

at Durgapur will be increased from 8.1 million ingot tonnes to 0.3 million ingot tonnes. A project report for the expansion is being commissioned."

12.05 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**EVICION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AT PORT BLAIR AND OR REST OF LEADERS**

**Shri S. M. Banerjee** (Kanpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Eviction of Government employees at Port Blair and arrest of leaders."

I may add that my notice mentioned about the hunger strike also by the leaders.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): In order to take action against unauthorised occupation of Government land, the Administration of Andaman Islands demolished six and sealed off three unauthorised structures between 19th November and 26th November 1966. Orders of demolition etc. were passed by the Estate Officer of the Islands under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1958. 8 families were affected and they found for themselves alternative shelter. No other Government employees has been evicted. This action led to agitation and 114 persons including Shri P. K. S. Prasad President, Non-Gazetted Officers Association, have been arrested under various sections of I. P. C. and Cr. P. Code etc.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** From the statement it appears that all those who had been evicted are Government employees and 114 persons including Shri Prasad, President, Non-Gazetted officers association have been arrested under various sections. We

do not know what the sections are. I have received a telegram yesterday: Prasad's life in danger. He has been in jail and he is continuing the hunger strike against unauthorised eviction of the authorised persons. The telegram says: Prasad's life in danger: administration forcibly arrested all leaders of Government employees. So, the leaders of Government employees have been arrested and he is fasting for the fourth day. It says: pray expedite intervention. I would like to know whether Mr. Prasad and others who had been arrested had been released and whether it is a fact that the commissioner has taken advantage of isolation of the island and let in a reign of terror and all the Government employees have been terrorised so as not to make them join this movement.

**Mr Speaker:** Not so many questions.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** We expected a better statement, Sir. I would like to know whether he has been released.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** I could give only the facts that I have got at this stage from the administration of the Andamans. I have placed it before the hon. Members. The question of certain unauthorised occupation raises the question of accommodation for some people and I know that this question will have to be looked into with some sympathy. But what is happening, there is some sort of a political agitation and I am told that there is some sort of a *satyagraha* and so some people have been arrested for encroachment of certain areas and four or five persons are arrested under section 309. Possibly they started some fast, etc. in the different places. That seems to be the reason.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Why not send an officer from the Home Ministry? The whole of Port Blair is ablaze.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** Nothing is ablaze there.

**Shri Umanath** (Pudukkottai): From a statement by a representative in the council, it appears that the chief commissioner: said let all die; &

(Shri Umanath)

am permanent and at the most I may be transferred, they can do nothing more. On former occasions also when some sort of a struggle was there, the commissioner is reported to have said: I am fond of hearing the police firing sounds. In view of all this, does the Home Minister propose to call the administrator here and discuss with him the situation and advise him to give maximum normal facilities of negotiations and sympathetic consideration? If not, do the Government propose to recall that officer and replace him with another officer? It is an island, cut off from the other places.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I can certainly assure this hon. House that as far as human lives and human problems are concerned, they will be considered sympathetically. There is no doubt about it. I can assure them. But apart from that, as regards other allegations, I cannot express my views unless I know the facts.

Shri Umanath: It is from a representative member of the council.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): From the statement I think it is possible to infer why this agitation or whatever it is has taken place, because the statement says three families were evicted. That itself is rather peculiar because the number of structures demolished is nine. It says, "demolished six and sealed off three structures." Anyway, these three families were affected and they found for themselves alternative shelter. That means, I want to know whether it is a fact that even when the people the families are being chucked out is it not the responsibility of the administration to provide them with alternative shelter before they are evicted. Even that responsibility has not been undertaken. It is clear from this. So, may I know (a) whether a stop will be put to further demolition of structures and this kind of cruel eviction and (b) whether the people who are justifiably agitated against this would be released instead of being locked up?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I should like to correct one thing. The statement that was circulated possibly does not show the correction that I read. It is not three families; it is eight families who are evicted. That answers the next part of the question. I got that information just before I walked in here.

As far as the problem is concerned, we found that there was certainly a large number of cases of unauthorised occupation. And so in 1965 they had taken a decision to regularise certain unauthorised occupation before 1961. It seems to be a continuous process. There is a shortage of land available in the municipal area, because, when there is shortage, normally such questions do arise. Before evicting certain types of persons the question of alternative accommodation will have to be considered, and that is a human problem. I said we will consider it sympathetically.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): Andamans is very far away and all our information is that the Chief Commissioner and many of the officers over there feel that they are real jagirdars who can say and do whatever they like, because the Central Government or any other authority is not there. And that is why the Chief Commissioner is like that. In our telegram they say that hundreds of innocent public are arrested and women and children are thrown out of their homes and there is hunger-strike inside the Andaman cellular jail. There seems to be quite an agitation over there. I would therefore like to know why the Chief Commissioner has insisted on refusing to meet them or to negotiate with them and deal with it as a human problem, as you yourself have said and whether you will instruct the Chief Commissioner more directly to start negotiations, because the Central Government has given no quarters to those employees and it is a place where we should give the greatest amount of sympathy. You have to look into it personally.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** As I said, as far the human problem is concerned, I will certainly look into it. It is my duty to look into it and I shall do it.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad):** Keeping in view the fact that the image of Andaman and Nicobar has never been fair, will the Government advise the local administration or authority to deal with this problem more judiciously and carefully?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** Yes, Sir.

श्री विद्यनाथ पाण्डेय (सलेमपुर) : श्रीमत् श्रीमन् मन्त्री महोदय ने पोर्ट ब्लेयर में सरकारी कर्मचारियों के निष्कासन और नेताओं की गिरफ्तारी के सम्बन्ध में जो वक्तव्य दिया है उसमें प्रकृत किया है कि अवैध रूप से लोगों ने कब्जा कर लिया है तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन लोगों ने मकानों का ही कब्जा कर लिया है या अन्य जमीन इत्यादि का भी कब्जा कर लिया है और उस के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** If I understood the hon. Member correctly, he wants to know whether they were evicted from the huts that they had built up there without any authority. They have been evicted from that place. My first information was that they had made some arrangement of their own for alternative accommodation. That is the information I have got at the present moment.

**Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Serampore):** As a large number of East Pakistan refugees have been sent to Andamans for resettlement, this situation has caused serious agitation and concern in West Bengal also because the evicted persons are mostly from East Pakistan. Not only there is a reign of terror there, but the system of land distribution and fixation of rent is almost a chaos. Taking advantage of the position, the authorities entrusted with the task of collecting revenues are doing it according to their sweet will, almost fleecing the people, which has also caused an agitation there.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** I do not think the question of any refugees from East Pakistan as such is involved in this. I tried to look into the size of this problem. I am told the present number of unauthorised occupants is less than 100; it is not such a huge problem. But I certainly think there is a problem about land distribution. I will discuss this with the Chief Commissioner who is likely to come to Delhi this month.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuruzha):** Besides the leader of the NGO's association who are on hunger strike in jail, we are told that 4000 employees are on fast from Tuesday onwards. Does he have any information about this and will he immediately send some of his emissaries to Andamans if necessary and settle it with the employees?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** I have not got any particular report about the fast. I am in constant communication with the Chief Commissioner about this.

**Shri H. N. Mukherjee (Calcutta Central):** In view of the fact that Government employees particularly in a very isolated region like Andamans are not very likely to take recourse to the kind of action which they have been compelled to take and in view of the comparatively sympathetic attitude which the Minister is showing now, may I know how is that in spite of the communication existing between Delhi and Port Blair, the Chief Commissioner has been permitted to see that the position has been aggravated to the extent of hunger strike taking place for a long period and a big agitation by Government employees taking place outside the prison gates? May I know whether the Minister will try to correct the situation in as quick a time as possible?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** I do not know who precipitated the matter. The leaders of the NGO Karmacharis also might have precipitated it. I do not know.

**Shri Umanath:** Demolition was the provocation.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** Unauthorised occupation was the provocation.

**Shri Nambiar, (Tiruchirapalli):** The Home Minister is new to the ministry, but the Andaman affair is an old one. We have repeatedly raised this issue on the floor of the House. Why is it that the Home Minister did not take proper care to see that this problem is solved earlier? He could have collected the entire material and presented it before the House today, because the question has been placed before him many days earlier. May I know what immediate steps he would take to remove that Chief Commissioner against whom we have raised several issues earlier? The Lok Sabha record will prove that. Removing an officer is a small matter. Will he do it?

**Mr. Speaker:** The removal of the officer is not to be decided here now.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** There is no question of removal of the Chief Commissioner. We cannot hang a person for no fault of his.

**Shri Nambiar:** You can recall him.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** There is no question of recalling. It is true the question is old and I am new. Therefore, I am applying my fresh outlook on it. That is an advantage. I will certainly look into the problem sympathetically, but I cannot say the entire blame can be laid on the Chief Commissioner.

**Dr. Saradish Roy (Katwa):** In view of the fact that 114 Government employees have been arrested and there is much discontent, may I know whether the Government would consider the question of release of these arrested employees?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** They have been arrested under certain sections, etc. I cannot give any such assurance straightaway.

डा० राम मनोहर लॉ. हिया (फर्रुखाबाद):  
 इस प्रश्न के मवाल पर मैंने पहले बहुत दफे  
 आप को लिखा है। मवाल वरीरह भी भजे

थे। हां इस पर नहीं लिखा। क्या आप मुझे  
 को इसके लिये इजाजत देगे क्योंकि मैंने कई  
 दफे पहले लिखा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं साहब।

12.21 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### ORDER UNDER INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Shri Bibudhendra Misra):** On behalf of Shri D. Sanjivayya, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Order Published in Notification No. S.O. 2001 in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1966, under sub-section (2) of section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7489/66].

##### ANNUAL REPORT OF MINERALS AND METALS TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India, Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1965-66 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7490/66].
- (2) A copy of Notification No. S. O. 3522 published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 1966 issued under sec-