

value is only Rs. 3 lakhs. But according to the latest reports, it amounts to more than Rs. 2 crores. The culprits have not yet been traced and to that effect our leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, sent a telegram to our Prime Minister, with a copy to the Union Minister urging them to see that the Temple jewels are restored, before they are lost, to the nation.

Sir, this is a day to day affair in Tamil Nadu. I request the Central Government to conduct an inquiry through the Central Bureau of Investigation, so that such happenings should not recur again. Day to day the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu is deteriorating.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Balu you have said what you wanted to say. Please sit down. Mr. Jaswant Singh. (Interruptions) Mr. Varadaraj, I have taken care.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED PROSPECTS OF PERMANENT SHUTTING DOWN OF RAPP-I UNIT IN KOTA

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. M. R. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board, has said that there is every possibility that RAPP-I may have to be shut down permanently. He has said that they have found that it is not possible to solve the problem with the existing technology.

Sir, RAPP-I is a candu type of reactor which we obtained from Canada and it was commissioned in 1973. Between 1973 and now it worked with a large number of stoppages. The total number of work-days lost was in the region of 540 or so. The capital investment was about Rs. 178 crores and annually it cost us Rs. 46 crores. From March 1982 to 1985, fault was found with the end shield of the reactor and an effort was made to rectify that fault. Dr. Srinivasan in his statement has now admitted that the effort has failed. This is not a condemnation of the Government and

certainly it is not a comment on the very sterling work which is being done by the Department of Atomic Energy. But there are two aspects which are parochial and I would request the Government to come forward with answers. Firstly, if RAPP-I is shut down, as it is now reported that we will have to be because we have spent enough money on it, then what consequences will it have on the total power supply situation of Rajasthan? As it is, Rajasthan suffers a great deal from power shortage and indeed there have been remarks from members of the Cabinet to say that if the atomic power situation in Rajasthan does not improve, the total power supply to Rajasthan will not improve. Therefore with this possibility of RAPP-I having to be shut down, what will be its consequences to Rajasthan power situation and what is the Government doing to augment that situation? That is one aspect.

The second aspect is that rather than relying on a newspaper item like this, we would request the Government to come forward and say that RAPP-I which has been a difficult atomic power plant, which we have tried to remedy can no longer work. We would like to have an authoritative statement from the Government that this is what the state of RAPP-I is, we are now going to shut it down, it will not or it will have some effect on the total nuclear energy programme in the country.

These are the two aspects which I will request the Government to clarify. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE AGITATION BY CASHEW WORKERS IN KERALA

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for permitting me to raise the point about the poignant plight of the cashew workers in Kerala. For the last more than two months more than 50,000 cashew workers are on strike. In the cashew industry in Kerala more than 1.25 lakh labourers are employed.

As a matter of fact, all of us know that the cashew industry is concentrated mainly in Kerala, and even in Kerala it is concentrated in my home district, that is, Quilon. It gives our national exchequer an yearly foreign exchange to the tune of more than Rs. 130 crores.

This industry is now faced with a very serious crisis. This crisis is not due to any other inherent problems within the industry. But this crisis is entirely due to the profit motive of the cashew-factory owners, and their greedy urge for amassing more and more profits. The cashew factory owners are now not giving even the declared D.A. to the workers. It is a matter of surprise that even today when we speak of taking our country into the 21st century, in Kerala the cashew-factory workers are made to sign a statement to the effect that they are getting the proclaimed D.A., whereas they are given only Re. 1 to Rs. 3. This is the most shameful thing. Even according to some information that is available with us the present State Labour Minister—I do not want to name him—is also *sympathetic with the cashew factory owners to continue this practice so that they can amass more and more profits. For the last two months...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That word is not correct. I am going to substitute it by "sympathetic" or something of the kind.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Hand-in-glove.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): That is his view, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That word is not correct.

SHRI M. A. BABY: I stand corrected, Sir. Thank you.

The cashew industry has every possibility of prosperity. For the last ten years this industry as such has been

prospering. The price of cashew which is being exported has been also going up for the last ten years. I do not want to give all the statistics. If I just quote the price of 1 kg. of cashew nut in January, 1985 it was Rs. 54.71 whereas in January, 1986 this has gone up to Rs. 76.96. So, the price of cashew is going up. The profit is also going up. Apart from this, the cashew factory owners want to exploit the cashew workers also. That is why they are not giving even the declared D.A. The minimum wages are also not given. Though the industry is growing up for the last ten years, it is matter of surprise that during the last ten years never were the wages and other conditions of service revised. Apart from demanding for the implementation of the minimum wages, the workers are demanding that the declared D.A., for which they are forced to sign, should be given to them. The trade unions have made a proposal to the Government that the Labour Department officials should be asked to be present at the time of the distribution of D.A. and wages. But the Government is not prepared to do this.

So, in this situation, to save the cashew industry from the clutches of the profit-motivated and inhumanly-behaving owners of the cashew industry, what I request is that the Central Government should instruct the State Government that the cashew-factory owners should not be allowed to behave in this inhuman manner. Apart from this, there should be a comprehensive... (Time bell rings).

I ask only for half a minute more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes.

SHRI M. A. BABY: My request is that there should be a comprehensive legislation like the one in the case of the bidi workers, which is being contemplated today, to cover the cashew workers as well as coir workers. There should be a comprehensive legislation so that all labour benefits

*Word substituted as directed by Chair.

can be taken and enjoyed by the cashew workers and the coir workers also. For this the Central Government should come forward.

The Onam season is coming. The Bakrid is already over. During the Bakrid these workers were agitating and were made to fasts. Even during Onam which is a national festival...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is more than half-a-minute now.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Even during the national festival of Kerala, the workers are made to starve. It will be most uncivilised and inhuman. It is a matter for more than 50 thousand families.

I hope that the Central Government will take appropriate steps to ameliorate the plight of the cashew workers in Kerala.

Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE CLOSURE OF ROHTAS INDUSTRIES AFFECTING A LARGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : माननीय सभाहति महोदय मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन और सरकार की ध्यान एक ऐसी समस्या की ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ जिसके बारे में आम तौर से आदर्श को समझ के बाहर का बात है। देहरादून अन्तर्गत में रोहतास इंडस्ट्रीज का उद्योग समूह है और उस उद्योग समूह में कोई ऐसी यूनिट नहीं है जो क घाटे में चलने वाला हो। उसमें कागज है, डालडा है, एसबस्टोज है, स मेंट है, सब मुनोफे वाली हाटकेक इंडस्ट्रीज हैं लेकिन वे सारे के सारे पिछले 5 साल से बंद हैं। बीच में सरकार के हस्तक्षेप से वे डेढ़-दो महीने के लिए खुली भी थीं और उसको 7-8 करोड़ रुपये दिए भी गये थे। वह सारे रुपये हजम कर जाने के बाद फिर एक स्थानीय श्रमिक संगठन से हड़ताल कराकर उसको बंद कर दिया। महोदय, आपको जानकर आश्चर्य होगा कि वह कारखाना मालिक इतना चालाक है और

वह बदनाम घराना है साहू जन इंडस्ट्रीज वह बदनाम है और उसका रिजर्व खरब है, उसने वहां से नून का कमा कर देश के दूसरे इलाकों में वरीब-र-ीव एक् दर्जन कारखाने खड़े कर दिए। उसमें वहां जो बीस हजार मजदूर लगे थे वे आज भूखे मर रहे हैं। बीस हजार तो सीधे हैं और उनके परिवार के लोग दो लाख भूख के मुह में हैं। बाकी जो अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से रोजगार प्राप्त करते हैं, दुकानदार हैं, ट्रक हैं, रिक्शा चालक हैं इन सब को मिलाकर चार लाख लोग प्रभावित हैं। हमारे बिहार जैसे पिछड़े राज्य में एक तो सरकार भी ध्यान नहीं देती और वह वहां से राँ-मटीरियल लेती है लोहा अबरक, मैंगनीज आदि और कारखाने बाहर बनाती है, हरियाणा में पंजाब में और महाराष्ट्र में कारखाने बनते हैं। लेकिन जो कारखाना बना हुआ है जो कि लोगों के रोजगार के लिए है उसके बंद हो जाने के बाद भी यह कुछ करती नहीं है। कारखाने को चलाना बिहार सरकार के बूते के बाहर की बात है। जब तक केन्द्रीय सरकार इसमें हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेगी और उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं करेगी तब तक इसका कोई इलाज नहीं हो सकता। मैं इसके लिए सरकार से आश्वासन चाहता हूँ। महोदय, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इस सदन में माननीय सदस्य श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र जी ने भी यह सवाल उठाया था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it has been raised for three to four times. You are the fourth person who is raising it.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदय, यह हमारे क्षेत्र का भी मामला है। हमारा क्षेत्र पड़ता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I have allowed you. Please conclude now.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : अच्छा तो मैं कन्कलूड कर रहा हूँ। महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि वहां डेढ़ सौ से ज्यादा भूख से मर्ते हो गई है। जो बेरोजगार लोग हैं वे डेढ़ सौ से ज्यादा लोग मर गए हैं। यह केन्द्र सरकार और बिहार सरकार, दोनों के लिए एक शर्म की बात है। श्री कैलाश पति जी ने