

[Shri Baldev Singh Jasrotia]

In the national interest, it is urged upon the Government that a High Power Committee be appointed to look into the matter. 690 Megawatts should come up as early as possible and change the destiny of the Northern India and if circumstances require CBI assistance may also be called for to bring the guilty to book as there seems to be great bungling in the project.

- (v) REPORTED DISPUTE BETWEEN WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT OF PULP DIVISION OF GWALIOR RAYONS AND SILK MFG. & WEAVING CO., MAVOOR (KERALA)

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Pulp Division of the Gwalior Rayons and Silk Manufacturing and Weaving Company, Mavoor, an industrial undertaking engaged in the manufacture of rayon pulp, employing about 2,500 workers, besides about 25,000 workers employed indirectly on contract and through contractors through the State, is not functioning since 30-11-1977. The long-term agreement between the management and the workers had expired on 26-10-1975. There was also much discontentment among the workers in view of the steep fall in the emoluments of workmen over a period of two years due to the decrease in the cost of living index. Though negotiations were started for a fresh long term agreement and a series of conferences were held by the officers of the Labour Department, no agreement could be reached even

after two years of strenuous efforts, in view of the recalcitrant attitude of the management. In the circumstances, the workers went on strike from 30-11-77. Since then several conciliation conferences were held in the presence of the Labour Minister to bring about a settlement. As these negotiations failed, a number of conferences were held in the presence of the Labour Minister and Industries Minister. But these also failed due to the adamant and non-cooperative attitude of the management.

Now the position is very grave in that thousands of workers and their families are in utter distress due to the uncompromising attitude of the management. Further, as the concern is not functioning, the Central Government and the State Government are losing crores of rupees by way of excise duty and sales tax. All this forced the State Government to step in to make some temporary arrangements for the functioning of the factory. Accordingly, the State Government are taking immediate steps to take over the management of the concern temporarily and for this necessary ordinance is being promulgated. I request the Central Government to extend all support to the steps taken by the State Government in the matter.

- (vi) PRODUCTION OF LEATHER AND RUBBER WEAR FOR EXPORT AS WELL AS FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The country's production of leather and rubber wear

for export as well as for internal consumption are seriously affected and our export earnings as a result will be seriously affected. These items are canalised through S.T.C. and therefore, there would be a tremendous loss of business for the S.T.C. as well as likely breach of contract may also take place.

For internal consumers throughout Eastern region the Bata shops are not functioning and as a result availability of these essential commodities are very much unavailable to the common consumer. This has taken place owing to the adamant attitude of a foreign company i.e. Bata Shoe Co. Ltd. The Company's turn over has increased from Rs. 62.14 crores in 1974 to Rs. 78.85 crores in 1976, and their profits have similarly gone up from Rs. 1.20 crores in 1935 to Rs. 2.32 crores in 1972 which is almost double. In spite of that they have refused to comply with the spirit of the Bonus Act which is according to a High Court Judge is a deferred wage, and at the same time they have taken a most uncompromising position towards the employees in meeting their legitimate minimum needs. They are on strike for more than 65 days.

Whilst their Managing Director gets an annual remuneration of Rs. 3,04,286, whilst the same man in 1974 drew less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of this amount viz. Rs. 1.68 lakhs. Here below I am giving few more cases which will show what fantastic remunerations are paid to certain privileged officials of the same company where they are refusing to pay even minimum genuine needbased wage. The remuneration of the Managing Director in 1974 was Rs. 1,68,000 and in 1976 it went up to Rs. 3,04,286; Industrial Relations Adviser Rs. 1,01,452 in 1974 and Rs. 1,20,355 in 1976; the Factory Manager Rs. 77,321 in 1974 and Rs. 1,16,275 in 1976; Commercial Manager Rs. 97,987 in 1974 and Rs. 1,22,953 in 1976; Deputy Managing Director Rs. 1,42,445 in 1976; Factory Manager Rs. 1,93,264 in 1974 and

Rs. 2,50,834 in 1976—this gentleman is a foreigner and the first gentleman, who is not a foreigner, his Indian counterpart, gets less than half of this for the same designation; Production, Research and Development Manager Rs. 1,30,000 in 1975 and Rs. 2,26,673 in 1976—it is hardly one year and the Production, Research and Development Manager gets an increment of a lakh of rupees.

There are about 157 positions in this one company alone where people draw very high salaries, instances of which are indicated in the preceding paragraph. This is adding to the price spiral of this commodity, namely, shoes and rubber goods. The Central Government should immediately intervene to compel this company to open two factories, one in Batanagar and the other in Mokhama in consultation and in coordination with the State Governments concerned as well as company's workers and employees. The Minister of Company Law should also examine the salary structure of the upper strata of the Executive in order to ensure that the gap between the highly paid and the low-paid is reasonable.

It may be mentioned here that this company was caught redhanded cheating the Government in the matter of payment of Central excise on many occasions and there are most revealing reports of public Accounts Committee on their economic offences. This company has received export subsidy to the extent of Rs. 38,15,940 in one year and duty drawback to the extent of Rs. 14,33,372, and excise rebate of Rs. 34,11,049. This company has also been caught doing invoice manipulation in the past.

I would like the hon. Minister of law and also the Minister of Industries to intervene in the matter and set things right.