

12.53 1/2 hrs.

**TOBACCO CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tobacco Cess Act, 1975.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tobacco Cess Act, 1975."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next item, Matters under rule 377. Shrimati Uma Gajapathi Raju.

12.54 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

- (I) **Need to enquire into the Causes of Collapse of a Port High School building at Visakhapatnam killing several school children and to pay compensation to the bereaved Families and injured students**

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while the rest of the country was celebrating Independence Day, a pall of gloom descended in Visakhapatnam. On the 14th August, a grim tragedy occurred claiming

the lives of 13 school children and crippling a number of others in the collapse of the Port High School Building. The tragedy could easily have been avoided because in spite of repeated reminders from the parents, students, teachers and local residents complaining that the building was in a precarious condition needing urgent repairs, no concrete action was taken. This amounts to a criminal dereliction of duty. The Union Government should institute a high level inquiry into the causes of the accident and review the state of all the buildings within the port premises, which are also in bad shape. Further, the Union Government should also release at least Rs. one lakh to each of the bereaved families and Rs. 25,000 to each of the injured immediately.

- (III) **Need to restrict the Import of raw rubber and ensure remunerative price to domestic rubber producers**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): The policy of the Government to import increased quantities of raw rubber is causing fear and tension among the rubber growers especially those in the State of Kerala. It may be noted that no steps were taken to ensure that the domestic rubber would fetch a remunerative price and be assured of a market.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government may please take immediate decision to restrict the import of raw rubber and also take all steps to ensure remunerative price and adequate market to the domestic producers.

- (III) **Need to settle the claims of refugees from Pak occupied Kashmir settled in Jammu and other parts of the State in 1947**

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): A large number of refugees from Pak-occupied areas of J&K migrated during the year

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\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.