

12.38 hrs.

[English]

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister for Finance and the hon. Minister for Textiles to issue suitable instructions to the concerned departments to prevent the production of pre-inspection certificate by the Central Silk Board and not to insist on the production of the test certificate for the issuance of Duty Drawback by the Customs Department.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, the public Distribution System in Mumbai, with a population of one crore ten lakhs, has completely collapsed. Those shopkeepers/consumer societies who have paid money to the Government for supplying the goods, are not receiving the goods. As a result, about nine hundred shopkeepers have sent their resignations to the Government and in that, six hundreds cooperative societies are also included. They have said that hereafter they will not run the ration shops. In all there are 3000 shops. The remaining 2100 shops also are deciding that they also want to run the ration shops. As a result, the common man, the factory workers, the middle class persons, are not getting their daily requirements. So, I would request the Government to rush the foodgrains immediately to Mumbai and also assure the shop-keepers, the consumer cooperative societies and the consumers' organisations that steady flow of the ration shops' goods will be made to them. If this is not done, it will collapse and I am afraid that there would be food riots in the city. So, the Government must make a statement and in addition to that, they should rush the goods on a war footing to the city. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have received a telegram on this matter from my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor) Sir, the Air India's flight charge from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries is at a very high rate. The longstanding demand of the passengers flying from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries had been a reduction in the flight charge of Air-India. But the Air India had not taken any action so far. During the year 1978, the Air India operated their flight service from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries and in the past 14 years, the passengers flying from Kerala to the Gulf countries had been demanding from the Air India for their urgent steps being taken in reducing the unjustified higher flight charge from these sectors. In this regard the Malayalees residing in the Gulf countries had also submitted a memorandum to the Government of India. But the Air India did not take any action so far in meeting this justifiable demand in the reduction of flight charge from the Gulf passengers. The following are the demands:—

1. Flight charge of the Air India for the passengers by the Gulf-Trivandrum flight should be reduced.
2. The Air India be requested to refund the overcharge taken from the passengers so far.

The other demand is to allow the same landing facilities to Trivandrum Airport also as has been done to the other international flights from the foreign countries to Trivandrum Airport.

I draw the attention of the hon. House to the real fact in regard to the higher flight charge taken from the passengers from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries. For example,

the Air India is charging the ticket fare of 2757 Dirham to UAE-Trivandrum-UAE journey. (Interruptions) Sir, it is a very vital subject.

The Air India's flight charge is higher for their England-USA and Tokyo flight. Their fare to UAE-Trivandrum-UAE is double the above fare for taking the passengers to the Gulf countries.

Today the Air India is charging 3040 Dirham for the flight to the Gulf from Trivandrum. I want that this amount should be reduced to 2,000 Dirham.

The Air India is telling that the fare structure was decided by the IATA from Geneva. Hence they cannot interfere in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: It is very very important, Sir. I am coming to the main point.

But various Gulf-Malayalee organisations contacted the IATA authorities in that regard. They replied that the IATA should not be asked to interfere with the fare structure of Air India since the same was finalised after discussion by various countries.

Therefore, Sir, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to reconsider the unwanted, unjustified fare charged by the Air India from the Gulf-Malayalee passengers at Trivandrum and Gulf countries.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is the 72nd day of the strike of some jute mill workers of West Bengal. You know that on the 28th January, 1992, the jute mill workers of West Bengal started an indefinite strike to realise not only their payments and wages,

but also for determining man-machine ratio, the problem of *badli* workers and the problems of production and productivity which are the nodal points of the industry itself. Through the historic struggle, the workers could come to a settlement, on the one hand by increasing a bit of their wages and on the other hand, by setting up a committee to go deep into the basic problems of the industry. But some of the owners are disregarding this welcome development. Three of such delinquent owners belong to my constituency. They are the owners of Amb Mill, Januran Jute Mill and Tirupati Jute Mill. A total of about 8,000 workers are involved in the process. I have visited the *basti* of the workers and I found that the workers are facing a lot of miseries.

Besides, the authorities of Baranagar Jute Mill and the North Brooke Jute Mill have refused to implement the agreement that they signed on 17th March and as a result, the strike has been continuing in these five mills. The Labour Minister of West Bengal has taken active initiative to settle the dispute, but till now the problems have not been solved. The Central Government is looking at the things from a distance and sometimes it is issuing sermons from Delhi. It transpires from their behaviour that they have nothing to do in the matter. I therefore demand, through you Sir, that in line with the tripartite agreement arrived at very recently, Textile Ministry should take up the issue and intervene to bring these errant and delinquent entrepreneurs to book, because they are defaulters in payment of Provident Fund, ESI benefits and many other statutory obligations that are under the purview of the Central Government. So, the Labour Minister and the Textiles Minister should jointly and actively intervene in the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHR SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I