

Their sons and daughters can be educated with the help of stipend to become doctors and engineers.

(Interruptions)

In coal industry, they have already done it. It is possible and it should be done. Unless education is spread to that level and they are pushed up, the workers cannot be enable to attain that quality of good life by the external effort of merely a welfare fund. This is started with a fan-face and you give a shape, draw a budget through committees, but very soon, it loses momentum; it starts losing momentum. What should be a movement de-generates into a department and all the power equation of the high officials, the Deputy Welfare Commissioners, the Welfare Commissioners and the welfare Inspectors, it is just as good or as bad as an intra-union rivalry. So, such equations start playing their role. The primary objective of going out of welfare activities for the workers receds to the background.

I appeal to the Labour Minister to ensure that activities of all these welfare organisations, coal, mica, iron ore, manganese, dolomite and all the rest of them, should be orchestrated through guidelines so that these power equations do not obscure the major objective of bringing about a change in the far away places in the lives of millions and to that extent help in implementing the 20-point economic programme.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Telli-cherry). Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think, the hon. Minister will also agree that although he has brought forward a well-intentioned Bill, it has been opposed by almost everybody. This is a very strange situation. It is because of lack of realism on the part of the Government to understand the problems of an industry like this and to bring forward Bills, one after another.

I agree with the hon. Members who spoke about the failure of the Government in implementing the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. I think, there will not be any difference in regard to the fate of these Bills which we are discussing today. In my opinion, this happened not because the Government did not want to implement it but they refused to look into the problems of the Beedi industry. In this industry, according to Government's own statement, 1 million persons are employed, But there are 2-1/2 million people who are indirectly and partially employed in this industry. It happens because of certain peculiar features of this beedi industry. One-third of this industry is in the organised sector where factories are there and where factory labour legislations could be easily implemented. But the remaining two-thirds of the industry is in the unorganised sector. It is, more or less, a cottage industry. How a welfare legislation for the workers in this industry will be seriously and sincerely implemented when they do not know even how many workers are there.

Now, there is an amendment for which a notice has been given by Mr. A. K. Gopalan. I do not know what will be the reaction of the Government. It says that there should be a register kept by the Government in every area where bidi industry is concentrated and there they should register the names and other details of the workers. Then, there can be at least some record about the number of workers who will be benefited by this welfare legislation. The Government does not know how many workers are there. They know how many workers are there in the factories but they do not know about the two-thirds of bidi workers who are working in cottages and all that.

The two-thirds of bidi workers are being supplied all tobacco and leaves by the contractors in their houses or

(Shri C. K. Chandrappan)

places of work. There is no time-limit for doing work. When they feel that they should work, they work. It is reported that men and women work for 12 hours a day and that children are also largely employed in this industry. The Government does not know about it. They know it but they do not have the facts about it. This is a problem about which the Government should tell us how they are going to tackle it when they seriously think about implementing this welfare legislation.

In regard to the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, the failure to implement it, there are certain facts. There are certain things from which the Government should learn some lessons. What happened in Kerala? In Kerala, the Government wanted to implement the Act. They said, hereafter the employers should follow the rules. The employers said that they are not working in Kerala. That is what one of the big manufacturers of bidi from Mysore State, Ganesh Beedi, said. They had big factories and I think, about 22,000 workers or something like that were working there. When the minimum wages were enforced, they bid goodbye to Kerala and shifted the industry to Karnataka where the working class movement is not so strong as it is in Kerala, where the bargaining capacity of the workers is less. The employers thought that they should go there because they could exploit the workers there. The Kerala Government reorganized the industry on cooperative lines. I would like the hon. Minister to listen to what I am saying. If you are serious about implementing such legislations, you have to re-structure the industry on cooperative lines. That is my suggestion...

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): I am supporting your argument. For your information I may say that, in the State of Karnataka, organization of cooperatives for beedi workers is prohibited.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: That is a very good information you have given.

What I am saying is this. If you really want to implement your legislation, then you have re-structure the industry; there is no way-out; there is no short cut to socialism; you have to re-structure the industry on cooperative lines; then you will be able to run it, you will be able to fight the monopoly interests in this industry. That is our experience in Kerala and I am sure that the Minister is aware of it. When 22,000 workers were thrown out of employment and the industry shifted itself from Kerala to Karnataka, the Kerala Government stepped in and re-organized the industry on cooperative lines and provided employment; not only were they provided with subsistence, but they were also given all the facilities which are required to be given to the workers under the Act, which you have forgotten to implement. Mr. A. K. Gopalan will agree that this is happening in Kerala. That is possible. If you do not think on those lines, then this will only remain in the holy book of legislations and will never be implemented.

Another point I want to make is this. You are going to collect by way of cess Rs. 180 lakhs, if I have understood it properly. I think, that is a very meagre amount. That is not going to bring about all these big things which Government is seeking to give on page 2 of the Bill--sanitary facilities, water facilities, education, this and that. I have a suggestion to make. I am not a lawyer to know the technical detail of it. In this beedi industry, there are two components: tobacco and Kandu leaves; tobacco is used to the tune of Rs. 60 crores per year and Kandu leaves are used to the tune of Rs. 80 crores per year. Can you bring some kind of a cess? Do not give me a technical answer saying that cess is not possible and all that.

By some way, can you bring some revenue? I am not an expert in this. But I think something should be done so that some revenue will be there from this, so that you will have a reasonable amount for the welfare of the workers. I hope Government will consider this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola)
Contractors will be the losers if you put cess

SHRI C K CHANDRAPAN Gov-
ernment is looking for socialism and
should be happy about it

Before concluding I would like to say one thing. This is one industry where the majority of the workers are women. Very recently the Commission on status of Women brought out their report. There they say that this is one sector where women are so brutally exploited. I do not know, what the Government will do about it. They have to bring a more comprehensive legislation, where they should visualise the restructuring of the industry and it should be implemented simultaneously all over the country. Only then such measures will be beneficial to the workers and the country. I hope this be considered and you will not just reject our amendments. I support fully the amendment of Shri A K Gopalan that cigar workers should be included in this. This is very important and I do not know how you have forgotten them. All the legislation in regard to workers has in the past included these workers also. I hope that they would be included.

श्री राम हेमराज (राजठेक) उपाध्यक्ष
महोदय बीडी बर्मेकार बल्याण उपकर विधे-
यक का मैं समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हूँ।

यह जो उद्योग है, यह एक गृह उद्योग है जिसे हर घर में किया जाता है। महाराष्ट्र के यह उद्योग अधिकतर भणारा चन्द्रपुर और नागपुर में मालिकों द्वारा चलाया जाता है और

मालिक लोग इस धंधे से बर्गेडरशिप बन हुए हैं और उनके शोषण के तरीके और जरिये और बुनिया से दूसरे ही हैं। श्रमिकों को कुछ राहत देने की दृष्टि से सरकार ने आज तक जितने भी कानून बनाए हैं उनका कोई असर मालिकों पर नहीं हुआ है और आज भी ये मालिक बड़े अच्छे ढंग में इस उद्योग में काम करने वाले मजदूरों का शोषण करते हैं। ऐसा मैंने कहीं नहीं देखा है कि पूरा काम लगे के बाद उसका पूरा मूआबजा मजदूरों को न दिया जाए लेकिन यह बीडी उद्योग ही एक ऐसा उद्योग है जिसमें मालिक वर्गभंग में पूरा काम तो करा लेते हैं लेकिन उभका पूरी मजदूरी नहीं देते हैं। वे मजदूर से एक हजार बीडी बनवा लेते हैं मगर उन एक हजार दिव्यों में छोट-छोट कर निकाल लेते हैं और यह कहते हैं कि ये पीने के उपयोग की नहीं है और इनकी बनावट ठीक नहीं है। इस तरह में एक हजार बीडी में से 300, 400, 150 और 500 बीडी घटिया कह कर निकाल देते हैं और बाकी 500, 600 और 700 बीडियों का भुगतान करते हैं। मजदूरों का इतना बड़ा भारी शोषण माला में हो रहा है और यह सब लोगो की निगाह में है। इसके बाड़े में बीडी यंत्रियनो व नुमायदा की तरफ से बहुत चिन्ताहट हुई लेकिन सरकार पर इसका कोई असर नहीं हुआ है और सरकार ने ऐसा कोई बंदम नहीं उठाया है जिससे इस प्रकार का शोषण बन्द हो।

बीडी के उद्योग में काम करने वाले बहुत से मजदूर टी० बी० में पीड़ित हैं और उनको खाने को नहीं मिलता है। उनकी कई समस्याएँ हैं लेकिन उनको मुलाजाने की बजाएँ उनका शोषण होता है। इस उद्योग में मजदूरों के बच्चे, बीबी और वे खुद 18, 18 और 20, 20 घंटे काम करते हैं लेकिन फिर भी उन को पेट भर खाने को नहीं मिलता है और उनकी बहुत बुरी दशा है।