

The second thing is about cardamom about which also the hon. Member has asked. In the last two years, Nepal has imported about 48.28 tonnes and 33.9 tonnes of cardamom. This year they have imported about 3,000 tonnes. When this matter came to our notice, immediately our Ministry has alerted the Excise and Customs people. They have immediately taken action. Already they were able to seize about 27.89 tonnes. They are taking active part now. We will also definitely come into the picture and we will protect this industry. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The apprehension of the hon. Members was that the low quality cardamom that was being imported by Nepal from Guatemala was being diverted to India to adulterate the Indian high quality cardamom. Can you give an assurance that you will take action to stop this ?

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The moment it has come to our notice, we have alerted our Excise and Customs people and they were on the job. They were also able to seize 27.89 tonnes. That means, they had immediately taken action on that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is good. Thank you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kurien, I think, we have heard enough of this.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, that is the Press report. Nepal does not need 3,000 tonnes. They may need a few hundred tonnes and all the rest of it would be diverted to India by smuggling ...*(Interruptions)*

15.20 hrs.

BILL INTRODUCED

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT APPELLATE AUTHORITY BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Environment Appellate Authority to hear appeals with respect to restriction of areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Environment

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 4.3.97.

Appellate Authority to hear appeals with respect to restriction of areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I introduce** the Bill.

15.21 hrs.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT APPELLATE AUTHORITY
ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the National Environment Appellate Authority Ordinance, 1997

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1463/97]

15.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to Develop Kushinagar and Fazilnagar as Places of National Tourist Centre**

[Translation]

LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Padrauna and Deoria districts are places of vital tourism importance. Followers of Lord Buddha from all over the world visit Kushinagar as they feel reverence for this shrine. Only at a distance of 20 Km from Kushinagar, Pavanagar is located which is presently known as Fazil Nagar. It is the seat of Lord Mahavira. Two great religions of the world were originated from here. Both these places fall in my constituency. But the Department of Tourism has not undertaken development of this area.

Not only this area, but also the area in its vicinity has been the abode of great thinkers and philosophers of Hindu religion. Neither the Indian Railways, nor the Indian Airlines has taken any steps with a view to facilitate easy access to these places for the foreign tourists and to develop tourism here. The followers of Jainism in India would like to visit Pavanagar in large number but there is no air service or rail

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.