माइनाइजेशन और कंप्यूटराइजेशन के नाम पर बहुत सारे बड़े-बड़े कारखानों में छंटनी करते चले जाए। छंटनी करने का यह बहुत ही अच्छा तरीका है।

महोदया, टिस्को और टेल्को के दो कारखानों का नाम मैं लेना चाहता हूँ जहाँ पर कि माइनाइजेशन से 12 हजार और 9 हजार जाब कम हुई हैं। इनके लिए सरकार क्या सोच रही है? मंत्री जी की स्टेटमेंट से यह स्पष्ट नहीं होता कि सरकार इनको रोजगार देने के लिए क्या कर रही है। वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि एक ही शहर के अंदर 22 हजार जाब दो या तीन वर्षों के अंदर कम होने जा रहे हैं। इसके अंदर एक नया प्रश्न है जो कि वित्त मंत्रालय से संबद्ध है। बैंकों के जो अधिकारी हैं वे भी इस प्रकार का रवैया अपनाते हैं कि अपनी तुष्टिकरण की नीति से बहुत सारे कारखानों और यूनिट्स को सिक करने में सहायता मिल रही है जिस में उनका हाथ है। मैं मंत्री महोदय के सामने जो दिल्ली में प्राबलम खड़ी हो रही हैं उनकी ओर ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। दिल्ली में नेशनल बिल्डिंग कंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी में जो मजदूर काम कर रहे थे, 20 साल से काम कर रहे थे दिल्ली और उड़ीसा में, उनकी छंटनी कर दी गई है। हजारों को हटा दिया गया है और वे भूख हड़ताल पर हैं। उनकी कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है। उनके द्वारा जो काम किया जा रहा था, नए कंटेनर रखकर उनसे काम लिया जा रहा है। क्या यह सरकार की घोषित नीति के अनुसार ही हो रहा है? केवल एक

[श्री अश्विनी कुमार]

उद्योग नहीं है, अनेकों उदाहरण दिए जा सकते हैं। उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं आपके सामने ग्वालियर जियाजी काटन मिल की बात कर रहा हूँ। वहाँ पर भी माडर्नाइजेशन और कंप्यूटराइजेशन के नाम पर रिट्रैचमेंट शुरू हो गया है। उनको कोई अल्टरनेटिव काम नहीं दिया जा रहा है और यह गोल्डन हेड शेक की नई परम्परा चालू हो गई है। परन्तु मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार की नीति होनी चाहिए कि कैसे अधिक से अधिक लोगों को काम धंधा दिया जा सके और जो बेकारों की फौज है उसे कैसे कम किया जाए। डाउन रिवर कम होती जा रही है। परन्तु हर साल, हर दिन बिल्ली सरीखे हजारों जवान अपनी रोजी रोटी की तलाश में भटक रहे हैं और गावों से आबादी का पलायन हो रहा है। अनइम्प्लायमेंट किस तेजी से बढ़ रहा है, मैं उसकी ओर मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। कैसी-कैसी चीजों का माडर्नाइजेशन हो रहा है, कैसी-कैसी चीजों का कंप्यूटराइजेशन हो रहा है। यह मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण देकर बताना चाहता हूँ। टेलको के अंदर एक पश्चिम मशीन के लिए 6 करोड़ का कंप्यूटर मंगाया गया है, किसी बड़ी चीज के लिए भंगसै तो बात समझ में आती, इससे तो सिर्फ आती-जाती मजदूरों को देखें।

कितने ही बड़े-बड़े कारखाने हैं, आइवेट सेक्टर के हैं जिनको कितना ही प्रोफिट हो रहा है वे भी अन्याय और अत्याचार पर किस तरह चुले हुए हैं यह शायद आपको पता होगा। इसी से लेकर अनरेस्ट हुई है। इसी टेसको कम्पनी ने पिछले वर्ष 1.3 परसेंट बोनस और 1200 रुपये दिये थे। इस बार कम्पनी को प्रोफिट बढ़ा हुआ है लेकिन इसने बोनस तो वही 1.3 परसेंट दिया है लेकिन 1200 रुपये नहीं दिये हैं। जब आन्दोलन की बात आई तो कम्पनी 144 लगा कर उनको बन्द कर दिया गया। इसकी मार-पीट हुई कि दो एम एल ए भी घायल हुए। कितने ही दिनों से वहाँ अनरेस्ट चल रहा है। इस प्रकार अत्याचार और अनाचार बढ़ रहा है।

मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान एक-दो बातों की तरफ खींचना चाहता हूँ कि पूने की टैलको कम्पनी के लोगों ने अभी तक बोनस स्वीकार नहीं किया। उनकी स्ट्राइक चल रही है। इन सब बातों के चलते हुए हम कैसे कह सकते हैं कि हमारी लेकर अनरेस्ट ठीक है। सरकारी कारखाना है, सिडरी फर्टिलाइजर, जो देश की सबसे बड़ी फर्टिलाइजर कम्पनी है, स्वाभिमानी फर्टिलाइजर कम्पनी है और पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने इसका उद्घाटन किया था। यह हमारे देश का प्रथम पब्लिक सेक्टर का फर्टिलाइजर का कारखाना है। 36 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करके मशीनों को मंगाया जा रहा है और वहाँ के 3 हजार लोगों को रिट्रैच करने की बात की जा रही है। मैं पूछना चाहता कि सरकार की नीति क्या है? सरकार के अंदर एक विभाग का दूसरे विभाग से सम्बन्ध है। वहाँ पर सारा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर है। वहाँ पर ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न की जा रही है कि टेलीफोन, बिजली, पावर सब कुछ होने के बाद एक कारखाना नहीं चल सकता, दूसरा कारखाना चलाना चाहते हैं। वर्क फोर्स है उसको समाप्त करने के बाद वहाँ पर इस प्रकार की स्थिति उत्पन्न की जा रही है कि वहाँ पर सब कुछ उजड़ जाए और इस सब को उखाड़ने के लिए 36 करोड़ खिये जा रहे हैं। माडर्नाइजेशन के लिए यह पैसा खर्च किया जाता तो शायद जितने लोगों को वहाँ पर रिट्रैच किया जा रहा है उनको वहाँ पर काम दिया जा सकता। परन्तु ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार के विभिन्न डिपार्टमेंट्स में आपस में सहयोग, सहकार नहीं है। वे अपने-अपने दृष्टिकोण से सोचते हैं।

मैं आपसे एव-दो चीज जानना चाहता हूँ। श्रीनिवास काटन मिल्स बम्बई के 5 हजार मजदूर पड़े हुए हैं। उन्होंने आवेदन किया कि हमारा प्रोविडेंट फंड आप लगा दीजिए हम फेक्टरी चला कर दिखायेंगे। महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने भी कहा हम करेंगे लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से और श्रम विभाग की ओर से इस बारे में कुछ भी नहीं हुआ है।

सुदर्शन टेक्सटाइल, कोटा के भी 15 सौ लोगों की छंटनी हो गई है जब कि

कोई कारण नहीं है। परसो मेरे पास एक खबर आई कि बी आई पी जो लाल इमली की मिल है, सरकारी मिल है कानपुर में, वहा मशीनें बदलने की बजाय उनको तोड़-तोड़ कर बाहर फेंका जा रहा है। वहा पर एक आई आर भी लिखाई जा रही है और एक आई आर लिखाने वालो के लिए सकट उत्पन्न किया जा रहा है।

अत मे एक उद्योग के बारे मे जिसके बारे मे कई बार भ्रम मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित कर चुका हू वह है बिहार के 15 हजार मजदूर डालमिया नगर रोहतास मिल मे काम करते है, यह मिल 9-4-84 से बंद पड़ी हुई ढाई साल हो गये है अभी तक उसको शुरू करने की बात नहीं हुई है। आश्वासन प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी दिये हैं, मुख्य मंत्री जी ने भी दिये है। सब लोगो के आश्वासन हो गये है लेकिन उसके बाद भी कुछ नहीं हो रहा है। ढाई साल से जिन को खाना-पानी नहीं मिल रहा है उनका क्या होगा ? ये सारे लक्षण जब इस देश मे हो तो क्या देश के अन्दर लेबर की सिच्युएशन अच्छी है, यह हम कह सकते है।

मैं केवल दो ही प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ कि माडर्नाइजेशन और कम्प्यूटाइजेशन के नाम पर जो देश में किया जा रहा है अगर आवश्यक हो तो करे परन्तु इसके कारण जो रिट्रेचमेंट हो रही है, एम्प्लायमेंट एवेन्यूज कम हो रहे है उसको पूरा करने के लिए सरकार की क्या योजना है ? बिहार प्रदेश के सिदरी और रोहतास के बारे मे जो दो प्रश्न पहले पूछे थे उनको शुरू करने का सरकार का क्या विचार थे दो बातें थे जानना चाहता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, as the time at my disposal is very short, I would like to confine myself to the plight of

workers who have been thrown out of employment due to closure of certain mills in the State of Tamil Nadu. Madam, eight textile mills in Tamil Nadu have been closed and about 7,000 families have been subjected to suffer penury and starvation. Vasanta Mills—closed; Bhavan Mills—closed, Radhakrishna Mills—closed, Padma Mills—closed; Akshay Textiles, Tamil Nadu Spinning Mills, Ramakrishna Industries and Mettur Mills have been closed. All these eight mills have been closed, one of two since 1983, some of the mills since 1984. And the Government of Tamil Nadu also has appealed to the Central Government to extend financial assistance so that the mills could be re-opened and the workers will no longer suffer. But the Central Government has turned a deaf ear to the cry of these 7,000 families. Now, the Minister comes here says that the Government is very much concerned and interested in protecting the welfare of the labour. In that case, why have you not taken steps to provide financial assistance, as you did previously to the mills in Kanpur and one or two mills in Ahmedabad some years back? What for are you not extending it? Is it because of the double standards that you are always applying as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned? And the Central Government has stated if they extend the financial assistance to the State Government, that will be adjusted in the Plan Outlay. That will definitely affect the developmental expenditure of the State. So, it is your responsibility to safeguard the welfare of the labour. You could request some of the nationalised banks to provide financial assistance directly to the management or to the Tamil Nadu Government. And if you yourself extend the financial assistance to the Tamil Nadu Government, the mills could be taken over by the Tamil Nadu Government, and these 7,000 families who are suffering starvation can be protected. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government, after all these three or four years, will now come forward to protect the welfare of these 7,000 families in Tamil Nadu. I want a categorical reply from the Minister.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Thank you very much, Madam, for having given me this opportunity. I have gone through the statement furnished by the hon. Minister. No doubt, the Minister is dynamic, but the statements, it seems, is not dynamic...

AN HON. MEMBER, Dynamic or dynamite?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: because the hon. Minister blows hot and cold in his statement. The hon. Minister has said in his statement at page 2 that the number of small scale industries which have become sick has increased from 93,282 to 97,890. The number of small scale industries which have been closed in 1985 is 5,000. If you consider those statistics, if you also consider simultaneously the number of workers who have been affected by the closure of those mills, it may even go up by ten-fold. Already there is existing unemployment in the organised and unorganised sectors. Madam, I would like to say that there are three hundred million workers in the organised and unorganised sector. But we are taking care of only 30 million workers in the organised sector and the problems of the unorganised labour have not been looked into and they are not being cared for. Even in the case of this sector, the industries which have been closed in 1986, up to September 1986, is 81. According to the Government calculations, the labour bureau's calculations, the number of mandays lost is five million. Therefore, in 1986 itself the unemployment problem is getting accentuated and a very large number of persons have been sent out of employment due to closure of mills and also due to closure of sick units.

Madam, the hon. Minister's statement is just like giving us the particulars to show that there is a slight improvement in the condition of labour as compared to the position in 1984-85. Now, we are not at that pointed issue. We cannot go into the comparative aspect. Madam, I would like to submit that this is the calculation which has been given by the

labour bureau. What is the position about those who have not entered that field, may I know? Where is the calculation of figures from Voluntary agencies? They are giving the official figure. What is the actual unofficial figure about the closure of units, about persons who are unemployed on account of closure, lockouts and industrial sickness. My hon. Minister has not touched that aspect of the question. He has conveniently omitted that.

Madam, I would like to show that in 1985-86 the hon. Minister says in his statement at page one that the number of industrial closures has marginally increased, from 188 to 203 in 1985. He says it has marginally increased. More than three hundred units have been closed and the hon. Minister says it has marginally increased.

Madam, the new textile policy has been announced. There is the question of rehabilitation of workers who have been sent out of employment because several units have been closed in the textile sector. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this textile policy is working well, whether it is benefiting the labourers who have been sent out of employment. The rehabilitation scheme which has been announced by the Government has actually given benefit to workers as such because this is a very serious problem some of the public sector undertakings in the textile field and also in other fields and some mills in the private sector have been badly handled. Madam, what the management does is that it simply gets the benefits from the Government, opens the Bill, diverts the funds from one unit to other unit, which they propose to start later and abandon the mill and whole burden is cast on the shoulders of the Government. Then the Government wants to revive the sick unit and the workers suffer. The plight of the workers has not been considered either by the private management or by the Government. They say that this new textile policy is going to develop the handloom sector and the powerloom sector in a small way.

Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many workers, who have been sent out of employment, due to the closure of textile mills and due to the announcement of this new textile policy, have been given benefit. I would also like to have a further clarification from the Minister because he says that under the Industrial Disputes Act the disputes are being settled by preventive mediation, I would like to know how many cases of preventive mediation have been successful. The tendency in the private sector and the public sector industries is that the workers submit their demands, afterwards they pursue those demands, they receive no reply from the management, then the workers give notice that they are going to resort to strike and even if they go on strike there is no satisfactory response from the management. When the workers' agitation is intensified, then they go to the workers and say that they want to settle the matter and in that too the management does not budge an inch and the workers' interests are very much affected.

This is the tendency of the management. Therefore I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government to settle the disputes, because in my humble opinion, the Industrial Disputes Act which exists today is not giving benefit to workers, because the labour officers have not been given the powers. Many of the conciliations which take place fail and the matter is sent to the Government and then it goes to labour courts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any proposal to revitalise the machinery and give more powers to the labour officers who have been in the field, for the purpose of settling the disputes.

The hon. Minister says potential areas of labour unrest and disputes are being continuously monitored. How is it being monitored? The hon. Minister has used very high sounding words. I want to know whether this monitoring is working well, because in many States, in several areas, the labour machinery is not at all working properly. I want to know

how the hon. Minister is going to revitalise the machinery. I also want to know that how many cases of managements violating the labour norms, have been detected and punishment awarded. Let them give the figures. The hon. Minister, in his statement, says that labour unrest and industrial relations are showing improvement. Labour unrest is only because of the management; it is not because of workers attitude. It is because workers are not taken into confidence. They do not know how the factory is thriving. They do not know what is happening in the field. Therefore, I would like to know whether workers' participation has been given a thrust either in the private sector or the public sector. I want these clarifications from the hon. Minister.

DR G VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: I want to state that the problem of sickness of industries is not a sudden phenomenon. This problem existed previously and has been existing now for a long time. One can cure a sickness but one cannot cure a sickness which makes profit. Sickness is growing so also monopolisation is growing; also, concentration of wealth is growing. Our friends were talking about the story of Midas touch. I request the Government to take a lesson from that story Gold is not everything; you cannot eat gold.

According to the statement, in 1979, the number of sick units was 23,396 which increased to 23,742 in 1981 and there has been a steady increase. This year, the number is about 96,000 or 97,000. So, this phenomenon has been there. But my complaint is that the Government has been criminally callous and is continuously callous and has not taken any steps to tackle the problem. Number of crores of rupees are written off and lags of workers are thrown on the roads to starve. This has been because of a collusion between the industrialists who make a unit sick and the lending institutions, the banks, the bureaucrats and the politicians with a clout. This is too big a combination for the Government to break, and the Labour Minister cannot do anything but sing an alibi. Because of this, there is no investigation. Assurance to set up

[Dr. G. Vijaya Mohan Reddy]

standing committees for the units which are going sick. So that there could be an investigation, has been given a go-by. On 17th of March, 1983, in the half-an-hour discussion in Rajya Sabha, the hon. Minister of State for Industry stated: "The administrative Ministries have examined the matter and do not consider any need to set up the standing committees." That means they do not want any investigation into these matters. This stand has been taken because the big business houses are afraid that any investigation will lead to the exposure of the moneys which they have to pay back. One lakh industries are sick. Millions of workers are on the roads. There are reports of suicide. What does the Labour Ministry say? They are entitled to retrenchment allowance, pay-off allowance; let them take it and go. More than this, there is nothing which the Labour Ministry can offer.

This is the sad plight of labour laws. With this background, the Government claims that during the Seventh Five-Year Plan, there would be no unemployment. Not only that. They also claim that even the backlog will be cleared. In a country with 50 per cent of the people below the poverty line, with the entire rural life collapsing and with the procapitalist attitude, which has resulted in one lakh industrial units becoming sick, if you say that we will be able to achieve anything significant in the matter of solving the unemployment problem, we are living in a fool's paradise. How can you believe that?

In this atmosphere, we are very much taken aback by the statement of the hon. Prime Minister that any public sector unit which is running at a loss has no right to continue. Therefore, the 'Democles' Sword is hanging on the heads of the majority of the workers of public sector units. The same combination of forces which have made the private sector units sick are making the public sector undertakings also sick.

At least 50 per cent of the public sector units are today sick. The I.D.P.L. which is a premier concern producing bulk drugs has an accumulated loss of Rs. 170

crores while the multi-national drug companies at the expense of the I.D.P.L. have made hundreds and hundreds of crores of rupees of profit. The Visakhapatnam Shipyard has incurred a loss of Rs. 70 crores this year. The contractors and multi-national collaborators are running away with all this money and much more. As a result of this, the workers have to suffer and face retrenchment. This is a very sorry state of affairs. In this atmosphere, we hear the higher-ups in Government saying that the Indian worker is the most inefficient in the world. What else is required? This statement is enough to allow retrenchment of workers to go on right royally.

That is why, I say, the problem is immense. Government should show sincerity and tackle it with firmness. As one of our friends on the treasury benches said, our hon. Finance Minister has also said very recently that there is no alternative except to implement the scheme of workers' participation in management of industries. There is no alternative. This has been stated by no less a person than our hon. Finance Minister only two-three days back. Unless you allow workers to participate in management of industries and give them responsibility, you will not be able to improve the economy of the country. The Finance Minister has realised this. The Labour Minister should have the guts to implement this programme.

One last point, Madam. In Andhra Pradesh, in spite of many difficulties, economic difficulties, drought, floods etc., in which crores of rupees have been lost, in spite of all these things, we are the only State which has no sick unit. There may be two or three, but this also we will be able to tackle. This shows we are sincere. If we are sincere, the results will flow. Thank you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (JAMMU AND KASHMIR): Madam Deputy Chairman, in reply to the Calling Attention Motion, the hon. Minister has given some statistics in connection with the labour situation. I think, statistics which show the comparative position as bad,

worse or worst, need not be given. However the statistics which show the comparative position as good, better or best may be given. Madam, the Labour Minister has a two-fold role to play. One is, he has to look after the implementation of the labour laws. This role, perhaps, he is performing

But the second role and the most important role, to my mind, is to stop such labour disputes arising. Here it is not he who is involved alone

As far as his first role as a Labour Minister is concerned, for the last four to five years that I have been here in this House, I have been seeing every Labour Minister coming out with a statement and it is on record, that he will bring forward a comprehensive legislation after having consultations in the tripartite meeting and all that. So far, no such comprehensive labour Bill has come in. The Minister may argue that a tripartite meeting was convened but there was no consensus of opinion. But that should not deter him from bringing forward a comprehensive Bill. If there is no unanimity or consensus at the tripartite conference, the responsibility devolves on the Government. After all, the tripartite conference is being summoned to know the views of the various parties. If a consensus is arrived at it is very good, but if the consensus is not arrived at it is the duty of the Government to see what can be done in this respect. Therefore, to begin with, I would like to have an assurance from him that he is going to bring forward a comprehensive labour law Bill, and also he should tell when he is going to bring it before this House.

The second important role for him is to see that the labour unrest is stopped. There the Ministries of Textile, Industry, Energy and Finance, etc. all are involved. I would like to know whether the Government has evolved a mechanism through which these issues like this where several Ministers are involved can be settled. Here I will give two instances. The first is about the sick units in the private sector. The Prime Minister is on record to have said the other day that the Government will not take over any sick units

If that is so, what is the alternative? The other day, at some forum I stated that in that case, any private industrial unit which has gone sick and which has been given ample opportunity by the labour department to remove that sickness, should be sold out by public auction, even for one rupee, but the condition is that the buyer has to rehabilitate this unit, he has to run the factory in whatever way he wants to do. Similarly, there is the question of depreciation. I am also a small scale industrialist. I am also getting benefit of depreciation. But what is depreciation benefit? Your machinery gets depreciated and in lieu of that depreciation certain concessions in income-tax is given. Is the Government serious about it? The Government should see to it that the depreciation amount for which rebate is given in income-tax is kept as a reserve so that when the need for replacement or modernisation arises, the money could be utilised out of that source.

I have given these two small instances to impress upon the Minister how he can play his second role. That would help in avoiding sickness. I would like to ask the Minister, what are his plans about the two roles that I have envisaged before him?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, किसी भी देश के जो मजदूर हैं, उनका साथ देश की उन्नति के साथ होता है। मजदूर अपना खून और पसीना बहाता है, लेकिन न तो मजदूर की जो सेवायें हैं, उनकी कोई सुरक्षा है और दूसरी ओर उनको अपने श्रम तथा मेहनत के अनुसार पारिश्रमिक नहीं मिलता है और जितने भी श्रमिक कानून हैं, उनका भी कार्यान्वयन सरकार की ओर से ठीक प्रकार से नहीं हो पाता और जो पूँजीपति हैं या उद्योगपति हैं, बड़े बड़े उद्योगों के जो मालिक हैं, वह भी मजदूर का ही शोषण करते हैं।

इसके बाद श्री आज मंत्री ने बहुत संतोष व्यक्त किया है कि इस बात को स्वीकार करते हुए कि सन 1985 में हड़ताल और तालाबंदियों की संख्या थी 1,716 और प्रभावित मजदूरों की संख्या है

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

सरकार के हिसाब से 10 लाख 7 हजार और औद्योगिक यूनिट में जहा पर जबरन छुट्टी की गई उनकी संख्या 665 है और रुग्ण लघु उद्योग जो हैं उनकी संख्या 97-890 है। इसके बाद भी सरकार की राय मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य में व्यक्त की गई है, "In the light of the foregoing facts, Government do not consider that there has been increasing labour unrest and unemployment due to increase in the incidence of industrial disputes, lay-off and closures".

यानि इसका मतलब हुआ कि जो कुछ भी आज देश में मजदूरों की, श्रमिकों की स्थिति है उससे सरकार संतुष्ट है, क्योंकि सरकार के हिसाब से आज मजदूरों में और उनके परिवार के जो लोग हैं उनमें कोई संतोष नहीं है। आज हालत यह है कि जो बहुत बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति हैं, बड़े-बड़े मिल-मालिक हैं उनके बीच में और बड़े-बड़े नौकरशाहों के बीच में एक षडयंत्र चल रहा है, चाहे वे नौकरशाह बैंक से संबंधित हों, चाहे वे वित्तीय संस्थाओं से संबंधित हों या सरकार की ही संस्थाओं से हों जहां से कर्ज मिलते हों उन से संबंधित हों। तो मान्यवर, बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति और ये नौकरशाह आपस में सांठ-गाठ करते हैं, खूब कर्ज दिलाते हैं और करोड़ों रुपया कर्ज से ले करके फिर उद्योगपति कह देते हैं कि हमारी जो फैक्ट्री है, हमारी जो मिल है वह बीमार हो गई है इसलिए हम उसमें तालाबंदी करते हैं या इसको बंद करते हैं। महोदय, इस देश में उद्योग बीमार हों रहे हैं, लेकिन उद्योगपति बीमार नहीं होते।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उद्योगपति तगड़े हो रहे हैं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : हां, वे तगड़े हो रहे हैं, क्योंकि सरकार उनकी मदद कर रही है, वित्तीय संस्थाएं उनकी मदद कर रही हैं और जितनी भी सरकारी संस्थाएं हैं वे उनकी मदद कर रही हैं। इसलिए मैं आज केवल दिल्ली का उदाहरण देता हूं। दिल्ली की जो लेबर कोर्ट हैं वे सात हैं, तीन यहां ट्रिब्यूनल हैं और एक सेंट्रल ट्रिब्यूनल है और इस तरीके से कुल मिलाकर 11 श्रम न्यायालय हैं इधे

दिल्ली में और यहां आज की तारीख में 10 हजार मामले विचाराधीन हैं। जब यहां पर 19 हजार मामले विचाराधीन हैं तो आप यह अनुमान कर लीजिए सारे देश में जो मजदूर असंतुष्ट हैं उनकी क्या स्थिति होगी? दूसरे अभी कुछ दिन पूर्व शायद पिछले सत्र में स्वदेशी काटन मिल का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया था जिसकी कि बहुत दिनों से शायद 1977-78 से राष्ट्रीयकरण की मांग चली आ रही थी। उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण किया यह बहुत अच्छा काम किया। उनकी 4-5 यूनिट इलाहाबाद और कानपुर में भी हैं और जगह भी हैं।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : मऊनाथ भंजन में भी है।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : हां, जैसे कल्पनाथ राय जी कह रहे हैं मऊनाथ भंजन में भी है। लेकिन स्वदेशी काटन मिल के राष्ट्रीयकरण के पहले जितने उनके मजदूर थे जो कि निकाल दिए गए उनकी सेवाएं समाप्त कर दी गईं और उनके जो फंड के पैसे थे उनको आज तक देने का काम नहीं किया गया है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से इस संबंध में पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ भी शिकायतें आई हैं आप उन मजदूरों की समस्याओं का समाधान कब तक करने की कृपा करेंगे? दूसरे मैं आपका इस तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि इस देश में बहुत से ऐसे मजदूर हैं जो कि निर्माण कार्य में लगे हुए हैं इनकी संख्या एक आंकड़े के हिसाब से करीब-करीब डेढ़ करोड़ की है। ये मजदूर पुल बनाते हैं, डैम बनाते हैं और बिजली घर बनाते हैं, लेकिन इन मजदूरों की सुरक्षा की कोई गारंटी नहीं है, इनकी सेवाओं की कोई गारंटी नहीं है, इस संबंध में अभी शायद पिछले ही सप्ताह या महीने जस्टिस कृष्णा अग्र्यर के नेतृत्व में एक प्रतिनिध मंडल मंत्री जी से मिला था मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि उस प्रतिनिध मंडल मंत्री जी के सामने क्या मांग रखी? मैं एक मिनट में खत्म कर रहा हूं। और उस सिलसिल में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है? मजदूरों से सर्वाधिक करीब 7-8 कानूनों की जानकारी मुझे हो रही है। जैसे

Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act,

1970 Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Employees Provident Fund Act, Employees State Insurance Act, Payment of Gratuity Act

और यह सर्वविदित है कि यह जो कानून हैं, इनकी जो धाराएं हैं, इनके प्रावधान हैं, इनका कार्यान्वयन नहीं हो पाता है और अभी मेरे मित्र, विद्वान मित्र गुलाम रसूल मद्दू जी ने इस ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, मुझे भी जानकारी है कि मन्त्री जी ने स्वयं भी आश्वासन दिया सदन में और सदन के बाहर भी कि जो उद्योग से संबंधित कानून है इनके संबंध में हम व्यापक विधेयक लायेंगे और जो वर्तमान हमारे देश की स्थिति है, मजदूरों की स्थिति है, उसको देखते हुए वर्तमान समस्याओं के अनुसार हम व्यापक कानून लाएंगे। तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि व्यापक कानून आप कब तक लाने की कृपा करेंगे? कोरे आश्वासन से कुछ होने वाला नहीं है।

मान्यवर, मेरा अन्तिम सवाल है, जो इस देश में 20 बड़े-बड़े मोनोपोली हाऊसेज हैं, उनके कितने सिक यूनिट्स, कितने रूग्ण उद्योग हैं और ऐसे जो प्रथम 20 बड़े-बड़े मोनोपोली हाऊसेज हैं, इन लोगों ने सरकार से या बैंक से या किसी और वित्तीय संस्थाओं से कुल कितना रुपया कर्ज ले रखा है आज की तारीख में या पिछले माह की अन्तिम तारीख में? (समय की घटी)

उपसभापति : कृपया समाप्त कर दीजिए। टाइम कम है।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय इस बात की जानकारी सारे देश को होनी चाहिए कि कितना रुपया उद्योगपतियों ने सरकार से ले रखा है और इस संबंध में मेरा यह भी सुझाव है कि इस सिलसिले में सरकार को सारे देश को जानकारी कराने के लिए श्वेतपत्र जैसी पुस्तिका जारी करनी चाहिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Shri Vardaraj Two minutes only.

SHRI G. VARADARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, this is the

first time that I am getting up after your taking over, and even then there is the restriction of two minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a concession. Otherwise, your name was not there

SHRI G. VARADARAJ. Thank you I appreciate the statement given by the honourable Minister of Labour.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY Madam, he represents the industry of Coimbatore. He knows the subject.

SHRI G VARADARAJ. Madam, it so happens that many of my colleagues have mentioned about various factors which lead to sickness in the industry. Well, I do not want to touch upon the very sensitive area where, to some extent, the various trade unions also contribute for the sickness in industry. My dear colleague there is also watching me right now. But I want to specifically come to the point.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Give one example, gentleman.

SHRI G. VARADARAJ: We will discuss outside.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt him

SHRI G VARADARAJ: Madam, now I would like to come to the very specific subject of sickness in the textile industry. Primarily, spinning industry is predominant in the four southern States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. At the moment, because the textile policy is not fully implemented as a total package, the spinning industry is suffering a lot and quite a few textile units, particularly in Tamil Nadu, have gone sick. Many times the Tamil Nadu Government used its good offices with the Labour Minister here and also the Finance Minister to find a solution and suggested ways and means to open these closed textile units where, as my colleague, Mr. Gopalasamy, has mentioned, six thousand families are suffering because they are out of jobs.

[Shri G. Varadaraj]

In his statement the honourable Minister has mentioned:

"Government have taken a series of steps to combat industrial sickness and rehabilitate sick industrial units through a package of assistance extended by the banks and financial institutions."

I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether there is any package plan for these textile mills in Tamil Nadu and, if not, why there is a different treatment. The Gujarat Government gave a certain package plan which was agreed. In Pondicherry there was a closed textile mill and one for that also was agreed to by the Central Government. But, unfortunately, so far, in Tamil Nadu the Central Government has not stepped in to assist these textile mills. I would like to know why.

Again, in page 2 of his statement the Minister says:

"Government have been keeping a close watch over the industrial relations situation in the country. Potential areas of labour unrest and disputes are being continuously monitored in order to see that preventive action is taken to resolve disputes and remove the causes of industrial unrest at the incipient stage."

Now, if you take Tamil Nadu, for instance, there are no industrial disputes at all and relations between the employers and the employees are very very cordial. But in the package plan which the Minister is contemplating, does the Government have any idea of having one union for one industry? If it is there, when do they want to implement it? If it is not there, is the Government considering to have one union for one industry?

At the same time, I earnestly appeal to the Labour Minister to prevail upon the Finance Ministry to see that immediate financial assistance is given to reopen the closed mills in Tamil Nadu.

Thank you very much, Madam.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have

highlighted the problems of the working class in our country, the health of the industry and thereby the economy of the country.

At the very outset, I want to make one thing very clear. That I am being complacent about the whole situation, some allegations have been made. I am not. And no responsible citizen of this country can be complacent about any situation that happens in our country, which is not in the interest of any section of the people. The fact is that there were 665 lay-offs in 1985—I have furnished the figures—affecting 99,000 workers. The fact is that 203 units were closed down in 1985 affecting 31,270 workers. The fact is that there are 99,668 sick units, large, medium and small, Rs. 3,805.17 crores from the financial institutions are locked up. This is certainly a matter of great concern for all of us, not only to the Labour Minister of this country. The whole House has expressed it.

What I stated in my statement is that there has been no increase in the Labour unrest in our country. This is what I have stated. And for that I have said that if we look at the figures of lay-off, the figures have come down. Not that I am happy with the figures that have come down...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My specific question is whether it is the same in the case of lock-out. Has there been an increase in lock-outs or not? That is the point.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: There has been an increase in the loss of mandays due to lock-outs. I have made the point in the statement I had a number of occasions to tell the House. In fact, in the last session of Parliament we had a full-fledged discussion on the working of the Labour Ministry. And your point is very right that the number of mandays lost due to lock-outs have gone up compared to strikes. So, this is the trend. This is the fact.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Where has the Congress man gone?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I am a Congress man.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN. No The Member was asking why the strikes should be banned. Let him know that strikes are going down and that lock-outs are increasing.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY Somebody was shouting that strikes were going up.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA. I am not supporting strike at all. I am only saying that, comparatively the number of mandays lost due to lock-out has gone up. But, both are not desirable for this country at all.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Madhya Pradesh). You compliment the labour and condemn the employers.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA. I am complimenting the labour. Why not? I am complimenting the labour. In fact, because there has been an improvement in the labour relations situation in the country and because our working class has worked, this has found expression in the growth rate of the industrial production in our country. In the last ten months of this year there has been 6.5 increase in the industrial production as against 5.8 of the All-India figure during the Sixth Five Year Plan, the whole of the Plan. Therefore, it has found its expression. So, 6.5 was the growth in the ten months against 5.8 during the Sixth Five-Year Plan. So, I am only making a statement that looking at the figures comparatively in the last two years, which, have given, even if you look at the figures in the last five years, you find that there has been a progress in the industrial relations in our country. The number of man-days lost and the number of disputes have considerably come down. This is a very good trend, I should say. We should be happy. But that does not mean that everything is all right. There are a lot of things which need improvement. I would like to make only one point, which, I think, is very important. The maintenance of industrial relations in our country is primarily the job of the respective State Governments. It is the duty of the State Governments to create an industrial climate and a better atmosphere in their respective States. I cannot do it. The Central Government cannot do it. So, the industrial situation whether it is in the case of lock-outs, or in the case of strikes

or in the case of any other method, the primary responsibility lies with the respective State Governments. It is they who have to manage it and it is they who have to create a conducive situation.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA. I am not quoting a figure of West Bengal.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
Madam, I want a clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN No please.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA. If I quote West Bengal figures, I know you will not sit down. Therefore, I will not quote it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Please let him finish. You have raised all these points in your speech and he is now answering them.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN. What was the reason for sickness in the public sector undertakings?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA. I am very happy that Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta has raised a very important question of agricultural Labour in our country. Out of 296 million working force in our country, 194 million belong to agriculture labour. And we have not paid our attention to that. I have been making this statement repeatedly. In fact, in the last Consultative Committee meeting on the suggestion of the hon. Member, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, we decided to discuss only this problem in the next Consultative Committee meeting to be held on the 3rd of December. It was on your suggestion, Mr. Das Gupta. I am happy that you have made this point here again. We are all for it, particularly for the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, which has found place in the newly structured 20-point economic programme.

So many individual points have been raised. The NBCC point has been raised. I know this problem. I am not going to say what I am going to do about it but I may tell you that I am aware of the problem and am trying to find a solution.

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

There are other matters which Mr. Ashwani Kumar Ji has raised. He has come to me a number of times. He knows how much we have been trying to sort out this problem.

I think Mr. G. Gopalasamy will not leave me if I do not answer to him. It is regarding closed mills in Tamil Nadu. I must make it very clear that as far as the policy of the Government of India is concerned there is no question of any discrimination with any part of the country. In fact, I had two sittings with the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu. He was the Finance and Labour Minister at that very time. He had also met the then Textile Minister, Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan. The hon. Member posed a question while Gujarat could be helped, why Tamil Nadu could not be helped. If I remember very correctly, I am not very sure of the latest situation, when we offered to the Tamil Nadu Government the Gujarat pattern of package, unfortunately they said that it would not be workable in Tamil Nadu. So, it is not our fault. We have offered it, but the Tamil Nadu Government had reservations. At least the Finance Minister told me he was not sure if it would be workable. It is not that we have not offered them; we have offered them.

SHRI G. VARDARAJ: We will give a Tamil Nadu package, you accept it. That is what we want.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You say the ball is in their court.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I don't say that. You said while Gujarat could be helped, why Tamil Nadu could not be. I said we have offered it.

SHRI G. VARDARAJ: Tamil Nadu has given a proposal. Why can't you accept it?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: They have given a proposal which, I think, the Textile Ministry is considering. Actually the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu wanted

my intervention. He gave a press statement and then he came over here. He wanted my intervention. I intervened in the matter. This is how the discussion came up and we had two sittings.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You find out a formula to solve the problem of five thousand Tamilians.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I know this problem very well. There were workers who were on hunger strike and they were at a very critical state. I received a lot of telegrams saying that these people will die if they go on for one more day of hunger strike. They wanted me to intervene and I intervened in the matter. I requested them not to go on hunger strike and they gave up hunger strike and they are still alive today. I am very happy about that. So I know the problem and I have been personally involved in that matter.

Madam, most of the cases which the hon. Members have raised, I know personally many of these cases. But I do not think we have time to reply to all these, because lunch time is already over.

Regarding comprehensive Bill, some hon. Members have raised about it. We had a tripartite meeting on 22nd 23rd September and yesterday also I had a sitting for a half-a-day with all the Central Trade Union leaders on this. Hopefully we will be able to finalise our proposals very soon and should be able to come to the Parliament with amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act and the Trade Union Act during the next session.

Once again, I thank all the hon. Members.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why the lock-out has not been banned?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

**THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL,
1986—Contd.**

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Now, we will take up. *The Appropriation (No 5) Bill, 1986* for consideration.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir). Madam Deputy Chairman, we are required to pass a supplementary Budget for Rs 3038.54 crores. This is the second one during the year. My first reaction to this thing would be a prayer, and the prayer would be "I pray, don't do this thing again and again. You must know that the budgeting is done by the officers, and you must see to it that budgeting is done in a proper way." I hope the hon Minister will accede to my request and see to it that supplementary budgets are not brought over and over again. Madam I can understand very well that you need one supplementary budget every year because when the original budget is made, certain calculations are made and during the course of the year, certain things happen and you need to revise it. But this is the second instalment. And this amount of Rs 3,038 crores is almost the entire budget of 1954-55. And it is coming in this manner I have my objection to it. My objection stems from one or two points which I wish to bring to your kind notice. I can understand that the Fourth Pay Commission report came during the course of the year and you needed Rs 600 crores for it. This is entirely understandable. You could not anticipate at the time of the formulation of the budget that the Pay Commission would give its findings which would amount to so much although an ad-hoc provision could be made for that also. But what I cannot understand is that there are certain very important things which could easily have been foreseen by the officers in the gallery; at present there is none there. Madam, the hon Minister wants Rs 858 crores for the Department of Food, out of which Rs 600 crores is for the buffer-stock and Rs 258 crores for the subsidy to be paid to the FCI. I am yet to understand this demand. I am a stu-

dent of economics, no doubt, but I would like to know from the hon Minister how this amount of Rs 600 crores was not envisaged at the time of the budget, when we knew that the off-take during a year for different States was so much and that new stocks will come in the mandis and a buffer-stock was to be created? We knew that a buffer-stock was to be there. We knew that there was not enough to be exported. We knew that the foodgrains had to be purchased from the farmers and that there was not only a social obligation but a need also. Why was this not taken into consideration at the time of the formulation of the budget? Then the amount of Rs. 258 crores is for subsidy. Madam, it could very well have been understood at that time that this much of subsidy had to be paid. Why was not this foreseen at that time? I think there are only two reasons for this. One is inefficiency on the part of the officials who have not been able to show the correct path at the time of the formulation of the budget, or as my friend Mr Mostafa Bin Quasem said yesterday, you wanted to understate the budgetary deficit. I, for one, though I belong to the Opposition, feel that the problem of budget deficit is not a problem of the Congress Party. It is a problem of the country. It is as much a problem of the Opposition as it is a problem of the ruling party. If the Government had taken us into confidence at the time of the formulation of the budget and said that there was a certain budget deficit, Members from the Opposition like Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee would come out with certain concrete proposals as to how such a big gap can be filled. But that has not been done with the result that this thing of supplementary Budgets, is being resorted to. I have nothing to say about the huge outlay of Rs 933.80 crores on Defence. When I saw the Supplementary Demands for Grants yesterday I found from it that a big chunk was going for purposes of land acquisition. I will not question expenditure on Defence because Defence is a priority subject and we cannot compromise on that. But when I went into the details of it I found a big chunk going for land acquisition on account of Defence. I would ask the Minister why this