

(a) whether the workers of Jute Industry including all Public Sector Jute Mills are on strike from January 28, 1992 in support of their demands;

(b) if so, details thereof and the total loss suffered by the industry during the strike period;

(c) whether any bilateral talks were held between the trade unions and the management to avert strike;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the specific demands on which both sides did not agree; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to avert strike and also to meet the demands of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). The workers of the Jute Industry including public sector jute mills in West Bengal have struck work from 28th January, 1992 following a call for general strike given by certain Trade Unions in support of their Charter of Demands. The main points of the Charter of Demands are (i) Hike in wages, (ii) Increase in the rate of neutralisation of Variable Dearness Allowance, (iii) Increase in HRA, Bonus, Gratuity (iv) Introduction of Medical leave, Medical Allowance, Leave Travel Allowance facilities, (v) Implementation of Jute Packaging Materials Act, (vi) Nationalisation of Jute Industry etc. It is estimate a loss of about Rs. 6 crores per day is being suffered by the jute industry on account of the strike.

(c) to (f). Several rounds of tripartite and bipartite meetings were held between the representatives of the federation of unions and the management under the auspices of the labour department of the Government of West Bengal. A bipartite agreement was

arrived at between the management and the workers of Delta Jute Mill which reopened on 12th February, 1992.

The Unions are not prepared to consider the stand of the management that wage increase should be linked to productivity.

The Government of West Bengal, the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, has initiated action to bring about a settlement to the strike. The Central Government has also appealed to the Chief Minister of West Bengal for his intervention.

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 976 DATED 27/11/1991 REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF JJ CLUSTERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): In reply to Parts (a) and (b) of the question, cited as subject, in line 7 for the words-

"EIUS Scheme"

It may be read as under:-

"ELJ Scheme".

This mistake has occurred due to typographical error. The inconvenience caused to the Sabha is regretted.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister

ter is here and I hope that he will stay for one or two minutes.

Today the Members of Parliament belonging to the Left parties of both Houses and also a number of our friends from the National Front, they have sat in a *dharna* in the porch, in front of Gate No. 1 of the Parliament building, to protest against the policies which have been followed by this Government which has resulted in very serious problems and the burden being imposed on the common people of this country. Our economic sovereignty has been compromised and the price rise is such that it is impossible for the common people to survive.

The Exit Policy that has been adopted will bring in greater problems to the common people. We have demanded that these policies - anti-people policies - should be reversed and that this country should not be sold to some foreign financial organizations and the imperialist countries.

The Members of Legislative Assemblies from various States belonging to the Left Parties have also come. They are sitting in *dharna* at the Boat Club. I request the Prime Minister to take note of the feelings of the people outside. He may be very happy that some big people like FICCI and ASSOCHAM are applauding his Budget and his economic policies. But the people outside for whom there is no provision made by this Government for alleviating their suffering, he should take note of their feelings of anger outside. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South): Is it your Budget speech?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I hope that the Prime Minister will control his Members. I know that Shri Muri Deora now is the present embodiment of *Ahimsa*, with his new euphoria, having on the Bombay

Municipal elections through the help of his *dadas*. He may have a very temporary reprieve. I hope he goes there and then I will be very happy. But, I do not know why he is not being considered? (*Interruptions*).

Sir, this is a very serious matter. I ask the Government to take note of it. Otherwise, the people of this country will not accept this position and they shall fight and fight against these anti-people's policies of the Government.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): I would like to remind the *dada* (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But I am not a Bombay *dada*.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I always call you as *dada*. So, if you have any other meaning, I am not really making you a *dada*. (*Interruptions*) I would like to remind him that I do not at all agree and the people do not agree with his analysis and the assessment that he has given. The people are happy. Of course, the people are undergoing difficulties. The country is in a difficult phase. I shall have occasion to explain all these things in course of the Budget Session. Incidentally it happens that today there is a big banner headline in the newspapers saying that one of our friendly countries - the Russian Republic - has gone for a ten billion loan from the IMF, having agreed to all the conditions. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You seem to be very happy to be in the company of Yeltsin and Bush.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sometimes want of argument results in anger. That is what we say. "Shesham Kopen Puryet". This is an old saying in Sanskrit that when you do not have an argument, you fill in the rest by anger. (*Interruptions*)

SHRISOMNATHCHATTERJEE: If you think you are serving the country by this attitude, it is for you; the people will take their own decisions. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHESLATION SINGH (Sarguja): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a tribal settlement of Gond and Pando tribes at Bijapur village of block Badafnagar in Sarguja district. Pandos are very poor and backward class whom the Central Government has declared most backward class. Ribai Pando's daughter-in-law and her son of this village died of starvation and Shri Ribal's brother is serious. They have neither foodgrains nor money. The whole region is in the grip of drought but no relief works have been started by the Madhya Pradesh Government with the result thousands of families have migrated and now they are on the verge of starving to death. Shri M.S. Singhdev, former Chief Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Government had apprised Shri Sundar Lal Patwa, the Chief Minister of the famine situation through a letter. But it is very sad that Shri Patwa has denied in his reply the prevalence of drought situation there and refused to start relief works. The district Panchayat Officer, however, admits that there is drought situation but the District Collector of Sarguja is not ready to admit it.

I request the hon. Pr. Minister to send a study team of the Central Government to Madhya Pradesh to visit the entire drought-affected area, particularly the tribal belt, and to provide amount for relief works.

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): We want a statement from the Government. A Central Team must go to Madhya Pradesh. There is an utter chaos in the State of Madhya Pradesh. People are going out quitting their own homes. There is no relief

work. People are dying of starvation. We want a reaction from the Government.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should make a statement on it. Workers are migrating from there. They are starving. It cannot go like this. Two starvation deaths have occurred in your Mandsaur district and the Sarguja district has also witnessed such deaths. How long will it continue? The hon. Minister should make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government has all along been classifying the cities for the grant of salaries and allowances to the State Government employees. Unfortunately the Government is not declaring Kota as a B class city although it fulfill all the norms laid down for the purpose. Bikaner, which has less population than Kota and has a population of 4 lakh 20 thousand, has been declared a B class city. Kota has a population of 5 lakh and 60 thousand but till this day it has not been declared a B Class city. An agitation is going on there. People are on hunger strike. I have received three telegrams. I have submitted one of them to you. It is my submission that the State Government, the Central Government may declare Kota a B Class city immediately. A man has sent me a telegram again who is nearing death. Hundreds of people have been arrested. I request you to direct the Central Government to declare Kota a B Class city. Please do justice to Kota city.

[*English*]

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA (Berhampore): Sir, a serious situation has emerged owing to satyagraha being resorted to by the workers of Maniindra-B.T. Mills, Berhamupor, West Bengal which calls