

one lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia and we have received Lolium-Rizidium grass with this consignment. When the wheat would be distributed throughout the country then this grass will spread alongwith this wheat in the entire country. The Government have not taken any action in this regard. Some of our Scientists have opined that the wheat should be separated through gravity separator machine before distribution. I would like to ask as to why this matter has not been taken up with the Australian Government? They have not taken any precautions to check up the mix-up of weeds alongwith the wheat while sending the consignment. When this question was raised in Rajya Sabha then it was replied that they are looking into this matter and it was also said that this would be supplied/distributed in non-wheat producing area so that this weed do not get mixed up with the remaining wheat. But this is, in a way, a ridiculous statement because we cannot check it in this way and if this weed gets acclimatised to the climatic conditions of this country and if this grass grows here then it can play havoc with the climate here.

Sir, I would just like to ask as to what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard and why the Australian Shipment had not been cancelled/sent back and whether the Government is ready to allow Australia to make India a dumping ground of such a hazardous/poisonous grass or whether the Government will take up this matter with the Australian Government. Distribution/supply of this wheat should be stopped. I would like that the Government should issue a statement in this regard because it would have effect on the health of the people of India. If this grass spreads then it will have its impact on our wheat production. We have not forgotten how the carrot grass has played havoc. Therefor, I would like that the Government should ponder over this issue seriously.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : The Minister's statement should come forth in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the recent killing on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Air Force in the Indian Ocean. The Sri Lankan Air Force Helicopter has fired on the boats of Indian fishermen on 17th July and earlier to that, on 14th July also it fired on the Indian fishermen. From 1983 to 1997 about 250 Indian fishermen have been killed by the Sri Lankan Army, Navy and Air Force. In the Arabian Sea, off the Gujarat coast, even the Pakistan Government is not indulging in this kind of atrocity on our fishermen and no such killing of our fishermen had

taken place there. The Sri Lankan Navy is repeatedly killing our fishermen in the Indian Ocean. Yesterday the Sri Lankan Government has denied that there were no such incidents of firing on the Indian fishermen. But it is not correct.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already written a letter to the Prime Minister on this issue and personally insisted that immediate action should be taken in this matter. Many representations have also been made to the Central Government, but the Central Government is not taking any action in this matter. The Government must take a serious view on this issue because many fishermen are killed in such incidents. The Home Minister should respond to this matter as to what the Central Government is doing in this matter. I also request that the Government of India should cut off its relationship with the Government of Sri Lanka. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue and the Government must respond to it now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : If we do not raise our point here in the Lok Sabha then where should we go to raise it. 70 murders have been committed in Haryana State during the last three months. ...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the situation arisen due to shortage of chemical fertilizers and the resultant sale of fertilizers at more than the market prices and towards checking black marketing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : You please allow the Minister to give the reply....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When did I stop the Minister from replying? If he wants to reply during Zero

*Not Recorded.

Hour, he can do so otherwise there is no need to give reply during the Zero Hour. If he wants to give reply then I will not come in the way. I am not stopping him.

13.00 hrs.

If he wants to say something, I will not stop him.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he wants to say. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. lady Member has raised the issue of import of wheat from Australia. The State Trading Corporation has given its concept for importing around ten lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia but the consignment has not yet reached here. The Experts' team of the Agriculture Department has tested it. The Experts' team has found a kind of weed alongwith wheat likely to be harmful here. This is an *exotic* type of seed, which can cause harm. However, the Experts' team has given three types of suggestions: *viz.* when wheat mixed up with weed is sent to our country, then it should be immediately converted into flour and then it should be distributed or else. weed mixed wheat should be supplied/distributed in those areas where wheat is not produced/grown. If the wheat is distributed/supplied during off season, when wheat production is not undertaken, then there would be no possibility of growing of grass. There is no harm in consuming this wheat. In the country, where wheat is grown in large quantities, removing of weed will be difficult but there is no harm if there is weed alongwith the wheat. Therefore, as per the suggestions given by the Experts' team, sanction was accorded for import of the said type of wheat. There would be no harm from this wheat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow Shri Mohle to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.08 hrs.

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Naik may now please lay on the Table Item Nos. 7 and 8 mentioned in the Order Paper.

14.09 hrs.

RULES COMMITTEE

(i) Third Report

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, with your permission I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-rule (1) of rule 331 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rules Committee.

(ii) Minutes

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Rules Committee held on 8th May, 1997.

14.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to give compensation to farmers whose land has come under barbed wire fencing on Indo-Pak border**

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sriganganagar): The Government of India had erected barbed wire fencing on Indo-Pakistan border. But the farmers whose land was covered under this fencing have not been paid any compensation so far. These farmers face a lot of difficulties while approaching their lands. Besides, they can neither irrigate their fields easily nor carry out sowing and harvesting operations.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested that the farmers whose land has come under the barbed wire fencing should either be allotted land in lieu of such lands or they should be paid compensation so that they could get some relief.