

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not afraid of anything. I need not be afraid of anything.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: This is what you have said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am afraid for you. If you are standing to speak and nobody allows you to speak, then you will have to say to the Chair to control the House. I will not have to speak.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Why do you not leave it to the Business Advisory Committee?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us understand the situation. Are you interested in the discussion? If you are interested in discussing the Mandal Commission's Report or Call Attention or anything else, you please decide. I am not afraid of anything. It is not against me. It is not against the Presiding Officer. It is between the political parties. The Presiding Officer does not speak; it is you who speak. It is the duty of the Presiding Officer to see that the business of the House is conducted in a proper manner. But at times, as you have said, I have to adjourn the House and to see that the order is established. You have yourselves seen it. So let me not prolong it. The practical solution which I have suggested is that you talk to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. If you fail to do that, then I will decide.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Then you adjourn the House till that time... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given my ruling that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Whips should discuss this matter and let us know what is to be done. Now I am continuing with the Calling Attention Motion.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Extension of Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme to Maharashtra—Contd.**

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Hari Bhau Shankar Mahale.

[*English*]

SHRI HARI BHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, National Front Government has done remarkable work for farmers and I congratulate the Government on this account. I listened patiently to the statement made by the Minister. It will not yield any good if they also want to do what the Congress Government did previously. This scheme should be extended for another ten years. The Minister said that he would give his decision very soon.

Farmers are suffering losses. So extension for another ten years should be granted as soon as possible. This is my only suggestion.

DR. KHUSHAL PARASRAM BOPCHE (Bhandara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to offer a suggestion regarding extension of cotton monopoly scheme in Maharashtra. I welcome the statement made by the honourable Minister in this regard. The Minister said in his statement that they are going to purchase bales of cotton very soon. In this regard may I know from the Minister what he means by very soon.

I also agree to the demand made by my honourable members who spoke prior to me. Every year the farmers have to come to you for their demand of extension of monopoly procurement schemes. It is better to extend this scheme for another next ten years. The farmers should get remunerative price for their produce.

You are aware of the fact that this ses-

[Dr. Khushal Parasram Bopche]

sion is now coming to a close. There should be some final decision regarding this assurance before the end of this session. I conclude with this demand.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with whatever Shri Harish Rawat and other hon. Members have said about the Maharashtra Monopoly Scheme. I do not want to go into past. In different expert committee reports made in the past, an opinion was expressed that the procured cotton was not of a fine quality. However, I do not agree with the contention of many hon. Members who said about the scheme of Maharashtra that permission has been granted to export a lesser quantity of cotton to them. This time there has been record harvest of cotton. One hundred thirty bails of cotton were produced in India, this year C.C.I. has purchases it from the entire country. Its production from Maharashtra was 15 per cent of the whole production. Since it is a monopoly scheme, the whole production of 22 lakh bails was procured.

We have allocated the quota for export, in proportion to its share in total production in the entire country. Since the cotton produced by farmers is purchased under the Maharashtra Monopoly scheme, 12.5 lakh bails have been exported. It has exported 20% of cotton procured. Besides, Maharashtra is a dry and cotton area. Its production does not increase Cotton production is increasing all over the country except some pockets of Maharashtra where it is comparatively less. Alongwith production there should be improvement in janning and pressing facilities and other infrastructural facilities. I have already submitted that efforts should be made to provide assistance to farmers through co-operatives. The difficulty with the Government is that the Cotton Corporation of India has to look after the entire country. Just now hon. Member, Shri Harish Rawat, alleged that the C.C.I has allotted more cotton to some states and less to some

others. In order to have a check on this type of irregularities, we have rationalised the entire system of distribution. Several State which I would not like to name, have not been able to export, it, whereas the C.C.I. is making its exports. As far as practicable by us, we have made allotment of cotton quota to Maharashtra so that it could made full export in conformity with the monopoly scheme of Maharashtra federation. The matter had been pending for one year. Time is short. I do not want to enter into any controversy. I am short of time as your agenda is very large. I have got the figures with me which I may read out, if you permit. Had our Government not come, this monopoly scheme would have thrown into disarray. When the Government and the co-operative sector take over a scheme it could be that it may not run in a scientific way or in manner ever then it is considered to be the best way to run the scheme. I would like to say this much that we have made full preparations and the Calling Attention has also contributed to our preparation. We will take an early decision in this regard. Some of the hon. Members have expressed the view that it should be further extended for another 10 years. This thing I cannot say. But one thing is certain that farmers' cotton will be procured and there will be no difficulty in it. This year we did not allow any problem to be faced by the farmers. We got the procurement done by the C.C.I. at the commercial level and we did not allow the cotton prices to fall in the whole country. Today I would like to assure the august House once again that there will be no problem with the scheme of monopoly scheme of Maharashtra and the Cotton growers. If a decision in this regard is taken tomorrow I shall announce the same. It is not in my hands. The matter has gone to the cabinet. May be that a decision cannot be taken in the cabinet tomorrow. But one thing is certain that an early decision will be taken in this regard and there will be no difficulty about it.

I know that there will be bumper crops this year. There was no rain fall in Gujarat. But how there has been rainfall in the State. This year also there has been a production 130 lakh bales of cotton in the State. If there

will be number crop this year, we will not succumb to the pressure of mill owners. In this connection I would like to add further that not a single private person has been issued licence to export cotton. The C.C.I. made the export on behalf of all the State Co-operatives. I was told by the people that export should continue. We released quota for exports in the manner that helped in stabilising the prices to be given to farmers. Sometimes one lakh, sometimes two lakh, sometimes three lakh bales were released. Three days ago from now I announced the prices for more than 5 lakh bales of cotton that has been stored for next year so that prices remain stable at a particular level. I would like to assure the House that there will be no laxity in it.

16.39 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

**I) Need to Declare synonyms of Nayak Community as Scheduled Tribes**

[ *English* ]

SHRI RAJ AMBANNA NAYAK DORE (Raichur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the miserable sufferings of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka, Scheduled Tribes of Beda, Bedar, Valmiki, Talwara, Nayak and Naik are suffering.

There are fifty lakh of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka State. Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals to the Union Government to declare synonyms of 'Nayaka' community which is classified as Scheduled Tribes. Due to delay in declaring these classified as Scheduled Tribes. Due to delay in declaring these classified communities at par with other S.T. communities, the 'Nayaka' community is suffering a lot.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to immediately mitigate the sufferings of S.T. communities immediately mitigate the sufferings and declare at par the Nayaka/ Beda, Bedar, Valmiki Talwara, Nayak, Naik,

which are the synonyms of "Nayaka" in the Scheduled Tribes list.

**II) Need to permit the Government of Karnataka to raise Funds to finance its Irrigation and Power projects by Issue of bonds**

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga): It is gratifying to note that Karnataka Government has given top priority to agriculture sector and to complete the long pending irrigation projects. The Central Government is also encouraging this vital sector. Completion of pending irrigation projects is possible only when the Centre provides adequate funds. At present Karnataka Government is facing acute financial constraints. Hence the State Government is very keen to raise funds for agricultural development. The State Government has requested the centre for the establishment of a National Irrigation Development Bank, so that irrigation and power projects could be financed from this Bank. But there is no positive reply so far from the Centre. The Central Government has already permitted many public sector like NTPC, Nuclear Thermal Projects to raise capital through bonds. The State Governments should also be permitted to raise their capital through their public undertakings. It was also assured by Karnataka Government that the funds raised for irrigation and power projects would be invariably utilised for the same purpose. Karnataka Government assured that it will take the responsibility for the payment of these bonds and interest. Delay in this regard would only result in the hike in the construction costs.

I therefore, request the Government of India to clear these proposal without any further delay.

**III) Need to implement the decision regarding waiver of excise duty on diesel oil used by mechanised boats run under the co-operative sector**

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (Visakhapatnam): The small mechanised fishing boats are mostly operated by SC/ST