

The backwardness of Bastar is due to illiteracy and lack of facilities like transportation, irrigation, electricity and cottage industries and in this respect it is more backward than the other Adivasi areas of the State. Though the Central Government has declared it an Adivasi sub-plan area and has undertaken developmental activities, yet why has it not been declared as a 'no-industry district' ?

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to declare this Adivasi area as industrially backward district to enable the local educated youth to set up cottage industries and utilise the available forest and mineral resources. This would solve the increasing unemployment problem in the area. Timely action should be taken remedy the resentment among the Adivasis regarding supply of forest and mineral wealth from their area to the industries in other States.

[English]

(vi) **Need to give more financial assistance to Cardamom Trading Corporation and representation to Cardamom growers of Karnataka in the corporation**

KUMARI D. K. THARA DEVI (Chikmagalur) : Sir, to safeguard the interests of Cardamom growers of Karnataka, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 :

Karnataka produces about 1500 tonnes of Cardamom, through majority of small growers. The trade is in the hands of a few vested interests and both the export and internal markets are controlled by these people at the cost of small growers and consumers. They buy cheaply from them and sell it to consumers at abnormal prices. To give a remunerative return to growers and to sell the Cardamom to consumers at reasonable prices, the Cardamom Trading Corporation will have to buy steadily substantial quantity (at least fifty per cent, that is, 700 tonnes) of Karnataka production from June to February (Harvesting time). The Corporation needs about Rs. 5 crores of assistance from the Government as Seed Capital for purchases. The rest can be raised with Banks. At present, the Government has

given an assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs for the Corporation. Rs. 50 lakhs is too meagre to participate in steady buying (to maintain steady cardamom prices), since the unit value of Cardamom on an average is between Rs. 150 and Rs. 200 per kg.

The growers have not been benefited by the C.T.C. as it does not have funds for steady buying and to keep the market steady. The poor performance of the C.T.C. has given ample scope for vested traders to exploit the growers and consumers. The growers of Karnataka are agitated at the functioning of the C.T.C. The full Board of the C.T.C. has not been formed yet. There is no grower's representative to activate the Corporation in the interests of the growers. Therefore I request the Government :

(1) To give Rs. 5 crore as Seed Capital to the Cardamom Trading Corporation; and

(2) To form the full Board, with due representation to the growers from Karnataka as initially C.T.C. is to market Karnataka Cardamom.

(vii) **Demand for a road-cum-railway bridge across the river Krishna to join Repalle and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali) : Repalle in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh and Machilipatnam in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh are just separated by river Krishna to a width of about 4 kms. with their respective railway terminals. Both are very fertile and rich lands with the alluvial deposits of river Krishna. Now there is scanty facility of crossing the river by country boats. This transit is not very dependable and could operate only when there is sufficient depth of water; and in other times people have to reach from one end to the other, only through Vijayawada, contouring a distance of about 120 kms. I have been writing to the Railway Ministry more than often to provide a road cum railway bridge across the river Krishna at any nearest point. This project is economically very sound with good financial returns. Hence, I request the Hon. Railway Minister to evince personal

interest in this matter. This has been the fervent request of all the Andhra and an active point of discussion in the last General Elections.

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12.21 hrs.

SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES  
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up item No. 7 on the Agenda—Further consideration of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill. The Hon. Minister of Finance may reply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, I want to thank the Hon. Members for the constructive suggestions they have given on this Bill. It does show their interest in the subject and their concern about the sickness in the industry.

There have been various points of view and many Members have expressed that it is not enough, but so far as it is a step in a direction in which we all want to go, on that there has not been debate and for that there has been a general support for which I want to thank the Hon. Members for, there may be debate on the quantum of the steps to be taken, but the step to be taken in the direction of the step is right. That is the impression that we have got in this House and I want to express my gratitude for the same.

One thing I want to share with the House is that other agencies of financial institutions or State agencies or other agencies which are concerned with industry and its health shall continue to play their role and this Board does not displace their own and by the same token, it is not the only remedy for dealing with industrial sickness or industrial health. It is in fact when other agencies fail—it is not our conception that other agencies will not cease their work and only this Board will be there. To help the industry and keep it in health all agencies will be contributing and in fact when these agencies

fail, then the matters will come to the fore. And the main thrust is on rehabilitation and the main thrust of various provisions in the Bill is on keeping the industry alive, keeping it healthy and take measures, financial packages steps including amalgamation, and change of management. All these steps are envisaged in it to keep the unit healthy and it is only when all fail, then it is a question of liquidation and it was conceived that the Board should not be burdened with the procedures of liquidation because that is very lengthy and it will go to the appropriate forum in the High Court, and so far it can be kept alive, to that extent DFIR should be actively associated in this.

The point was raised about workers' interests by various Members from both sides. We have come with our amendment that in case all these have failed, labour cooperatives should also be considered by the Board.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sick units.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Yes, Sick units.

We have already made a provision. A concern was expressed that the labour dues do not get paid when the units become sick. Already provision has been made that labour dues will be *pari passu* with security. So it is provided in the Budget itself and also in the Act that has been passed by the Parliament. So, that is one step that takes care under that enactment. We are also thinking of coming with a sort of rehabilitation package for the labour, apart from the existing provision, which would give a fair deal to the labour to rehabilitate itself and also get opportunities of employment in case a unit is absolutely non-viable or cannot be run on any ground. The first effort will be to run it.

Also, so far as the workers' participation is concerned, that will be governed by the exiting laws of the land regarding workers' participation and it will be as much applicable to any unit that comes there. So, what I want to say is that some enactments have to come by various other Ministeries like the Labour Ministry, the Department of Company Affairs etc., which we are thinking like