

[Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur]

राजस्थान सरकार की आलोचना कर रहे हैं कि डी०आई०आर० जो केन्द्रीय सरकार का बनाना हुआ कानून है उसका उपयोग अखबार के सम्पादक और प्रकाशक को गिरफ्तार करने के लिए किया गया। उपसभापति महोदय, यह नागरिक स्वतंत्रता का अपहरण है। दल को रोकना नागरिक अधिकारों का अपहरण है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी, गृह मंत्री महोदय जो यहां पर सदन में बैठे हुए हैं उनसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह हमको आश्वासन दें कि हम प्रान्तीय सरकार के मामले में नहीं पड़ना चाहते। एक महीने से वहां पर काम नहीं हो रहा है लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार जिस ढंग से काम कर रही है, जिस ढंग से उसने काम करना प्रारम्भ किया है, डी०आई०आर० का जो दुरुपयोग हो रहा है, उसके जरिये राजनीतिक गति-विधियां रोकੀ जा रही हैं, हमारे दल को रोका जा रहा है, मैं चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में मंत्री महोदय वक्तव्य दें।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, you are the custodian of the House. If M.P.'s telegram has been withheld, then it is a serious matter. Please ask the Leader of the House, who is also the Home Minister, to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is serious and that is why he was permitted to make a statement.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: If Members of Parliament are treated like this, it is very serious. He must make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has been taken note of by the Communications Minister.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1973

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE FOREIGN AWARDS (RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreign Awards (Recognition and Enforcement) Act, 1961.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE ANDHRA PRADESH APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1973— CONTD.

SHRI PAPI REDDI (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am sorry to say that the Centre has always been against Andhra, ever since the State has been formed. The very fact that a Deputy Minister is piloting this Bill shows that the Central Government does not care much for the Andhras. The biggest obstacle in the progress and prosperity of Andhra is the holding up of the Nagarjuna-sagar project. We have been spending about Rs. 10 crores on it every year. The cost of the project has gone up by 200 per cent. We have been asking the Centre to take over the project because the project, when completed, will help to augment food production to the extent of 30 lakh tonnes. This project is meant to benefit

both areas of Andhra Pradesh. Twenty-five lakhs of acres will benefit under the Jawaharlal Nehru Canal which is in the Andhra area and eight lakhs acres will come under the Lai Bahadur Shastri Canal which is in the Telengana area. Unfortunately for want of funds, even though the project would benefit both the regions the work has been slowed down there. Now that the State administration is under the President's rule, Rs. 5 crores have been provided to increase the land to be brought under plough. With Rs. 5 crores we will be able to bring only 11,000 acres under cultivation. Another Rs. 5 crores are necessary to bring another 95,000 acres under the plough. This will help to augment the food supply to the nation as a whole. I request the Central Government to take over the Nagarjunasagar project and to reduce the burden on the State finance. So, in addition to the taking over by the Centre of the Nagarjunasagar project, the Government can think of taking over the Vamshadara and Somasila projects which comes to about Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 crores and it would be helping the development of the backward areas like Nellore and Srikakulam. Then, Sir, we have the Srisailem project the cost of which has gone up by 200 % and now it has become a big burden on the State finances. Fortunately or unfortunately, even though we have Dr. Rao as the Power & Irrigation Minister, he is not able to do anything for us because whenever he tries to help the State of Andhra, he is branded as a lover of the Andhra area. So, poor Mr. Rao has to retract from doing what he wants to do for Andhra Pradesh and he is not able to do that for there are also charges from Maharashtra or Mysore that he is helping the Andhras.

Then, as regards the medium irrigation projects of Vamshadara and Somasila they have been awaiting the clearance from the Planning Commission which is normally a post office 'only, but unfortunately it has been blocking the progress of this project. So, Sir, I wish the Planning Commission immediately gives the clearance and when the funds are available, at the time of the taking over of the Nagarjunasagar project, these projects can also be taken over.

. Then, Sir, I come to the question of popular government in Andhra

Pradesh. The Central Government has been telling that if normalcy is reached in Andhra Pradesh, they would consider the question of establishing a popular government there. Unfortunately, Sir, even though there is complete normalcy there, the Government does not move in the matter and I do not know for what purpose they are not doing it yet. May be they are angry with the Andhras because the Andhras were the first to eliminate a nominated Chief Minister. Anyway, if they want to restore normalcy, Mr. Umashankar Dikshit can immediately convene a meeting of all the legislators and then leave it to their choice and that would be better. They have not done it. I do not know the reason. Probably it is because the Congress itself is terribly divided on this issue fundamentally and this is because the Andhras feel that they cannot live in the State capital where they do not have any rights of their own. Sir, recently, there was a selection of District Judges. I can tell you that the feelings are so bad that nothing can happen in an integrated State. Now, there were six vacancies of the posts of District Judges. All the candidates were selected by five High Court Judges. The team consisted of five Judges including the Chief Justice and three Judges from Rayachoti and one from the coastal area. All these five Judges put together, for their own reasons, selected about six candidates. Now, the Bar Association of Telengana says that some injustice has been done because nobody from Telengana or Rayachoti has been selected for judgeship. So, if the feelings are like this when the Selection Committee consisted of Judges who are from Telengana. I do not think any solution will be possible in an integrated State because of such feelings.

As regards the popular Government which we had previously, Sir, it had its own sins one of which was that the Sirpur Kagaz Nagar and Chintur are leased to the Birlas and they have a monopoly of all the bamboos that are available there in Andhra Pradesh. When the price of the bamboos was fixed, the price fixed by the former Chief Minister, Shri P. V. Narsimha Rao, was Rs. 35 a tonne whereas in the market it is being sold for Rs. 100 a tonne. The average requirement of the Birlas is about 54,000 tonnes a year for these two factories. They say that the price

[Shri Papi Reddi] has been fixed for some consideration—the consideration being about Rs. 20 a ton. That comes to about Rs. 16 lakhs a year. Their contract is for about 20 years. I do not know what consideration passed on between the Chief Minister and the Birlas. When the order was given, immediately the Birlas approached the High Court and got a stay order. The Adviser's Government immediately contested the stay order and the High Court ultimately decided that they should deposit at least Rs. 30 lakhs for this year and they can take the bamboos for their use. So that way the taxpayers' money has been saved to the extent of Rs. 30 lakhs for a single year. What I mean is that people might be complaining about the Adviser, but there are some good things also.

Unless they think bifurcating the State, there is no point in restoring popular Government for the whole State because nothing can be achieved with these feelings in the Secretariat, each suspecting the other. No progress can be thought of in this suspicious atmosphere.

Then, Sir, I am sorry to say that the Central leadership is still being misguided by some of their friends. Recently, a statement was issued by 9 legislators of the Hyderabad city, saying that any solution concerning the Hyderabad city must be put before them before any decision is taken. All these 9 legislators happen to be the supporters of Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, who still claims to be a great integrationist. I would request Mr. Dikshit to go into these matters and if at all he is really interested in a solution, the best thing is to convince all the legislators of the Assembly and see that a decision is taken by them.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the problems of *bidi* workers in Andhra Pradesh. Several thousand workers are employed in the *bidi* industry. The problem relates to the fixation of wages under the Minimum Wages Act.

It was on the 17th January, 1973, that a meeting of the Labour Ministers was convened at the instance of the Union Labour Minister, and it discussed the various problems with which the *bidi* industry is confronted. In that meeting it was agreed that in view of the fact that the *bidi* industry shifts from place to place it is necessary to introduce a uniform wage rate throughout the country. It was agreed that Rs. 3.25 to Rs. 3.50 should be fixed for the workers employed in the *bidi* industry. In that meeting, the official from Andhra Pradesh who had participated also agreed to the fixation of this rate as Rs. 3.25 to Rs. 3.50. All the State Governments were required to take steps to notify the wages under the Minimum Wages Act. According to the information available, almost all the States have taken steps to give increased wages to the workers. The Maharashtra Government has even notified proposals under the Minimum Wages Act whereby the workers would be getting Rs. 3.25 to Rs. 4.00 per day. But the Maharashtra Government has declined to issue the final notification on the ground that the Andhra Pradesh Government has not so far notified the wages. Now, I have taken up this matter with the Labour Minister and requested him to persuade the Andhra Pradesh Government to see that increased wages are given to the workers. But I learnt that the Labour Commissioner is not inclined to give this little increase of 50 paise to the workers on the ground that if the wage increase is given, the *bidi* manufacturers of Andhra Pradesh will go to some other State. My submission is that the fear of the Labour Commissioner is totally unfounded. If the wages are uniform, then it does not make any difference whether a *bidi* manufacturer manufactures *bidi* in Andhra Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh because the cost of production will be the same. Now, the net result is that because the Andhra Pradesh Government has not notified the increased wages, the Maharashtra Government has also said that unless the Andhra Pradesh Government notifies the higher wages to the workers, they will not give enhanced wages. In Maharashtra, the strength of the workers is about 4 lakhs and they have already been given assurance that they would be getting the increased wages from 1st June. But since the Andhra Pradesh Government has failed to give increased wages, Maharashtra

Government has also not notified finally the wages under the Minimum Wages Act. Therefore, I invite the attention of the Government to this thing and request that since there is President's rule in Andhra Pradesh, the Centre itself can take a decision and direct the Government of Andhra Pradesh to notify the wages because there is a commitment of the Andhra Pradesh Government itself where they have agreed to give increased wages to the workers. As I stated earlier, the workers are not few hundred or few thousands. They are, according to my information, about one lakh. Therefore, it is a question of lakhs of workers. If the increased wage is given, it will be possible for these poorly-paid workers to face the high cost of living. Therefore, I would request and urge upon the hon. Minister to see that as per the commitment made by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the increased wages should be given to the workers.

Then I would invite the attention of the Government to a news item appearing in the Times of India of July 25, 1973, The news item is under the heading "House grabbing by castemen alleged". It reads as follows:

"A case of house grabbing by caste Hindus in a model colony for Scheduled Castes and backward classes in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh has been alleged in a representation to the Union Home Minister by a local leader.

In a memorandum presented to Mr. Umr Shankar Dikshit, Mr. S. Vanja-nabham, President of Srikakulam District Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Most Backward Weaker Section Abhyunnati (Welfare) Sangham compared the case to that of evacuee property grab in Punjab.

Saying that all but seven of the 58 houses in the colony at Kasibugga had been illegally taken over five years ago by caste Hindus through various fraudulent methods, he urged the Home Minister to intervene since the local authorities had taken no action despite his repeated representations during the past two years."

It is really a very serious matter in which as many as 50 houses meant for the Scheduled Castes and backward classes were

taken over by caste Hindus and the actual occupants were ejected by fraudulent means. All the houses are being occupied by caste Hindus. This is a very serious matter which deserves to be enquired into and I hope the Government will take immediate steps to see that the possession of these houses is restored to that class for whom the houses were built.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for their valuable suggestions. Sir, they have expressed their spectrum of views and also they have traversed a wide horizon by discussing the Budget. I will not go into the political gamut at all but I would only like to say that what has happened has happened and we have to build the future new.

Now that the situation is improving, things are normalising, the strike has been called off, the NGOs and the students have gone back to their work, I hope every citizen there will be interested to see that normalcy is restored as expeditiously as possible and once again the conditions are conducive to the popular government there.

I will not accept one argument that was pronounced by some Members of the Opposition that it is the responsibility of the Central Government for having brought about such a state of affairs. The Central Government did not come into the picture. It was a matter confined to Telengana and Andhra. We, the Central Government, came into picture only when there was no other way out and it has not been the desire of the Centre to force or thrust its view or in any way take action which would be detrimental to the purpose of democracy in any manner. That is why a consensus has to be followed and time is being given. Emotions take a long time to heal up. We cannot cause the emotions to act or react in a certain manner and, therefore, the time will be a great healer and I think the time is conducive now.

It is very unfortunate. Sir, that a beautiful State like this, a colourful place like this with a cultural heritage and back-around still has a very backward economy, and even the per capita income is below

[Shrimati Sushila Rohalgi] the national per capita income today. Therefore, when the Members ventilated their grievances, it was a just thing on their part because each one of them has an anguish in his or her mind. The Central Government perfectly is aware of that point and it was precisely in order to improve the backwardness of the State, in order to promote the economy of the State that certain steps have been initiated in the course of the Budget. The Budget was partially passed four months ago and it is the residue of the same Budget. If some steps have not been taken into consideration as were mentioned by our friend, Mr. Krishnan, the other day when he made certain suggestions about the Youth Council, it is precisely because this is the Budget which was presented on the 15th March. The suggestions which took place at the Consultative Committee in May could not be incorporated in this but all the same I am happy to tell him that already an allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made in this Budget in the matter which he has referred to, that is the sports and the youth welfare.

Andhra, Sir, has been described as a natural granary of the South and a bridge of the North and the South and it is good the sooner the granary is replenished, the drought conditions are removed and it is strengthened, it will be in the interest of the economy of the State and the country as a whole. I would like to enumerate some of the instances, some of the steps which have been taken by the Central Government which will show that it is really the welfare of the State at heart which has motivated the framing of this Budget today.

Sir, in the Plan outlay, the Irrigation and Power have received the top most priority and almost two thirds of this is accounted for in the Plan expenditure. I would like to break it up for the information of the hon. Members and we find that in the Nagarjunasagar there is an allocation of Rs 5.65 crores. In Pochampad Project, it is Rs. 10.53 crores, in Vamsadhara Rs. 0.75 crores, in TBP HLC Stage-II Rs. 1.40 crores. For power, in Srisailem project which was mentioned by a number of hon. Member¹, there is an allotment of Rs. 5.20 crores, in Kothagudem Thermal Scheme Stage-III Rs. 8.00 crores and in Lower Sileru Hydro-

Electric Scheme it is Rs. 8.00 crores. It may be noted that originally it was proposed to spend a sum of Rs. 4 crores only on the Srisailem Hydro Electric Scheme but this has been raised to Rs. 5.20 crores. In the case of the Lower Sileru Hydro Electric Scheme, which is yet another major power project in the State and which will help irrigation to a very considerable extent, in addition to the Rs. 8 crores proposed earlier a further sum of Rs. 1.50 crores is being spent and the total outlay will therefore be Rs. 9.50 crores. In this Plan for 1973-74 we find that re-gionwise needs have been taken into consideration and therefore justice is done to all the various sectors in the State.

As far as drought is concerned, we can understand the trails and tribulations which the people have to face during droughts and we find that quite a substantial sum has been kept for that. A sum of Rs. 40.66 crores has already been spent for this and it is expected that a further sum of Rs. 21 crores is also likely to be spent on relief works.

Now special attempts have been made for providing employment and small scale schemes have been initiated or are going to be initiated for providing employment to people. During the current year a sum of Rs. 14.50 crores is being spent on various programmes intended for providing gainful and productive employment to the unemployed. A sum of Rs. 6 crores has been earmarked under the Half a Million Jobs Programme. In addition to this under the Central Sector Plan Scheme of Special Employment Programmes, a sum of Rs. 2.13 crores is being spent. This is of course in addition to the schemes intended for providing employment to the unemployed agricultural labourers on which a sum of Rs. 5.6 crores is proposed to be spent. It is also proposed to spend Rs. 70 lakhs on self-employment schemes for the educated unemployed. Therefore, the motivation behind all this is absolutely clear.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the most progressive States so far as land reforms are concerned. They have already prepared this matter and it is now before the Home Ministry for finalisation. Welfare of the backward classes has received special attention though there is always scope for doing more in this direction. A massive programme of house construction has been

undertaken at a cost of Rs. 10 crores especially for the benefit of the weaker sections through the Andhra Pradesh State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Co-operative Housing Societies Federation Limited. The total cost of the programme is Rs. 10 crores out of which the amount released is Rs. 9.32 crores. The number of houses proposed to be constructed is 55,546 out of which houses actually completed and allotted come to 35,457.

Th: subsidy for feeding charges in Hari-jan hostels has also been raised recently in phased manner from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 per month and several steps have also been taken for proper management. I hope all these measures would receive the appreciation which they really deserve.

So far as Telangana is concerned, the State Government has decided to make available an amount of Rs. 45 crores from out of the special assistance provided by the Government of India for the accelerated development of Telangana region. Excluding an amount of Rs. 1.28 crores utilised during the year 1968-69 an amount of Rs. 43.72 crores was available for this Special Development Programme during the Fourth Plan period. A special programme for utilisation of this amount was drawn up by the State Government in consultation with the Telangana Development Committee. Against this provision, till the end of the Fourth Plan, an amount of Rs. 36.99 crores was utilised. We find that most of the expenditure has been for rural electrification, irrigation, communications, water supply, education, milk supply schemes, Harijan welfare, Tribal welfare etc. This will show that the amount has been utilised for the benefit of such sectors which really affect the poor. The current year's Plan outlay in the Budget Estimates is Rs. 87.59 crores, though the Planning Commission has proposed a higher outlay of Rs. 91.50 crores for the current year. In view of resources amounting only to Rs. 87.59 crores, the State Government has approved an outlay of only Rs. 87.59 crores. If, during the course of the year, the resources position improves, correspondingly the State's Plan will also be raised to the level suggested by the Plan-nine Commission, i.e., Rs. 91.50 crores. I think I have met most of the arguments.

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It is a tobacco area and the Government is extending them the know-how and intelligence that is required for improving the quality and quantity of the product. With these words, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Andhra Pradesh for the services of the financial year 1973-74, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. There are no amendments.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, with your permission. I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE ORISSA APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Orissa for the services of the financial year 1973-74, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

As hon. Members are aware, consequent upon the President's Proclamation