

[Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya]

ploying a minimum of 25 workers because they are bringing down the number of workers and getting licences to avoid all legislation regarding workers and companies?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are spoiling a good case made by Mr. Gopalan.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We need no guidance from the Chair in this.

SHRI DINAN BHATTACHARYYA: You do not know the history, Sir....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I may not know but I am concerned with your questions.

SHRI DINAN BHATTACHARYYA: My next question is this. More units should be re-organized on a co-operative basis. Do you accept it or not? Licences should not be given to exporters unless they themselves see that the number of employees in this industry is not reduced. This is my question and I want a categorical answer whether you are sticking to that policy that all industries will be labour intensive and no machinery will replace the working-man.

SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a known fact that Coir industry in Kerala is one of our biggest cottage industries and as far as the policy of the Government with regard to the mechanisation is concerned I have already said in my statement about our approach to any sort of such mechanisation which creates the problem of unemployment. But, Sir at the moment we have to see how to develop the industry as such by using new technology and methods and therefore our policy basically is that of cautious modernisation of the industry. It was because of that policy to discourage mechanisation, the Government of Kerala has taken steps and not to allow such machines to be operated. The second point is about revitalisation of the cooperatives, and it is our endeavour to encourage cooperative societies and to revitalise those cooperative societies which are potentially viable, to make them viable by giving them assistance and we are taking steps in that direction. The Government of Kerala is taking steps in that direction. And for that purpose we

have allotted the amount. Of course that amount itself will not do unless something is being taken from other financial institutions. The State Government of Kerala shall have to contribute its own share in that scheme of revitalisation and therefore I specifically stress and say that our stress is on the revitalisation of the cooperatives, not only for this coir industry, but for other cottage industries. We want to bring the cottage industries more and more under cooperative sector. There is one more important point regarding export which was raised. There are some conflicting views in the Board meeting. All India Trade Union Congress and others were represented; by and large people were of the view that the total exports of the Coir industry and Coir products should be nationalised. There was also a minority view to the effect that this should not be done because it will damage the industry itself. Government is considering the different aspects and a balanced view will be taken in the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: I am surprised by the answers given by the Minister. The previous speaker has said that this is one of the very important cottage industries employing about a million or more people throughout the coastal area of that State.

It is earning a lot of foreign exchange. If you take the foreign exchange earnings, it cannot be next to many other industries in the country. In regard to such an important industry, when there is a crisis, such a callous, indifferent and lethargic attitude taken by the Centre is unfortunate. That gives me a little surprise. There is a saying among the coir workers that there is a kind of Mughals style in the manner of the ruling in the Centre particularly in dealing with the matters connected with the coir industry. The callous, indifferent and lethargic manner, in which these people are administering, the same is applicable to these gentlemen.

Coming to the points—I will not take a lot of time—there is a new aspect which I would like to impress upon the Minister. That is, apart from the dangers of mechanisation of the industry in Kerala, as was pointed out by my two friends, there is another aspect of the problem. It

is about setting up of mechanised units of coir factories outside Kerala. These highly sophisticated and mechanised coir units are established in the neighbouring states of Kerala, e.g., for the information of the hon. Minister, I can give the name of Mangalore which is in Karnataka State. One of the industrialists from Kerala—if you want the name I can mention that—Shri Ravi Karunakaran, has set up a sophisticated and highly advanced coir built for which the machinery has been imported from Holland. This was imported from that country and set up in Mangalore. They are now canvassing around Kerala to set up more industries of the same nature. Sir, you should understand that the result will be that, after some time, from Kerala, the entire industry will be shifted to nearby States and Kerala will be reduced to a kind of raw material exporting base of the old colonial type.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why should Poland export it ?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Not Poland but Holland—a capitalist country. Your doubt is genuine—Poland cannot do that. It came from Holland.

The point is whether, in future, when you give permission to set up a factory like this outside Kerala, will you put a curb on that? Will you ban such factories from being set up outside Kerala with the imported, or whatever it is, machinery? This is my first point. My second point is: I think the Minister enumerated a very strange philosophy, that he is guided by the minority opinion of the Coir Board. Sir, I am a member of the Coir Board and Shri Ravi is also a member of the Coir Board. There was a discussion in the Board about how the exports of coir should be reorganised. A statement was also made by Shri L. N. Mishra when he was the Minister of Foreign Trade. He said that we would nationalise the exports of coir or channelise them. There was a resolution of the A.I.T.U.C. which was discussed in the Coir Board wherein, we, the people's representatives—representatives of the Kerala Government—by an overwhelming majority in the Coir Board supported that view that it should be nationalised. Who were

the people then who opposed it? Only the industrialists—big export houses—Shri Ravi Karunakaran and others—foisted it on the Minister in coming here and saying that he is guided by the minority members. It is a very shameless manner and callous way of telling the Parliament that you are guided by minority opinion. You should not do it.

Now I would like to ask one question to the hon. Minister. This is a very important matter. He has stated in his statement that we have to take the productivity, export promotion etc. into account. But, what is happening actually? You are nowhere near the coir industry. And you do not know how that is run. This mediaeval type of eighteenth-century brutal exploitation is going on in these industries. The workers are exploited and their mawrows are taken out. This is how exploitation is going on, and the export houses are minting money. If the export trade is rationalised, these exploiters can be eliminated and the industry can be helped in a big way. So, my pointed questions to the hon. Minister are the following. Will he impose a ban on these industrial units which are setting up outside and in States around Kerala which have mechanised the industry? Will he take a firm decision in tune with the majority decision of the Coir Board and the decision of the Kerala Government to nationalise the export trade in coir industry products? What steps has he taken to revitalise the coir industry? I am thoroughly disappointed at the fact that whereas Rs. 15 crores had been asked, he has given a puny little sum of Rs. 100 lakhs and the industry is going to face a serious crisis in the coming days. What is he going to do? Will he give a little more money or will he say 'No'?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only three questions are involved.

SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI : I have to make certain clarifications. With regard to nationalisation, my hon. friend has rather misrepresented what I had said. I have not said that Government is directed by the minority view. I have said that there are two views. Of course, there is a minority view...

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will he implement the majority view?

**SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI :** Let me have my say. Government always look at all these things, taking into account the feasibility of the scheme. It is true that Government have not taken any decision. There are two views. The majority view is in favour of nationalisation of export of coir industry products. But there is a minority view also....

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) :** In the consultative committee they had decided to channelise the coir industry. What is his opinion about it?

**SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI :** Let me make it clear that Government have not taken any decision on this matter, and Government have not given any weightage to the minority view or the majority view. This is unfortunate....

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :** Channelisation was a unanimous decision.

**SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI :** It is unfortunate that I have been misunderstood. I just put the fact before the House. A decision is still to be taken.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :** When is he going to take the decision? We have been waiting for years and years and he says only that a decision will be taken later. When will it be taken?

**SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI :** With regard to the mechanised units or big units in Mangalore or somewhere else, I am sorry I have no information. But I may tell him that the Ministry of Commerce had convened a meeting on 25th February, 1974 and decided the strategy and discussed the steps for modernisation of the coir industry to boost up export of coir products, but the State Government of Kerala took objection to it, and on the objection of the Kerala Government, the whole scheme which was under consideration by the Commerce Ministry was postponed.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :** There is a Coir Board. It is a very relevant thing....

**SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI :** I am making my submissions. If the hon. Member wants....

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :** It is an irregular thing. There is a Coir Board. Let them discuss it. What are these

people in Delhi doing? Let them consult the Coir Board. He does not know the subject and what the problem is....

**SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI :** What a funny state of affairs! I do not know the subject. So, let the subject be transferred to Shri Vayalar Ravi.

12.39 HRS.

**RE : MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) :** I had tabled an adjournment motion. Government have miserably failed in their experiment on socialisation of the wholesale trade in foodgrains. There is a total collapse of the distribution machinery. There is privation and artificial scarcity. It is a serious problem....

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) :** You might have gone through the proceedings and found that yesterday we had made the submission that there should be a debate on the foodgrains policy....

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Order, please. If all of you speak, nothing can be heard. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. You can make your submission briefly, but all of you should not speak together. Otherwise nothing goes into the record and nothing is understood.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Let us know what has happened to the Adjournment Motions tabled by us.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I do not know. There is only one Adjournment Motion that came to my attention this morning.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** We had submitted it in time. I am informed that it has been received. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I will give you the information. Now, two Adjournment Motions were placed before me this morning.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Who are they?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I am going to tell you. You are so impatient. No. I is, seeking to discuss the Government policy regarding the take-over of the