

12.26 hrs.

[*Translation*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to give remunerative price for Cotton in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI P. NARASA REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, the price of cotton produce in Andhra Pradesh State with particular reference to Adilabad district (Agency Area) has gone down to a new low. Earlier, the price per quintal of cotton produce was Rs. 1050 (One thousand and fifty) but it has now gone down to Rs. 700/- per quintal. This has created a great disappointment among cultivators of the dry areas. The Cotton Corporation of India is purchasing cotton only at Rs. 710/- per quintal while the Maharashtra State Corporation is purchasing at Rs. 839/-. Hence, agitation of farmers for remunerative price is going on.

Government is requested to go into the matter and do justice to the cotton cultivators in that area.

(ii) Need to take steps to re-open Punalur Paper Mills in Kerala

SHRI KIDOKKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, Punalur Paper Mills, Kerala is a century old paper mills. It is one of the oldest paper mills in India and the State. It is the only paper mill in the world using Etta Reeds as raw material for paper making.

The mill is lying closed for more than three years now. The machinery are equipment would get rusted and damaged if they are allowed to remain idle for long.

About a thousand workers and their families are denied their livelihood because of the closure.

I urge upon the Government to take steps to reopen the mill.

(iii) Need to expedite the construction of Jamrali dam in Nainital district, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): The Jamrali dam in Nainital district in Uttar Pradesh is under construction since 1975 and crores of rupees have so far been spent on it by the State and the Central Governments. But the work has not taken any concrete shape as yet. Non-completion of the work has resulted in drought situation in the Tarai Bhabar area of Nainital district. The construction work should be completed immediately.

(iv) Need to ensure regular supply of electricity to Maharashtra State

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE (Beed): The farmers are not getting electricity according to their requirements because of short supply of electricity to Maharashtra. Consequently thousands of pump sets of the farmers have been burnt and have become worthless, causing heavy loss to the farmers. It is, therefore, requested that the Government of India should supply electricity to the State Government regularly so as to avoid loss to the farmers.

[*English*]**(v) Need to provide financial assistance for rehabilitation programme of Haldia Fertilizer Plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation**

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk): Sir, The Haldia Unit of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation has been limping for production since the completion of its construction works. The project works were completed in 1979 but the plant could not be commissioned commercially because of technological defects and design problems. Operational activities were banned by the Government of

India in the year 1986 putting the workers idle and plant into uncertainty.

The Government engaged two foreign consultants, namely, Toya Engineering of Japan and Uhde of West Germany to study the matter of rehabilitation of upstream and downstream of the plant respectively. The reports submitted by them hinted about an investment of Rs. 500 crores for the rehabilitation of the plant to make it commercially viable. The matter has been pending before the Government for its consideration and investment decision.

If adequate fund is not allotted by March 1990, HFC will have to close down the factory. So, I urge upon the Government that full fledged rehabilitation programme of the Plant should be executed with immediate effect in accordance with report submitted by Toya Engineering and Uhde, allotment of funds should be made immediately for execution of at least one phase of downstream plant and ban on operational activities should be lifted.

(vi) Need to settle the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra

SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK (Bombay South Central): Sir, the border issue between Karnataka and Maharashtra regarding Belgaum-Karwar issue requires immediate solution before agitation flares up. This burning issue has been neglected during the last 31 years.

[*Translation*]

(vii) Need to reinstate the dismissed employees of D.T.C.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nearly 3600 employees of D.T.C. were dismissed during March, 1988 strike. More than one dozen of them committed suicide out of frustration. Before the elections, they were assured by

the Hon. Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh and the Deputy Prime Minister Ch. Devi Lal and by many other leaders that they would be immediately reinstated after the elections were over. But nothing has been done in this direction so far. The D.T.C. employees are in great distress.

It is, therefore, requested that the dismissed D.T.C. employees be reinstated immediately.

[*English*]

(viii) Need to expedite establishment of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Sir, the inordinate delay in the establishment of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka has caused serious discontentment among the people of that State. The techno-economic feasibility report for the plant was approved by the Government of India in 1969 and the foundation was laid in 1971. The estimated cost of the plant was to the tune of Rs. 3000 crores. The State Government at the request of the Central Government have acquired about 10,000 acres of land. The Government of Karnataka has also assured the supply of the required quantities of water and power for the Steel Plant.

The Ispat Bharati Company was formed by the Government of India in 1982 to expedite the implementation of the project but the plant has not been set up so far. The delay in taking up this project is causing resentment among the people of Karnataka. Once the plant is set up, it will provide direct and indirect employment to about 70,000 persons.

As such, I request that every possible step should be taken to expedite the establishment of an integrated steel plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka.