

beings are also reported. So far available reports indicate that pasture lands are still covered under thick layers of snow, and live-stocks are dying due to starvation. If timely supply by air-dropping of foodstuffs for the inhabitants, and fodder and concentrates for the livestock are not made early, apprehensions are that besides miseries to the inhabitants, most of the livestock may perish within a couple of days.

I urge upon the Government to immediately air-drop rations and medical aid for the entrapped inhabitants and fodder and concentrates for livestock, necessary for their survival.

(viii) NEED TO OPEN AN OFFICE OF SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA AT MADRAS.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The Shipping Corporation of India was established in 1961. The main aim of the Government was to help, develop and channelize the export-import business, shipping opportunities and passenger services from various ports of India. During the course of the last 20 years, the SCI has invested over Rs. 1,000 crores in expanding their activity and services throughout the major ports of India. The SCI has drawn up an ambitious programme has drawn up an ambitious programme for further expansion and development in all the port services. A sum of Rs. 800 crores will be spent during the coming 3-4 years. Presently, SCI is one of the biggest shipping companies in the world.

At any given time, about half the number of ships at the Madras port belong to SCI. The Corporation runs a highly lucrative passenger services from Madras to Singapore, to Port Blair, to Japan, to East and West Africa, and various cargo ships from and to Madras port. It passes one's comprehension why the SCI has never bothered to open its own office in Madras. The entire business has been

given to a private company, which makes enormous profits at the cost of SCI. The SCI has long been toying with an idea of opening its own office in Madras.

All the shipping business, including passenger services is run through Messrs. K.P.V. Shaikh Mohammad Rowther Pvt. Ltd., Actually Messrs. K.P.V.S. has been doing monopoly business with SCI. In addition to their commission arrangements, they are also doing agency, stevedoring, clearing forwarding, contracts, chipping, painting and ship chandler work with SCI through *benami* firms. Due to this monopoly, lot of complaints and harassments have been experienced by traders, exporters, importers and even passengers.

May I, therefore, request the Government to establish an SCI office at Madras, the prestigious port of India in the South? The SCI has even opened their own offices in foreign countries, while only at Madras they have given their business on agency basis. In view of the fast expansion of SCI business in Madras, it is but wise and proper that SCI must operate on their own, without allowing individual monopoly to make profits and get all other benefits. I hope Government would announce their decision on the above important matter, in public interest, and to keep up the prestige of the SCI.

(ix) WORKING OF THE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION,

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री :
(संदपुर) : माननीय सभापति महोदय,
मैं माननीय उद्योग मंत्री का ध्यान देश
के खादी एवं ग्रामीण कमीशन की
गतिविधियों की ओर दिखाना चाहता
हूँ। इस कमीशन की स्थापना ग्रामीण
शिल्प एवं हरिजन, कमजोर, पिछड़े
तथा आर्थिक अभाव में ग्रस्त शिल्पकारों
की प्रगति के लिए की गई है। कमीशन
का लक्ष्य 10 लाख परंपरागत कारीगरों

[श्री राजनाथ सौनकर शास्त्री]

को अपनी कला-कौशल में सुधार लाने के लिए सहायता देना, 10 लाख नए प्रवेशकों के लिए काम के नए अवसर का चयन करना, इस वर्ष निर्धारित किया गया था।

इस 20 लाख लोगों की श्रेणी का विभाजन करते हुए कमीशन ने निर्णय लिया था कि इन में 50 प्रतिशत अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जन जाति, पर्वतीय प्रदेश और पिछड़ी जाति के शिल्पी होंगे, जिस से इन शिल्पियों का प्रतिशत 23 से बढ़ कर 36 हो जाए। कमीशन ने यह भी निश्चित किया था कि उपरोक्त 20 लाख लाभ ग्रीहताओं में से शिल्पी महिलाओं की संख्या 50 प्रतिशत होगी, जिस से उनके एकल प्रतिशत का वर्तमान स्तर 45 प्रतिशत से बढ़ कर 47 प्रतिशत हो जाए। इस प्रकार इस योजना के अन्तर्गत 79-80 तक 739 पंजीकृत संस्थाएं एवं 27,842 सहकारी समितियों की स्थापना की गई। इसके लिए कुल विशुद्ध वितरण 240.41 करोड़ रुपया निश्चित किया गया। इस में उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए 65.91 करोड़ रुपए निर्धारित हुए।

मान्यवर, मुझे अत्यंत खेद के साथ आपके माध्यम से सदन को सूचित करना पड़ रहा है कि खादी ग्रामोद्योग कमीशन कुछ लोगों की मात्र जेबी संस्था ही बन कर रह गई है। उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग दो सौ पंजीकृत संस्थाएं हैं। यह कमीशन 95 प्रतिशत ऐसे लोगों की मदद कर रहा है जो न तो शिल्पी हैं न उनके पूर्वज कभी शिल्प कला से परिचित ही थे। कुछ संपन्न लोग फर्जी संस्था गठित कर अतिरिक्त सहायता प्राप्त करने में आज सफल हो रहे हैं। परि-

णामस्वरूप ग्रामीण शिल्पकार को मदद नहीं मिल रही है, बल्कि गांवों के शिल्पकार बेरोजगारी की स्थिति में पहुंचते जा रहे हैं।

मान्यवर, मैं माननीय उद्योग मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा कि वे सर्वप्रथम कमीशन की गतिविधियों की जांच कराएं। साथ ही कमीशन द्वारा आर्थिक सहायता देने के तरीकों; संगठन बनाने की शर्तों के संबंध में ऐसा निर्देश दिया जाए कि गांव का हर शराब शिल्पकार इस से लाभ उठा सके। कमीशन की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी, प्रादेशिक कार्यकारिणी एवं अन्य कार्यकारिणी में प्रायः उच्च वर्ग के पूंजीपति लोगों का संख्या बहुत ज्यादा है। मुझे भलीभांति जानकारी है कि इस संस्था की कार्यकारिणी में 80 प्रतिशत से लेकर 95 प्रतिशत तक ऐसे लोग हैं जो शिल्पकला की कोई जानकारी नहीं रखते। इतना नहीं बल्कि ग्रामीण शिल्पकार के पास बैठना भी अपना अपमान समझते हैं।

अंत में मैं माननीय उद्योग मंत्री जी से यह भी कहूंगा कि कमीशन के कार्य को देखने वाले अधिकारियों पर भी दृष्टि डालनी आवश्यक है। आज कमीशन के बारे में उद्योग अधिकारियों एवं अन्य कर्मचारियों की धारणा इन कारणों से और भी विचित्र सी है उस में संभवतः यह भावना बन गई है कि इस संस्था का कार्य केवल मुफ्त में रूपया बांटना है। मैं चाहूंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार आदि में कमीशन की कार्यवाही की खुली जांच की जाए। मेरे पास वाराणसी, लखनऊ, पटना, भोपाल आदि कुछ शहरों में हो रहे कदाचार का बहुत बड़ा प्रमाण है। जब सरकार चाहे मैं इसे प्रस्तुत कर सकता हूँ। अंत में मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि इस कारण

प्रामोण शिल्पियों में, खासतौर से
सैदपुर, वाराणसी, जहाँ से मँ चुना गया
है, वहाँ बहुत बड़ा असंतोष है।

(V) SUPPLY OF INFERIOR QUALITY
BLANKETS FOR THE USE OF ARMY, BORDER
SECURITY FORCE ETC.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA (Bombay South): The Government of India is presently buying blankets for the use of Army, Border Security Force, Home Guard, Police etc., from various manufacturers based in Panipat, the blankets for our security forces should be purchased in a way which would ensure that the quality of the blankets is as per specification and that the government is not duped with regard to the quality and the price of these blankets.

It is said that on the average about 1.5 million blankets are purchased every year by the government from the above stated manufacturers for the last two to three years. Government have laid down new specifications stating that the wool used in these blankets should be of 40 S micron. Previously when the quality of wool was not specified these blankets used to be supplied by the suppliers at the rate of Rs. 70 per piece. With the change in specification of wool the prices of these blankets have now touched between Rs. 100 and Rs. 115 per blanket. Thus the government is paying about Rs. 48 per blanket more in the purchase of these blankets which in terms of money amounts to a sum of Rs. 5 to 6 crores per annum.

It has come to light that the blankets which are produced and supplied today are from the old type of wool which is of much coarser micron which means that the blankets of inferior quality are supplied while the samples that are shown are made from 40 S micron wool. There is a great difference between the samples that are shown, tested and found to be in order than the actual blankets supplied. In this way the central exchequer is be-

ing duped to the tune of several crores of rupees per annum.

It is highly essential to institute an inquiry at the hands of some competent agency which should investigate and see the samples of wool yard and blankets from the suppliers/manufacturers/factories. Samples should also be drawn from actual supplies, if any, lying at the depot or in the forward area canteens. This should be sent for checking in independent laboratories like that of wool Research Association of Bombay, Samir, Bombay and General Superintendent's Co., of Bombay. Samples should also be sent to the Textile Commissioner's office for investigation. It appears that in order to keep genuine and large scale manufacturers out of bounds these manufacturers who have become vested interests quote such low prices that genuine manufacturers cannot get into this business. The inference easily could be drawn is that they afford to quote low prices because inferior and low quality wool is utilised by them which is other than the specification in collusion with inspecting agencies.

In the larger interest of the country some methods should be devised so that no rejected blankets are again re-tendered for acceptance by the suppliers and all those manufacturers such as Shoddy Wool Industries who supplied blankets by working their factories day and night during the Indo-Pak and Indo-China war should also be asked to come forward to supply the blankets to the government. The Shoddy Wool Industry in the country employs about 50,000 people and is considered to be a small scale industry in which women folk especially from the backward classes are earning their bread through the sweat of their brow. This aspect should also be taken into consideration by the Government and after taking a comprehensive viewpoint the Government should remove the vested interests who formed cartels and are monopolists. It is high time that the Government should apply their minds keeping in view all the above constructive suggestions.