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14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down. Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

Title: Need to relax Cabotage Law (Section 407) for the proposed International Container Shipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Kerala in order to attract transshipment through foreign feeder ships-laid.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): It is understood that the existing Cabotage law (Section 407) is likely to adversely affect the proposed International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam. While foreign feeder ships can carry EXIM containers from Colombo to all Indian Ports, this facility will not be available from ICTT, Vallarpadam as per the prevailing norms. This is likely to affect the viability of the ICTT. The transshipment containers coming from foreign countries and bound for other ports in India, and export containers originating in other Indian Ports and transhipped at Cochin on their way to foreign countries, cannot be treated as domestic cargo movement within the meaning of Cabotage law. The Government should take viable steps to correct the above situation and to ensure that the long cherished dream of India setting up a container transshipment terminal in India at Vallarpadam becomes a reality.