

14.58 hrs.

RE: PRICE OF RAW JUTE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The jute-growers in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar are being completely ruined by keeping the raw jute prices at much below the economic level or cost of production. The areas include Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, UP, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura. The Government of India's Jute Corporation are helping the jute mill-owners and big jute traders and, as a result, the rural economy in these regions, particularly that of the jute peasantry, is being completely ruined. On the one hand, there is the phenomenon of abnormally high prices for food and other items of daily use and, on the other hand, the jute producers' products are being sold at below the cost of production day after day and year after year.

In Calcutta, some days ago, even the West Bengal Ministers openly condemned the Commerce Minister Prof. Chattopadhyaya's present policy and revealed that this was being done in order to further the interest of the jute mill owners and the jute tycoons. The Government must see that the jute growers get at least Rs. 250 per quintal and the Jute Corporation must make sufficient purchases so that the jute is sold by the growers at sellers' market.

Only last year the growers had an extremely hard time as their crop fetched only Rs. 40-42 per maund. This year if they get even Rs. 80 or Rs. 85, no harm will be done to the industry which has a very wide margin of profit due to overseas orders at very high prices in hessian and sacking. Now the jute growers in West Bengal are facing an artificial demand squeeze manipulated by the jute millowners and jute tycoons in collaboration with the Central Government and the Commerce Ministry and

the Jute Corporation which is aimed at forcing a steep fall in the prices of raw jute. Raw jute prices have fallen in some districts abnormally causing serious distress to the jute growers. Now the West Bengal Co-operative Jute Organisation have bought things worth a crore of rupees and that is rotting in the godowns but the Jute Corporation have not come forward to purchase.

15 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All this came up yesterday.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am just concluding in one minute, Sir, I had earlier requested that the Commerce Minister must give a reply because it concerns lakhs and lakhs of jute growing peasantry in the eastern region of the country. You know the jute growing peasantry have been fleeced for the last so many decades and they are in a miserable condition. Every year they have to give a pound of flesh because they produce jute. If this thing continues I would only earn the Government of India that jute fields will be converted into paddy fields and wheat fields and jute mills will go out of existence. If they do not come forward with giving economic and profitable prices to the jute peasantry and providing food in sufficient quantity through a national food budget—because, by sale of jute, we earn a lot of foreign exchange,—if they do not come to the rescue of the jute growers, areas under jute will be discouraged and the jute mills will be facing a crisis. I would request you to make the necessary observation now. Yesterday you have made observation....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I did not make any observation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: ...that Commerce Minister must come forward with a statement, but 24 hours have passed and your observation has

been treated with utmost discourtesy by them. I would like you to make an observation as to how in such a vital problem the Government is sitting tight, because their god-fathers, the millowners and tycoons will be required to pay crores of rupees through Professor D. P. Chattopadhyaya.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. There has to be a limit. I am not allowing you. Shri Raghu Ramaiah.

15.02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the remaining part of the current week will consist of:—

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Maintenance of Internal Security (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1974 and consideration and passing of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Bill, 1974.
- (3) Consideration and passing of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 1973.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Muruganatham, absent. Shri Ramavtar Shastri.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The statement should come, Sir. How do you expect us to follow the Chair when the Government flouts

every opinion of the Chair? You must be categorical.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): Don't try to play that subtle game which you are playing....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why don't you say one word for the jute-growers?

DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramavtar Shastri.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के मार्फत गृह मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में सेंसर विभाग में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की छंटनी का फैसला रद्द कर दें। अभी मालूम हुआ है कि 40 कर्मचारियों की छंटनी आखिरी हो चुकी है और 65 लोगों की छंटनी इस के बाद होने वाली है। वहाँ काम करने वाले जितने कर्मचारी सेंसर विभाग में हैं वे 1970 से काम कर रहे हैं। उन सब की सूची मेरे पास है। उन तमाम लोगों को छंटने का यह फैसला कर चुके हैं। गुप बना कर के उन की छंटनी शुरू हो गई है। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि जो लोग इतने दिनों से काम कर रहे हैं उन की छंटनी न की जाय। मैं फिर इसी सिलसिले में याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You want it to be discussed.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: नहीं, डिस्कशन नहीं चाहता। सुनिए तो सही। दिल्ली की गवर्नमेंट ने यह फैसला किया है कि 1974 के दिसम्बर, तब उनको बह रखा रहे हैं और यूपी की सरकार ने फैसला किया है कि 1975 तक उनको रखा जाय। केरल की सरकार ने भी फैसला किया है... (ब्यवधान)... लेकिन बिहार की सरकार ने अभी से छंटनी करने का जो फैसला किया है वह गलत है। इस से वहाँ भयंकर असंतोष है। इसलिये