

[Shri S. S. Kothari]

ciency will improve if my suggestion with regard to the appointment of a committees for efficiency audit, is accepted by the Government.

सभापति महोदय : अब यह चर्चा प्रागे अगले दिन चालू रहेगी। साके चार बजे से दूसरी चर्चा प्रारम्भ हो रही है।

16-30 hrs.

MOTION RE : JUTE MILL FOR
ORISSA

सभापति महोदय : अब श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी के उस प्रस्ताव पर जो उड़ीसा में जूट मिल की स्थापना करने के सम्बन्ध में है उस पर चर्चा प्रारम्भ होगी। इस प्रस्ताव के लिए एक घण्टा समय नियम हुआ है। इसी एक घण्टे में मंत्री महोदय को भी जवाब देना है और फिर प्रस्तावक को भी जवाब देना है। इसलिए जो लोग यह चाहते हैं कि इस का उत्तर आज ही आ जाये जिस से उन का समाधान हो जाय वह अपने वक्तव्य को थोड़ा संक्षिप्त रखें तो अच्छा है।

श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी (केन्द्रपाहा) : सभापति जी, आप की बात में ध्यान में रखूंगा और जितना संक्षिप्त हो सकेगा करने की कोशिश करूंगा।

I move :

"That the urgency and desirability of setting up a Jute Mill either in the public or in the co-operative sector in the State of Orissa, be taken into consideration."

That I have to move such a motion as this even in the year 1970 in this Parliament shows how the Government which professes to remove regional imbalances and give a fair deal to agriculturists and also wishes to step up our exports is functioning actually. The need for a jute mill in Orissa is nothing new. For the last several years we had been agitating ; probably since I came to

Parliament in 1952 the reply that we had been receiving is that there were so many difficulties, international market, this and that ; the present jute mills were not producing to capacity, there was glut, etc etc. On some reason or the other this was denied to Orissa. I am glad to observe that there is some re-thinking in the Government. On 11 November in reply to my question they said that there was no jute mill in Orissa and they also stated that they would consider the proposal on merits. In our country there are as many as 79 mills with a total loomage of 75265. Out of them 68 are in West Bengal, four are in Andhra, three are in Bihar, three are in U. P. and one in Andhra Pradesh. In some States where practically no jute is grown, there are jute mills. Orissa contributes about six per cent of the total jute production in the country. From the point of view of desirability or profitability there is no doubt that Orissa cannot be denied by any authority on any ground. When I say this, I should also say that I know that there were historical reasons why the jute mills had been concentrated in Calcutta and nearabout areas. We also know that within a radius of 40 miles of Calcutta and neighbouring areas, there are so many mills, and that is because when they were set up, four reasons were advanced. One was that it has easy accessibility to the jute areas ; secondly, there are excellent facilities of the port ; and cheap inland transport, and finally, ready supply of labour. These are the four reasons for which the mills came into existence there. But now, what we find is that after 1930, practically there has been no attempt to set up new mills and the problem that the jute mills in Calcutta and nearabout are facing is the problem of modernisation and the problem of rationalisation. This has prevented them from producing quality jute goods which will compete successfully and efficiently in the international market. From the international market point of view, we are in a good position, although the Minister said that we are losing our export to a certain extent because of the strike. Otherwise, in spite of the competition, in spite of the incentive that Pakistan offers, there is no doubt that India is doing very well, and this is the most important foreign exchange earner for the country. We have captured what is called carpet

backing in the USA and Europe which brings us very good profit, and that is done on broad looms. Of course, in hessian and other things, our market is shrinking a little but this fetches us a very good price.

It has always been a consideration with this Government how to modernise these mills so that this market trend remains with India, and there had been proposals to finance the mills and several attempts have been made. But what we find is that even these mills, for diversification and modernisation, have a scheme of about Rs. 42 crores in four years, to be spent for this purpose. But some of the mills are not coming forward even to spend it and take advantage of this scheme because of obvious reasons. The reasons are not only that the mills are slow in harnessing these funds but some of them are reluctant to break any new ground because of the law and order situation and other difficulties that they have to encounter these days in those places.

Therefore, our attention should necessarily be to seek places, to find out areas where, without injuring or harming our export earning we can diversify and disperse these industries in such a manner as this good foreign exchange earner would continue to meet the needs of the country. From that point of view, Orissa is an ideal place. As I have stated, if there are mills in States where no jute is grown, and yet, if they can run on a profitable basis, I do not know why Government will at all be concerned with the question that by setting up a new mill it will at all be profitable or not. What we find is that in spite of the shrinkage of export earnings there is already a near boom period so far as jute mills are concerned. The strike is going on, they have not settled that, but in spite of that, because of the great increase in the internal consumption of sacking the mills are actually enjoying a near boom period. A mill in Orissa would be able to supply goods not only for the international market but also for meeting the requirements of the State and nearby areas because in the State itself at the present moment the consumption of sacking is about 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes. Then we have got ferti-

lizer factories coming up which will require much more than the present consumption. On top of it carpet back for which we need quality jute is produced probably only in Orissa. It fetches good price, unlike the Assam bottom. There are two types of jute which have great demand in Calcutta for which they pay Rs. 90 per maund. Out of the jute that is grown in Orissa 50 per cent is of the middle variety, 15 per cent of top variety and the rest mesta and other things. The total production comes to 4.5 lakhs bales which is sufficient not only for one mill but for two or three mills.

Coming to labour, out of about 2.5 lakhs jute labourers in Calcutta and nearly areas almost half are from Orissa. If we set up a mill in Orissa all these skilled personnel would come forward to work in such a mill. This mill which is proposed with a capital of Rs. 2 crores to 2½ crores will engage about 1,200 workers.

Jute is grown in the concentrated area Jajpur, Kendrapara-Jagsinghpur-Niali in the district of Cuttack. If the jute mill is located at Paradip, within 25 miles radius, there is easy accessibility to this area and the conversion cost would be much less. The cost of production would be much less. Because of the port, inland water transport system and express highways transport facilities are available. Further, now people are coming forward to finance such a proposition.

The Government has stated in a reply to my question in November—though in July they did not—that they have received a proposal from a private firm and have asked for the feasibility report. What I want to emphasize is that such a mill either in the State sector or in the cooperative sector would be to the benefit of the people. We have probably the largest cooperative jute marketing society in India at Danpur, which has written to the State Government as well as to the Government of India for a licence to set up a jute mill. The Government has shares in that cooperative society. Many agriculturists also hold shares in that cooperative society. I have no doubt in my mind that agriculturists would also come forward to purchase shares if a cooperative jute mill is given preference.

[Shri Surendranath Dwivedi]

I would have liked if the State Government had taken upon itself the responsibility to start a jute mill. If I remember aright, about five years back the State Assembly itself passed a resolution for the setting up of a jute mill. I would welcome if the State Government sent such a proposal. But private parties are also coming forward. There is one application of which mention has been made in the reply but I have got with me the names of persons. One is Shri Sarat Chandra Das and others who have also applied to Government for a limited concern having production capacity of 15,000 metric tonnes.

Therefore, when all these people are coming forward I would urge upon the Government to declare that they will have no hesitation and will give all support. If necessary, financial and credit institutions should also come forward because we want industries to grow in this backward and underdeveloped region.

The agriculturists do not get a good price. The Calcutta price and the local price vary to a great extent because the agriculturists have to carry jute to Calcutta. If a mill is located just in the midst of that area, necessarily the agriculturists would get a good price.

For all these reasons there has been an agitation among the people and representations have been made. Now that the Government is in a position to sanction this—and it will be for the benefit of the country and in the interest of our world market export earning—I would request that the Government of India should not delay the issuing of licences to set up a jute mill in Orissa.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR (Sambalpur): Mr. Chairman, I am glad that Shri Dwivedy has raised this discussion at this critical time when Orissa's needs are to be emphasized on account of its backwardness.

Orissa at present produces 60,000 tonnes of jute *per annum*. It is contemplated that by the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan this production is to go up to 80,000

tonnes of jute *per annum*. At present we find that the growers of jute do not get adequate prices. For this there had been in the past year an agitation in this House in the shape of questions and answers. In order that we may make the best use of jute, it is necessary that a jute mill is established at Paradip as has been suggested by my hon. friend Shri Dwivedy. Most of the jute that goes outside Orissa does not get a proper price and therefore agriculturists are not encouraged in increasing the output of jute either qualitatively or quantitatively. There is all the more reason why it should be established and it should be established at an early date.

Another factor to which attention of this House must be drawn is the large scale unemployment that is prevailing in Orissa and a jute mill would go a long way in solving this problem to an appreciable extent. In last 2-3 years, Paradip has been well developed and it has been growing into an industrial area. From there, the jute produce will have an easy access to the world market. Not merely agriculturists will get a good price but also many people will get employment.

Then, as Mr. Dwivedy pointed out, the quality of jute that is produced in Orissa is, in same respect, superior to the jute that is grown elsewhere. Having regard to the fact that inland States like Bihar or Madhya Pradesh have so many jute mills, there is no reason why Orissa should not have its first jute mill.

With these words, I wholeheartedly associate myself and my party with the motion moved by Mr. Dwivedy.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, I support the motion made by Shri Surendranath Dwivedy. I am very glad that after all reality has been able to influence his reasoning. He has been a staunch supporter of nationalisation, everything in public sector, at the central level and he even went to the extent of opposing the establishment of a steel plant on an initiative of the Orissa Government in public sector. He has at least mellowed down in his attitude and he has brought a motion about the urgency and desirability

of setting up a jute mill either in the public or in the cooperative sector. He has gone to the extent of having it in the cooperative sector. He has mellowed down his tone.

He has mentioned the corporate sector. But we want a jute mill, not one but two or three or even four mills, in any sector. I want more production of jute and jute products are more employment to my people in Orissa. As pointed out by the previous speaker, the production of jute has gone upto 60,000 tonnes. It is likely to go upto 80,000 tonnes. We hope that it will still grow further. Even in Koraput district which is at the level of 2000 ft. above the sea level, after the refugees from East Pakistan have gone there, they have introduced jute cultivation and they have become prosperous. There is the jungle jute also which goes to feed various jute mills. Taking into consideration all these factors, there is a strong case for a jute mill in Orissa.

Then, the jute mill is employment-oriented. As you know, Orissa is highly under-developed and it is highly under-employed. It will provide more employment opportunities to our people. Specially after the partition, jute growing has increased by 10 times in Orissa. As pointed out by Shri Dwivedi, in the entire jute growing belt, Orissa is the only State which does not have a jute mill. It will further help the development of the Paradip port. As you know, Sir, jute is the second largest foreign exchange earner of this country and even though it has lost its sophisticated market because of synthetic fibre and bulk carriage; 80% of our jute products are export-oriented. A redeeming feature has been that lately there has been an increased domestic demand and, as has been pointed out by Mr. Dwivedy and Mr. Supakar, because of the incoming of the various industries, their products also need the hessians and sackings and so, even though there may be a decline in our export, our domestic demand is bound to rise.

Secondly, I would like to point out that a jute plant in Orissa will reduce our dependence on the Calcutta mills which are always sick, I would say, because of conti-

nuous labour strikes or industrial disputes or continuous rise of wages without any relation to productivity and rise of manday losses which is growing every year. Taking all these factors into consideration and also taking into consideration the closure of the Durgapur steel plant for so many months and the working of the Indian Airlines. Mr. Dwivedy must have been fed up with the working of these concerns in the public sector and he has very wisely and rightly suggested that at least in the co-operative sector a jute plant should be set up in Orissa, and I feel that it is a proper demand, and on behalf of the Swatantra Party, I fully endorse Mr. Dwivedy's proposal, because it will not only provide employment to the people there it will not only give better price to the growers, it will not only give more foreign exchange because Paradip port is there near to it, but, at the same time, it will contribute to the all round growth of the economy of this country.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : सभापति जी, द्विवेदी जी आज उड़ीसा में पटसन मिल बिठाने के लिए जो मोशन सदन के सामने लाये हैं उसके लिए वे धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं। सरकार को इस बात का जवाब देना होगा कि बावजूद इस बात के कि इस देश के पटसन का 6 प्रतिशत उत्पादन उड़ीसा में होता है और पांच साल से लगातार इस सदन में मांग करने के बाद भी सरकार ने इसके सम्बन्ध में कोई ध्यान क्यों नहीं दिया। अभी द्विवेदी जी ने जो तर्क दिए हैं उनसे साबित हो जाता है कि देश के बाहर और देश के अन्दर भी पटसन की मांग बढ़ी है। हमारे देश में ट्रेडिशनल आइटम्स में जूट सबसे बड़ा निर्यात का आइटम रहा है लेकिन फिर भी सरकार ने उसकी तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। आज आपको मालूम होगा कि इस सदन में श्री यशपाल सिंह का एक सवाल था कि पटसन मिल का कैसे आधुनिकीकरण किया जाये और इस सम्बन्ध में द्विवेदी जी ने बताया था कि 1967 में जो कमेटी बंठी थी उसकी यह सिफारिश है :

"The Committee has assessed the requirements at Rs. 43.47 crores. The Committee has also laid down the directions in which the industry should rehabilitate and modernise its machinery and diversify its production, and has, in addition, laid down the order of priorities for considering applications for the loan assistance. These findings are kept in view while considering applications."

आप को देखना है कि जो मौजूदा कारखाने पटसन के हैं उन का आधुनिकीकरण हो। श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी ने जिक्र किया कि जो 42 करोड़ रक्खा गया है उस को पटसन के कारखाने वाले नहीं लेते हैं क्यों कि वह आधुनिकीकरण के रास्ते पर चलना नहीं चाहते। दूसरी तरफ हम क्या देख रहे हैं? उड़ीसा के जो किसान हैं, जो केश क्रॉप पैदा करते हैं, वह पहले 1969-70 में 45,000 हेक्टेयर में करते थे, लेकिन अब सरकार का अन्दाजा है कि 1970-71 में वह घट कर 43810 हेक्टेयर तक आ जायेगा क्योंकि उड़ीसा के जो किसान पटसन का उत्पादन करते हैं उन को उसे दूर ले जाना पड़ना है कलकत्ते तक। इसलिए उन का उत्साह घट गया है, जिस के लिए मैंने सरकारी ब्यांकिंग से कहा है कि उस का क्षेत्र 45,000 हेक्टेयर से घट कर 43813 हेक्टेयर आ जायेगा।

17 hrs.

इस लिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब यह स्थिति है, और अभी सालाना 60,000 टन का उत्पादन होता है तब उड़ीसा की जो मांग है कि यह चाहे सरकारी क्षेत्र में हो या कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर में, वहाँ एक पटसन मिल जरूर होनी चाहिये उस के औचित्य के बारे में कोई सन्देह नहीं रह जाता है और इस में कोई दो रायें नहीं हो सकती। मैं सरकार का ध्यान आप के जरिये से दिखाना चाहता हूँ कि बावजूद इस के कि विशेषज्ञों की कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में लिखा है कि उड़ीसा एक आदर्श स्थान जहाँ पटसन

का कारखाना हो सकता है, सरकार ने उस को अभी तक नजर अन्दाज किया है। मैं चाहूँगा कि उड़ीसा के जनमन को देखते हुए, उड़ीसा में जो जागृत जनमत है उस को देखते हुए हम लोग जो मांग करते हैं उस का सरकार जवाब देगी इस बात का एलान करेगी कि सरकारी क्षेत्र में हो या कोआपरेटिव क्षेत्र में हो, वहाँ एक पटसन का कारखाना खुलेगा।

इस शब्दों के साथ मैं श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री श्री चन्द्र गोयल (चण्डीगढ़) : सभापति महोदय, मैं श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी के प्रस्ताव का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ। मेरे ऐसा करने के तीन कारण हैं। एक कारण यह है कि मैं समझता हूँ कि उड़ीसा राज्य के साथ पहले से ही अन्याय हुआ है। जहाँ तक इसात कारखाने का प्रश्न है, वहाँ पर भी उस के साथ अन्याय नहीं हुआ। कच्चे माल तथा और जितने भी साधन हैं इसात कारखाने के लिए वह उड़ीसा में पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्ध हैं। अगर वहाँ की आर्थिक स्थिति की दृष्टि से भी आप विचार करें तो उड़ीसा राज्य उन राज्यों में से है जिस की प्रति व्यक्ति आय दूसरे राज्यों की प्रति व्यक्ति आय से थोड़ी है। इसलिए यह एक आधारभूत प्रश्न है कि अगर किसी राज्य को हमें ऊँचा उठाना है तो वहाँ पर अधिक से अधिक मात्रा में कारखाने खोलने होंगे, चाहे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में खोले जायें चाहे निजी क्षेत्र में खोले जायें चाहे सहकारी क्षेत्र में खोले जायें।

जो श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी का प्रस्ताव है उस में मैं समझता हूँ कि इस बात पर बल नहीं दिया गया है कि सरकार पांच या दस सालों में उस को खोले। प्रस्ताव में इस बात पर बल है कि तुरन्त खोले। फारसी की एक कहावत है कि :

यानी जब तक इराक से जहर मोहरा आयेगा तब तक कहीं मरीज मर ही न जाये, रोजगार देने की आवश्यकता है। उनका जीवन स्तर ऊंचा करने की आवश्यकता है। जात्र उड़ीसा की स्थिति यह है कि वहाँ के भाइयों को तुरन्त काम देने की आवश्यकता है, रोजगार देने की आवश्यकता है। उनका जीवन स्तर ऊंचा करने की आवश्यकता है और उस के लिए साधन यही हो सकता है कि हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा उद्योग उस प्रदेश में फैलायें।

जहाँ इस्पान के लिए उन के यहाँ काफी गुंजाइश है वहाँ मैं समझता हूँ कि पटसन के कारखाने के लिए भी वहाँ काफी गुंजाइश है। जब हम इस दृष्टि से विचार करते हैं तब मालूम होता है कि यह सरकार एक परीक्षा की बड़ी में से गुजर रही है कि आया वह केवल थोड़े नारों से समाजवाद आने की तरफ बढ़ेगी या वह सचमुच लोगों की भलाई चाहती है। उड़ीसा गरीब लोगों का राज्य है। हम लिये वहाँ के भाइयों की हालत को सुधारने के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि इस के लिए उपयुक्त क्रम उठाये जायें। वहाँ पर एक पटसन मिल की स्थापना की जाये और मैं प्रमत्न होऊंगा अगर वह सहकारी क्षेत्र में खोली जाये।

श्री इसहाक सम्भली (अमरोहा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं श्री द्विवेदी को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने जूट मिल के लिए इतना जरूरी रेजोल्यूशन यहाँ पर रक्खा। मैं उन को और ज्यादा मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने यह सजेस्ट किया कि वह पब्लिक सेक्टर में या कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर में शुरू किया जाये। मैं कम्प्यूनिस्ट पार्टी की तरफ से इस की जोरदार तार्ईद करता हूँ और आप की इत्तला के लिए यह भी अर्ज कर दूँ कि उड़ीसा की कम्प्यूनिस्ट पार्टी ने भी इस चीज की पूरी कुवत के साथ मांग की है।

मैं सिर्फ एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में जो जूट मिलें है उस की हालत

बहुत अबतर है। यह इंडस्ट्री इस वक्त हिन्दुस्तान को करोड़ों रुपये का फारेन एक्स्चेन्ज दिलाती है, लेकिन प्राइवेट मिल वाले उस को तवाह कर रहे हैं। लाखों रुपये के बर्कस के ड्यूज बाकी हैं और करोड़ों रुपये जूट प्रोअर्स के बाकी हैं। जैसा आप जानते हैं 2 लाख 38 हजार मजदूर इस वक्त जूट मिलों में स्ट्राइक पर हैं और रोजाना एक करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो रहा है। मुझे ताज्जुब होता है इस सरकार पर, जो कि पोलिटिकल बर्कस के लिए तो प्रिवेटिव डिटेंशन ऐक्ट लाती है लेकिन जो मिल और फारेन एक्स्चेंज बरबाद कर रहे हैं और बर्कस को भूखों मार रहे हैं उन को पी० डी० ऐक्ट में लेने के वास्ते हाथ नहीं डालती है।

इस लिए मैं दरुबास्त करूंगा कि चाहे पब्लिक सेक्टर के अन्दर हो चाहे कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर के अन्दर हो, इस को जरूर कायम किया जाये और उड़ीसा के साथ जो ना-इम्ताफी हुई है स्टील प्लान्ट न दे कर, उस को दूर किया जाये। जैसा श्री गोयल ने कहा फीरो तौर पर वहाँ एक जूट मिल कायम की जाये।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं श्री द्विवेदी की इस मांग का समर्थन करता हूँ।

شری اسحاق سمبلی (امروہا) میں شری دوہیری کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں کہ انھوں نے جوہٹ مل کے لیے یہ ضروری ریزولوشن پیش کیا ہے جس میں ان کی اتد زیادہ مبارکباد دیتا ہوں کہ انھوں نے یہ تجسٹ کیا کہ وہ پبلک سیکٹر میں یا کوآپریٹو سیکٹر میں شروع کیا جائے۔ میں کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی طرف سے اس کی پرزور تائید کرتا ہوں۔ اور آپ کی اطلاع کے لیے یہ بھی عرض کر دوں کہ اریسیہ کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی نے بھی سس کی پوری قوت کے ساتھ تائید کی ہے۔ میں عرض ایک بات کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ

یہ ایگزیمٹ سیکڑ میں جو جوٹ بلیوں میں ان کی حالت بہت اتر رہی ہے۔ یہ انڈسٹری اس وقت ہندوستان کو کرڑوں روپے کا ناراں کیسے دلاتی ہے۔ لیکن پرامیٹ مال کے لئے اس کو تباہ کر رہے ہیں۔ لاکھوں روپے کے ورکرز کے بیوز باقی ہیں۔ اور کرڑوں روپے جوٹ کرڈوں کے باقی میں جیسا کہ آپ جانتے ہیں ۲ لاکھ ۳۸ ہزار مزدور اس وقت جوٹ ملوں میں اسٹراٹیک پر ہیں اور روزانہ ایک کرڈ روپے کا نقصان ہو رہا ہے۔ مجھے تعجب ہوتا ہے اس سرکار پر جو کہ پولیسٹیکل ورکرز کے لئے نوزو پینشن ڈیٹیکشن ایکٹ لاتی ہے۔ لیکن جوٹ ملز فورین ایکسیج بر باد کر رہے ہیں اور ورکرز کو جس کو مار رہے ہیں ان کو پی ڈی ایکٹ میں لینے کے واسطے ہاتھ نہیں اٹھاتی ہے۔ اس لئے میں درخواست کر رہا ہوں کہ جیسے پبلک سیکڑ میں ہر جگہ کو اپریٹ سیکڑ میں ہو، اس کو محض در شامل کیا جائے اور ارباب کے ساتھ جو نا انصافی ہوئی ہے، سٹیبل پلانٹ ڈیکریٹ کو دور کیا جائے، جیسا شری گولمن نے کہا، فوری طور پر دیاں ایک جوٹ مل قائم کی جائے، ان لفظوں کے ساتھ میں شری دیاں کا اس مانگ کا مسرخص کرتا ہوں

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): Orissa is one of the neglected States, although it is very rich in natural resources and those natural resources have brought wealth in many parts of the country and to many people in foreign countries Orissa has a very good band of skilled workers who go to different parts of the country, and do work, and their products are also excellent.

The jute farmer is a very much exploited person. He never gets back his true cost of production of jute. If he produces jute at Rs. 65 a maund, he is obliged to

part with it under a trickery at Rs. 35 to 40 a maund, and the Government have all along been a silent watcher, because they are found of jute monopolists who are there.

Regarding the jute trade and jute mill business, I would like to submit that jute production has been the monopoly of some people and it has been a paradise for monopolists and middlemen. No other trade or industry has such number of middlemen and monopolists as this industry.

The jute which is being used for sacking and other inferior things could will be used for processing of human garment material also. What is being sold today at Re. 1 a metre or Rs. 2 a metre if it is processed and used for garment material could fetch Rs. 15 to 20 a metre. But the Government are so callous about these things and they have neglected this precious item and therefore, we are becoming from poor to poorer.

The Indian jute mills Association research organisation which is fully controlled by white men are killing the goose for their own gain all the time. The Dedham laboratory in America which has been given Rs. 33 lakhs as remuneration for doing research on jute processing has proved that jute can be used as a substitute for cotton. Today, our country is facing a serious cotton crisis and why are Government not using the outcome of the scientific research in this regard?

The jute stalk is another valuable item which is good enough for production of pulp for rayon and many other artificial synthetic fibres. We are importing rayon pulp to the tune of about of Rs. 7 to 8 crores. I would like to know what Government are doing in this regard.

I strongly support Shri Dwivedy's motion for a jute mill either in the co-operative or public sector. It should not be an old-fashioned plant or a reconditioned plant, but a modern plant which should be used for producing the best item, not for producing

sacking or carpet material.

Of course, I am only living in a fool's paradise because knowing what this Government are doing, knowing that they are hand in glove with the jute tycoons, knowing that for the next general elections they have to collect sackful of money from the jute barons, they will do nothing.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : This is a genuine demand which has remained unconced for years, Orissa is one of the backward states. We have been hearing a lot since 1967 that the Government are going to take some steps to develop backward States. But I can say that not a single new industry has been directed to be located in Orissa since 1967.

I entirely agree with Shri Basu that this should be a modern plant earmarked entirely for export. This genuine demand has been neglected for years. I do not know why when people want an industry to be set up there, some sort of funny licensing schemes comes in the way. The people there are very eager to establish a jute mill in the co-operative sector.

The production of jute must also be taken care of. Government are not doing anything to improve the production.

Then the miserable condition of the jute growers. They do not get a fair price. They have to take it to Calcutta and while they have to give a receipt for Rs. 40, for a mound they have to paid only Rs. 30 or Rs. 35. The STC was to buy from the producers direct in villages. But in that it has signally failed Result, the growers do not get a fair price. They are completely robbed and fleeced.

Now there is a strike of jute workers. The management have gone back on the agreement which was arrived at on their demands. While replying, I would like the Minister also to deal with this aspect.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : He must say something about the strike of the 2½ lakh jute workers which has been going on.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी (बेतिया) : द्विवेदी जी की मांग का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। इससे वह किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति सुधरेगी। मैं यह भी माँग करता हूँ कि नार्थ बिहार में अगर इस इंडस्ट्री को बढ़ाया जाए, इसको लगाया जाए तो इससे किसानों को बहुत फायदा होगा। वहाँ से सारा जूट कलकत्ता जाता है। वहाँ पर अगर कारखाने स्थापित हो जाएंगे तो जूट कलकत्ता भेजने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी और फॉट चार्जिज जो हैं, वे नहीं लगेगे। इस से जूट की जो कमी भारत में है, वह भी दूर होगी और जूट का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा। इससे इंडस्ट्री को भी लाभ होगा और हमारे देश की जूट की जो रिक्वायरमेंट्स हैं वे भी पूरी होंगी।

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : My special preference is for a co-operative jute mill. I hope Government will give every possible encouragement to peasants to work this a co-operative jute mill. If and when they establish it, let them locate it not too far from my constituency, Srikakulam, because there is a lot of jute is being produced and I would like our growers there to be benefited by this.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह (बक्सर) : द्विवेदी जी को मैं बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस विषय को विचारार्थ यहाँ पेश किया है। यह बहुत आवश्यक विषय है। जूट से हमें बहुत ज्यादा विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है। इसका उत्पादन प्रधानतया पूर्वी प्रदेशों में होता है। पश्चिम बंगाल में ज्यादा जूट पैदा होता है। लेकिन असम, बिहार, उड़ीसा, त्रिपुरा ये भी प्रमुख प्रदेश हैं जहाँ जूट की पैदावार काफी मात्रा में होती है। उड़ीसा में तो एक तरह से सब से अच्छा जूट पैदा होता है क्योंकि वहाँ का स्टेपल बहुत अच्छी किस्म का है। चाहे उड़ीसा हो या बिहार हो या असम हो त्रिपुरा हो, इन प्रदेशों की आर्थिक स्थिति ज़राब होने का यह भी एक कारण है कि वहाँ जूट मिलें नहीं है। बिहार में एक भी जूट का कारखाना नहीं है।

[डा० राम सुभग सिंह]

एक जूट कारखाना कटिहार में है लेकिन वह करीब करीब न के बराबर है—

स्वाहा तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री फलकभूति अली अहमद) : असम में एफ स्थापित होने जा रहा है ।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : वहां हो जाए तो उससे असम को बहुत फायदा होगा । प्रोडक्शन उस में शुरू हो जाएगा । तभी फायदा होगा । केवल शिलान्याम करके लौट आएँ और प्रोडक्शन नाक पर रखी रहे तो उससे क्या फायदा । असम के लोगों के सामने एक ग्रौर भी कठिनाई उपस्थित होती है । वहां नदी का रास्ता बन्द हो जाता है और यातायात की कठिनाई के कारण कलकत्ता में जूट नहीं आ पाता है । जहां तक उड़ीसा का सम्बन्ध है और जूट का कारखाना वहाँ स्थापित करने की बात का सम्बन्ध है, यदि ऐसा हो जाता है तो जूट का उत्पादन करने वाले किसान और तमाम वे लोग जो इस काम में लगे हुए हैं, वे लाभान्वित हो सकते हैं । उनकी भलाई के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि जूट के कुछ ज्यादा कारखाने उड़ीसा में खोले जाएँ । अभी वहां एक भी नहीं है । एक से समस्या हल नहीं होगी ।

साथ साथ मैं यह भी चाहता हूँ कि जूट के कारखानों का विकेन्द्रीयकरण भी होना चाहिए ।

इन्होंने जो सुझाव दिया है कि जूट मिल पब्लिक या कोओपरेटिव सेक्टर में उड़ीसा में खोला जाए, इसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ ।

सन्नापति महोदय : पांच बज कर अठारह मिनट होने को हैं । इस प्रस्ताव की सहानुभूति में चौधरी रणधीर सिंह, श्री कपूर, श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर, आदि भी बोलना चाहते हैं । मैं समझना हूँ कि द्विवेदी जी उनके नाम ले कर इनको धन्यवाद दे देंगे ।

मंत्री जी ।

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : मैं इसका पुर जोर समर्थन करता हूँ । हम भी चाहते हैं कि वहां जूट मिल की स्थापना हो । किसान गरीब है और उनकी भलाई के लिए यह बहुत जरूरी है । हमारी पूरी हमदर्दी उनके साथ है । पूरी हमदर्दी हमारी उड़ीसा के साथ है ।

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : I will start by saying that every since I came to this Ministry I have been looking forward for a debate on jute, and I am really thankful to Mr. Dwivedy for bringing this debate here this afternoon.

I also come from a jute growing area, and I know the sad plight of the jute growers. The jute growers have been exploited in this country, there is no doubt about it, especially in the backward States of Orissa, Bihar, Assam and Bengal.

SHRI RANGA : Andhra.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Andhra also, but Shri Ranga forgets that he has got four jute mills.

There is a long chain of middle men who exploit the growers and they never get a fair price, because of the difference between the primary and the secondary market and the mill price.

The growers accepted the challenge at the times after partition.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU (Darjeeling) : What about the jute strike in Bengal ? Has it come to an end?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Before partition India produced 16 lakh bales whereas today we are producing 60 to 70 lakh bales per annum. The credit for it goes to the agriculturists who accepted the challenge of the times.

As I said earlier, I have been thinking

how to ensure a fair price to the jute grower. With this end in view, very shortly I will be coming up with a proposal to set up a Jute Corporation in the public sector which will look into the grievances of the jute growers and will primarily look to the following aspects : (i) conducting price support operations to ensure a fair return to the grower, (ii) purchasing raw jute for building up buffer stocks, (iii) importing raw jute when necessary and (iv) undertaking export of jute goods. Pending the setting up of this Corporation, the functions relating to price support and buffer stock operations were entrusted to the State Trading Corporation.

The State Trading Corporation has been doing it but not to our satisfaction and it has not been able to meet the needs of the times.

About Orissa, both Orissa and Bihar taken together, produce more than 12 lakh bales. Andhra Pradesh produces a good quantity of jute 260,000 bales; Assam, about 11 lakh bales, Bihar, 761,000 bales, Orissa, 438,000 to 600,000 bales; West Bengal, 36,92,000 bales. About mills, Assam has got only one, as Shri F A Ahmed said, under the co-operative sector. But that has not started production. Andhra Pradesh has four; Bihar has three; two of them are not working and one has been closed recently. West Bengal has 64, Madhya Pradesh has one and Uttar Pradesh has three. It goes without saying that Orissa's plight is very bad. Orissa, as a jute-growing State, should have a mill and therefore, I propose to set up a committee very shortly, tomorrow or the day after, to make a quick survey of jute growing districts of Orissa, Bihar and Assam also. Some of the districts in Orissa will be Cuttack, Koraput and Keonjhar, and some of the districts in Bihar will be Purnea, Saharsa, Darbhanga and Motihari. These will be covered by the survey team which will submit a feasibility report.

SHRI RANGA : What about Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : If you like, Andhra Pradesh will also be included. But it will take time, because we want to finish the survey in three months' time so that

I can do something about it. I will prefer to have the jute mills in the co-operative sector.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : What about the buffer-stock ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I would prefer the co-operative sector, but the financial outlay is very big. It is my experience that it is not very easy to get this huge amount of money from ordinary growers. Therefore, if possible, we would like to have it in the public sector, and if it is not possible, I will not mind even if some private sector people come forward and decide to set up a jute mill either in Orissa or Bihar or Andhra Pradesh—in the backward States where there are no jute mills now. I will give special consideration to them, and I would like to have a jute mill in those States in three or four districts. This is so far as the jute mill are concerned. I accept that there is need for a jute mill in Orissa, Bihar and also Andhra Pradesh if you say so—and Assam.

SHRI RANGA : Include Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I will accept; I will have a survey made. I will try to have this survey and its feasibility report within three months' time or so and try to see what can be done.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu said that we will have just some out-dated and outmoded things. These mills have to be the most modern mills. Otherwise, there is no justification for these mills. I am making this statement because we want modern mills in this country. There is no dearth of mills in India; there are a number of jute mills in this country but the production cost is very heavy, and therefore I want to have the cost modern mills so that we can bring down the cost of production and we can compete in the world market.

One word about the strike. I will take this opportunity to make an appeal to the working class and the trade unions to call off this strike in the jute mills. We are losing Rs. 60 lakhs in foreign exchange every day. It is a precious thing that we are

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

losing. We had negotiations with the millowners and also the textile unions. The millowners have also made an appeal to them and I take this opportunity to make an appeal to them today. If they have grievances they can be looked into and examined. If they like, I can refer it to arbitration. If they want us to sit round a table, I am prepared to sit round a table to discuss this, but the strike must be called off. The country is suffering a lot.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : मजदूरों के जो लाखों रुपयों के ड्यूज हैं, मिनिस्टर साहब उन्हें क्यों नहीं दिलवाते ? हैरानी की बात है कि वह मजदूरों को ब्लेम कर रहे हैं ।

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : मैंने मजदूरों का ब्लेम नहीं किया है । मैंने मजदूरों से अपील की है कि वे हड़ताल को खत्म करें और मिल मालिकों से कहा है कि वे मजदूरों की उचित मांगों को स्वीकार करें । मैंने यह भी कहा है कि यह मामला पंचायत, आरबिट्रेशन, के जरिये से तय किया जाये, या अग्न भुम्भे कहा जाये, तो मैं उन के साथ बैठने के लिए तैयार हूँ । मैं मानता हूँ कि मजदूरों की हालत खराब है, क्योंकि महंगाई बढ़ गई है । और खाने-पीने की चीजों के दाम बढ़ गये हैं । लेकिन मैं चाहूँगा कि हड़ताल जल्दी खत्म हो ।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : I thank all friends who have extended support to this proposal. I am also glad that the Minister has come forward with a categorical statement that he will take steps to see that jute mills are established in Orissa and other needy areas. I only wish that the terms of reference of the survey team would include looking into areas where quality jute is produced so that special emphasis could be placed on locating a mill in such an area. I again thank the Minister for making this statement. I thank all members belonging to all parties and all sections of the House who have extended their support. I wish that the proposed mill may be established by June 1971.

17.28 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION *Re* : CENTRAL FISHERIES CORPORATION

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI (Krishnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have come to raise this point in this House because conditions in Bengal are pretty bad as it is, as you know, and more unemployment in Bengal would certainly heighten that condition. Eighty-five years ago it was written about this city of Calcutta by Kipling, who was one of the great poets of the then ruling foreign power from whose clutches we have got out of, that it was a city of squalour, poverty and crime, a pestilential town Kipling had described thus :

"Palace, byre, novel—poverty and pride—side by side And above the packed and pestilential town—Death looked down."

I am sorry to say that at the moment this is not untrue of Calcutta and Bengal.

I would like the Minister to answer some of my questions. It is proposed to wind up the Central Fisheries Corporation. In fact, it has been wound up. At first an assurance was given that the West Bengal Government would take it over.

17.29 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY *in the Chair*]

I understand the West Bengal Government has refused to take it over. I do not know what has happened. I do not know the inner working of the Government either. In any case, the West Bengal Government has not taken it over. The West Bengal Government may or may not take it up. Even so, it is going to be wound up.

There are 246 people engaged in this Fisheries Corporation. What is going to happen to them ? As the hon. Minister knows, I have myself seen him in this connection. I have written to him. The affected people have come running to us and they have been told that this matter is being considered and in case it is wound up the question of their absorption elsewhere