

[English]

SHRI PALA K M MATHEW (IDUKKI)
Sir I use to point out a very urgent matter drastically affecting small rubber growers in Kerala

Now the commerce Minister has suddenly come out with an announcement invit applications for the grant of licence to import into India the seven lakh and odd small cultivators of rubber in Kerala view this as an extreme concern with deep anguish and alarm

Now the consequent downfall in price will ruin the small farmers These steps will marginalise the STC and would permit the industrialists and monopolist to import rubber This is most unfair to the small rubber farmers

Yielding to the monopolists will automatically break the backbone of the economy of the Kerala also The official assessment of the bureaucrats regarding the shortage of rubber is unrealistic and untrue Now there is no dearth of rubber in India at the moment The present price is most unremunerative also The small farmers are in the unorganised sector and they have no pressure groups or lobbies for canvassing for them

So I would request the Government to raise the minimum price of rubber at least to Rs 3 per kilo and I strongly urge upon the Government not to import even a kilo of rubber

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) It has been reported that about 143 employees of the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) have been retrenched recently and they are out of job since 14.4.1993 It is against the Government's assurance in the House that no public sector unit in such a way would retrench its employees and if there is a surplus they will be replaced and redeployed But here in Delhi in the ITPO office at Pragati Maidan they have retrenched 143 employees saying it is done because of economic reasons

You will be surprised to know that lakhs of rupees are being spent to bring some machines for attendance of the employees there You will be also surprised to know that the Chairman and other officers of ITPO are going abroad every week and every month and lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being spent and they talk of economy In that situation I will say that it should be stopped For these foreign trips and other things there should be some norms In the name of economy only the employees should not be retrenched and the 143 employees should be taken back and they should be given back their employment in the ITPO

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) Mr Chairman Sir I would like to make some submissions about Ranchi city of Bihar Ranchi has a population of ten lakh The central Government as well as the State Government have been asked for the last two years to provide a by pass there In the absence of by pass there is a lot of traffic jam which apparently is the main cause of many accidents there Therefore through you I urge the Central Government to construct a by pass in Ranchi There are many cities in the country which have a population of more than 10 lakh by passes should be provided in all the such cities

DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) Mr Chairman Sir the Central Government opens Central schools at various places in order to provide facility to Central Government employees and proper education to their wards I am sorry to say that the number of Central schools in Madhya Pradesh is not sufficient It is very sorry to know that even after making recommendation to open new schools at various places in Madhya Pradesh the same have not been opened It is totally unjust not to provide a central school in Mandsaur which is a C R P F Centre and is also inhabited by employees of Excise Income tax and Railways

Therefore through you, I would request the

Minister of Human Resource Development to consider it and provide a central school there from next session and issue directions in this regard

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) Mr Chairman I would like to bring to your notice and also the Government and the House the problems faced by some industries in Assam now as a result of the high price and non-availability of raw material. There is a growing incidence of lay off, retrenchment and closure of industrial units in the state which is very much backward economically and industrially.

The recent hike in the price of viscose fibre and its short supply has gone a long way to make the textile units sick. The recent policy also affects the prospect of industrial growth in Assam. As an instance one may cite the case of Indian Carbon. The factory has so far been using the raw petroleum coke available from the refineries in Assam. As a result of the decanalization the cost of the indigenous petroleum coke is almost double the price of imported coke, Rs 5602.26 per Metric Tonne for indigenous coke while the price of imported coke at present is Rs 2700 per Metric tonne.

Assam, being far away from ports, has to bear the high transportation cost. Again the use of indigenous raw transportation cost. Again the use of indigenous raw material has also become costly for the factory. Naturally, the result is that the factory is going to be closed down. A peculiar situation is that while incentive for industrialisation is declared, factories are being closed every day.

In view of the above I urge upon the Central Government to give a thought to the problem of raw materials facing the industries in Assam and also arrange the things in such a way that Assam and the states in the North-Eastern region are treated as a special category states in words and deeds.

[Translation]

MAJ GENERAL (Retd) BHUWAN CHANDRAKHANDURI (Garhwal) Mr Chairman, Sir, through you I want to remind the Government that the birthday of late Shri Hemvatinandan Bahugana falls on 25th April. He was a great patriot and freedom fighter and had served this country.

He took active part in the Quit India Movement in 1942 as a result of which he was imprisoned by the British Government. Due to tortures inflicted on him during long terms of imprisonment, he suffered many diseases but he continued to give leadership to various student Organisations, labourer Organisations and unions from the jail itself. He also served the country as a minister in the centre having very Finance etc. and also as a Chief Minister and Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on 17th March, 1993 which is his death anniversary during zero hour, I had requested the Minister for communications to issue a commemorative stamp on late Bahuganaji on the occasion of his birthday on 25th April. The then Minister of Communications Shri Rajesh Pilot had agreed to my suggestion but the same has not been issued till date. I therefore request the hon. Minister for communications to immediately get issued a commemorative stamp in the memory of late Bahuganaji.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) Mr Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the working of N T C whose every mill is incurring a loss of crores of rupees every month. The main cause behind the loss in these mills is the rampant corruption. The appointments and promotions in N T C are made arbitrarily as there are no written rules in this regard. That is why a person who does not qualify even for the post of a peon is working as General Manager. He has formed his gang and this gang makes appointment of Chairman. Managing