

of the plant is disturbed and the work of power generation also suffers which causes a power crisis in the area. If the coal is supplied through a pipeline in the shape of slurry, it will reach there in time and it will also save the expenditure. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India to lay these pipelines for the supply of coal.

SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI (BANSGAON) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a serious issue pertaining to UP. My parliamentary constituency falls on the bank of Saryu river. River is causing extensive soil erosion in the villages Chappriya, Mujwana, Derwa, Singhegdan etc. UP Government is not paying attention towards this problem. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to make arrangements for checking soil erosion being caused by Saryu river immediately.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I am raising a problem of thousands of marginal rubber growers in Kerala who produce rubber latex. There is no market for rubber latex...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to speak on the same issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, only one can speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, it is a very vital issue...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, there is no market for the rubber latex ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala's name is also associated with the same thing. So, Prof. Kurien is speaking on behalf of both of them.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : No, Sir. How can it be ? I also want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has made his point very adequately in the Finance Bill.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, he has not started it. After him, give me an opportunity to make my point. I want just two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, on this issue, every MP from Kerala is concerned because it is a matter concerning 10 lakh rubber growers in Kerala, especially the marginal rubber growers who produce rubber milk of which the rubber latex is made. They cannot sell the product made of the rubber latex in the market because the Government, over the year, have reduced the import duty on foreign materials which compete with the products which our farmers produce. The import duty on such materials, e.g., synthetics has been reduced from 85 per cent to 30 per cent over the last five years. This year also, it has been reduced whereas not even a single paisa of reduction in excise duty is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, you will have to cut it short.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I will finish it in one minute.

Not a single paisa of reduction in excise duty is there for the products which our natural rubber growers are producing. Therefore, they are not able to sell their rubber in the market. It is a very serious problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am requesting you on behalf of all rubber growers of Kerala and outside Kerala also, to please direct the Government to reduce the excise duty on rubber foams which are produced by small-scale industries. I am not asking for the reduction of the import duty. Our rubber farmers are in trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you have raised the same matter on the 7th of May. So, the only thing, I want to say is that now, Shri P.C. Thomas can speak, for two minutes.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I will take only one minute.

This is a very serious issue which is agitating the minds of thousands of rubber farmers in our country...*(Interruptions)* On the artificial chemical, polyurethane, the import duty has been reduced. That is why, the farmers are facing this problem. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and help the rubber growers by, at least, imposing some kind of a duty on the artificial kind of things so that the interests of our rubber growers can be saved.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : EXIM, Export-Import policy, is something which we are not discussing. There is also a very serious problem with regard to the Duties which are being imposed and the exemptions which are being granted. These are two aspects which are inter-linked.

As far as the issue which has been raised by my learned friend Prof. Kurien is concerned, I have also given notice on the same matter. The problem that the natural rubber is being produced in India by eight lakh small growers. These small growers are contributing a lot to the economy of our nation. Now the latex which is being produced by rubber is being used for production of foam mattresses and the same thing can also be produced by polyurethane or other imported stuff. What is being done is, for import of polyurethane the Duty is reduced and for what we are making out of our domestic produce the Excise Duty is being increased. This is double standard. This cannot be done and I would request hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram....

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, please sit down. On the question of the rubber price a number of hon. Members from Kerala are agitated. Therefore, I would request the Government to take note of it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will all support this issue about the rubber.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are getting very near the time.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : We want the Finance Minister to say something on this Issue.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : First of all I would like to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name can also be associated with that.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Sir, this is a different issue. I would like to raise another issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you had your time. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

13.27 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair)*

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Include Jaitpur and Upleta Tehsils in Rajkot District of Gujarat under Employment Assurance Scheme**

*[Translation]*

DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA (RAJKOT) : Employment Assurance Scheme under the IRDP has been implemented in several districts of the country, Though this scheme has been implemented in several tehsils of Rajkot district yet Jaitpur and Upleta tehsils have not been covered under this scheme. In fact, these tehsils of Rajkot districts of Gujarat have been hit by famine three years during the last five years. Even the drinking water is not available in that area. That area is also facing the problem of unemployment. People of this area have to migrate to cities or to South Gujarat to earn their livelihood. Therefore, if these two tehsils are covered under Employment Assurance Scheme under IRDP, the problem of unemployment can be solved to a great extent.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to cover these two tehsils under Employment Assurance Scheme.

- (ii) **Need to Provide Special Grant to State Government of Rajasthan to Solve the Problem of Seepage in Sri Ganganagar District**

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (SRI GANGANAGAR): The entire area in Tibbi Rawatsar and Pitibanga of Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan is getting ruined due to seepage in the soil. The houses and lands of the farmers have been rendered uncultivable. A special grant should be given by the Union Government to the State Govern-

ment of Rajasthan in order to conserve the land and to protect the farmers of the said area.

- (iii) **Need for testing of Hydrogen Bomb for the Defence of the Country**

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a serious threat has been posed to the security of the country due to the presence of atomic weapons in the neighbouring countries and one super power of the world want to disintegrate this country and is aiding and abetting the ISI of Pakistan for the terrorists activities in the entire country. Explosions are taking place at the Railway Stations, metropolitan cities, buses and other places killing innocent people on large scale. Recently, a retired Chief of the Army Staff of our country had said that India should go in for testing of hydrogen bomb for the security of the country. Union Government is, therefore, urged to immediately go in for testing of hydrogen bomb for the defence of the country.

- (iv) **Need to set up a High Power Television Transmitter at Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (NIZAMABAD) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that presently, there is a low power transmitter operating in Nizamabad that caters to only limited area and a large number of people of the district are deprived of the privilege of witnessing T.V. programmes in the State of Andhra Pradesh. In the past, several times, representations have been made to the Central Government that this low power transmitter should be replaced by a high power transmitter so that a large section of people are in a position to enjoy the television programmes. Television has become one of the important media through which all types of programmes, namely, educational, technical and various other national programmes which have become essential for people living in the backward areas are telecast. Television has also become one of the most effective means of entertainment to keep the people well versed with all the latest developments. In Nizamabad, large sections of people are deprived of all such programmes.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to instal a high power transmitter at Nizamabad which is my constituency.

- (v) **Need to provide STD Facilities at Amba and Barun in Auragabad District, Bihar**

*(Translation)*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD) : Sir, District Aurangabad of Bihar State is the most backward and terrorist effected district. I had requested the Government to implement a comprehensive action plan in all terrorist affected districts of Bihar as has been done in the Kashmir State. All blocks of this districts have not yet been connected with STD facility. Even police stations and police pickets have not been provided with telecome facilities due to which delay is caused in reporting the accidents. The Central Government is, therefore, requested