

[Shri K. A. Rajan]

Government of India for manufacturing 'Caprolactum' 50,000 tonnes at a cost of about Rs. 150 crores. The annual demand projection for 'Caprolactum' for nylon by 1983-84 made by the Ministry is at the rate of 50,000 to 90,000 tonnes per annum. Against this, our availability is only 18,000 to 20,000 tonnes per annum. The only producer in this field is the Gujarat Fertiliser Company. Expansion of the existing plant virtually means putting up another plant. This will not mean any economy.

It is learnt that the Petroleum Ministry has now appointed a study group on the matter of diversification of FACT, Kerala.

The Government of Kerala and the various trade unions have been demanding for the 'Caprolactum plant'.

I request the Central Government to sanction this project to help in the process of industrialisation of Kerala and creation of employment potential.

(iii) HUNGER-STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, PUSA, NEW DELHI.

श्री शिवनारायण सरसूनिया : (करोल बाग) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का ध्यान निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ :

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान पूसा में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों ने वहाँ पर भूख हड़ताल की हुई है। सात आदमियों ने आभरण अनशन किया। पांच आदमी उन में से हास्पिटल भेजे गए और

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Member may read from the statement that he has given.

श्री शिवनारायण सरसूनिया : उनके साथ में पिछले काफी समय से अन्याय चल रहा है।

मैं यह पढ़े देता हूँ :

"भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान पूसा में 5-3-79 से बेतनमान के निर्धारण के

सम्बन्ध में सात व्यक्तियों ने आभरण अनशन कर रखा है। उनमें से पांच व्यक्तियों की दशा बिगड़ने पर अस्पताल में भरती किया गया है। तीन बार कृषि भवन पर प्रदर्शन कर चुके हैं। उन की मांग हमारी सरकार की नीति के अनुसार कम आय वालों की आय में वृद्धि तथा उच्चतर वेतन-भोगियों के वेतन में स्थायित्व के अनुसार है परन्तु पिछले वर्षों में चतुर्थ श्रेणी को छोड़ कर अन्य श्रेणियों की वेतन-उन्नति एवं वृद्धि हो चुकी है। नीचे के लोगों का वेतन ठीक किया जाना चाहिए परन्तु चतुर्थ श्रेणी के 2600 कर्मचारियों का कोई अपग्रेडेशन न कर के या उन के वेतन को ठीक न कर के बाकी ऊपर की श्रेणी के जितने लोग हैं उनका अपग्रेडेशन किया गया है। जो सात सी रूप यपाता था उसको 1200 रुपये दे रहे हैं। नीचे के जो कर्मचारी हैं उनके लिए कुछ भी नहीं किया गया है। सन् 1970 से उनके वेतन में कोई भी वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। 11-7-78 को जब उन्होंने पहली हड़ताल की थी तब उन्हें आश्वासन देकर दोबारा काम पर बुला लिया गया था। पूरे 8 महीने पेमेंन्स के साथ वे सरकार की तरफ देखने रहे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At this rate I will not allow you. You must read the statement that you have given.

श्री शिव नारायण सरसूनिया : अतः उपरोक्त स्थिति को देखते हुए, उनकी मांग का पूर्ण समर्थन करते हुए मैं चाहूंगा कि उन भूख-हड़तालों के जीवन के साथ अभिय चटना बटने से पूर्व उनके वेतन उन्नति कर हड़ताल को निरस्त कराने का प्रबंध करवाया जाए।

(iv) REPORTED EXPLOSION AND FIRE IN NAPHTHA PLANT OF THE FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED, KERALA

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukundapuram) : May I bring to the notice of this House a very tragic and serious incident which took place down south ?

A very serious explosion and fire took place in the Naptha plant of FACT—Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore

Ltd., Udyogmandal, an important public undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers causing the immediate death of a very senior Chargeman, Mr. C. V. Viswanathan, a First Grade Operator, Shri S. Gopalakrishnan, a Second Grade Operator, Shri Velayudhan Kutty Nair and also five other senior, experienced and skilled technicians had serious burns and are in a critical condition in the hospital. It so happened that somehow this very serious incident has not got sufficient notice of the national leaders in Delhi.

Sir, this is not the first time that an explosion took place in the same Naphta plant. Sometime back also there was an explosion resulting in serious casualties and fatalities. Apart from that, in another plant, i.e. in the ammonia plant of the same company, there was another serious explosion causing serious damages and casualties. In this context I would like to point out that it is very obvious that the present Chairman-Managing Director and his senior officials have scant consideration for the life and security of the employees.

Incidentally, the saddest part is that due to some technical trouble i.e. electrical trouble—it is a tricky problem—the plant was closed down for two days and it was during the starting of the plant that the explosion took place. Anybody in the know of a chemical plant would say that it is important for the senior management personnel to thoroughly scrutinise the safety aspect of the plant before it was started. It need not be reiterated that Naphta is a highly explosive material. It is a sad commentary that the present Chairman/Managing Director and his senior officials did not learn the lessons even from the previous serious and fatal accident which happened a few days back.

The callous and indifferent attitude of the management before and after the explosion needs a thorough inquiry by the Ministry. For quite some time the running of this public sector unit is not only at a heavy loss but it is run in an indifferent manner. I do not want to take this particular opportunity to go into the various facets of mismanagement of this company. Even after the explosion of the magnitude causing the immediate death of three senior employees and the critical condition of five other employees, the measures taken by the management are absolutely inadequate.

I strongly plead that the Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers should make a thorough inquiry into the way the Company is being run, the manner in which public money is going down the

drain, the complete callousness and indifference shown by the Managing Director-Chairman about the running of the plant, absolute ignorance of what is happening in the industry and the unimaginably relaxed attitude that he is taking even about the recent tragic happenings.

13.34 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1979-80—  
*contd.*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will conclude the Discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

Shri Yadvendra Dutt.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT (Jaunpur): Yesterday I was talking about helicopters. I would like to add a little for the tanks. We should have a balanced tank force. Our Vijayanta is excellent. It is a medium heavy tank. We should have heavy tanks mounting 150 mm guns and we should have tanks for reconnaissance like the Scimitar 7 tonne tank. If I may go into a little detail....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have only five minutes more.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: I would ask the hon. Defence Minister—have we really learnt the lessons of the Bangladesh war? Has any official war history still been published about the mistakes we made or the mistakes the enemies made and how we took advantage of it so that the future generations know about it? As a continuation of this, I would like to suggest that for all the wars that we have fought, official history must come out with proper criticism and with proper information for the generations to understand and build up on those lines.

Sir, the army is a blind army which has no intelligence. I do not want to go into depth in this matter on the intelligence; we have seen the tamasha recently. Even in 1962, there was a total failure of our intelligence. Intelligence is a matter of continuous process. It is not only the police intelligence—the police intelligence is only based on the local basis—and more than intelligence is the one that is gathered from the newspapers, from the economic articles from press talks, radio talks, from the literature and from the radio transmissions that are going on and by the newspapers. We must remodel our intelligence on those very lines. It has to be compact