

13.03 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) **Need to clear the setting up of Special Refractory Project in Quilon, Kerala**

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR (Quilon): Sir, Kerala is not blessed with any sizeable deposits of metallic ores or other raw materials for heavy industries. One of the few earth based raw materials the State has is the special type of clay in the Quilon area, suitable for manufacture of refractories. Setting up of a Refractory unit in Quilon area of Kerala thus has been an important component of the plan for the industrial development of the State and efforts were started in this direction more than a decade ago. In 1977, a letter of intent was obtained by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) for establishing an industrial unit in Kerala for the manufacture of certain special refractories. A collaboration agreement was executed with M/s Tyazhbromexport, USSR to provide some of the major plant machinery for the company. The acquisition of the land for the projects has been completed.

The Kerala Special Refractory Project is still pending because of lack of clearance by the Steel Ministry for participation of SAIL in the equity of the Project.

I earnestly urge the Government of India to coordinate with the Government of Kerala for the immediate implementation of this vital project.

- i) Iron out the difference between SAIL, Steel Ministry and the Kerala Government and Arrive at an agreement for SAIL's participation in the Project.
- ii) If this is found not possible, then direct IDBI and other financial institutions to finance the Project

without SAIL participation and ask Kerala Government to implement this project with such institutional finance.

(ii) **Need to include Harijans converted as Christians in SC/STs List**

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): A large number of social organisations are continuously requesting the Government to include converted Harijan Christians in the List of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Harijans are given special protection under the Constitution because they are socially and economically backward for centuries. When a Harijan embraces Christianity his social and financial backwardness is not removed all of a sudden. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had categorically stated that Article 341 of the Constitution is aimed at the enumeration of the Scheduled Castes among Hindus mainly for the purpose of reserving seats for their representatives in Parliament and State Legislature and it has nothing to do with aid and facilities. So, I request the Government to include converted Harijan Christians in the list of SC/ST except for the purpose of Constitution.

[Translation]

(iii) **The need to ensure regular supply of electricity to the farmers, particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI HARPAL SINGH PANWAR (Kairana): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 80 per cent population of India depends mainly on agriculture. The farmers can carry on their agricultural activities successfully only if supply of electricity for atleast 16 hours a day for agricultural activities and 24 hours a day operating of threshers etc. at the time of harvesting is ensured. Long term schemes should be formulated for increasing the power generation in Western Uttar Pradesh. With a view to ensure adequate supply of electricity to the farmers during the summer season, the Central Government

[Sh. Harpal Singh Panwar]

should direct all the Stated and Union Territories to put immediate ban on the use of electricity for air conditioners, neon signs and for decorative purposes in the cities.

(iv) Need to implement the proposed 'Mewar complex scheme' in Rajasthan for promoting tourism in the State

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the history of Mewar is a glorified in the Indian History. The people from all over the world come to study the valour of the people of Mewar. The life and struggle of Maharana Pratap in Mewar can always be set as an example of bravery. The Tourism Department of Rajasthan Government had got the approval of the Central Government for 'Mewar Complex Scheme' in the year 1978-79 for the development of places connected with his life e.g. Rajtilak, Gogunda, Battlefield of Haldi Ghati, Chhitaur, Kumbholgarh and his last capital Chavand. An amount of Rs. 2 crores was sanctioned for various development works, but no development work has been done so far. I request the Government to take immediate action for undertaking the development works there.

[English]

(v) Need to take steps to control mulberry disease to save the mulberry growers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu from total ruin

SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga): TURKA, a serious disease of mulberry is caused by the feeding of the mealbug *MACONELLI COCCUS HIRSUTUS*. These bugs ravage the tender leaves and shoots. The affected parts become coppery green, then a pale yellow and finally so hard and crisp that the leaves do not open.

At present this disease is on its ram-

page in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. This disease has caused retarded growth of silk worms and reduction in the weight of the cocoon. Controlling this mealbug, the causative agent of Tukra, through conventional insecticides is not possible because of the ill-effects of residues on the silk-worm, especially on the younger ones, even after a fortnight of application.

According to research studies spraying of dichlorvos and fishal rosin soap can help in the control of the disease.

I, therefore, urge upon the Centre, to take immediate steps to control the disease and to save the mulberry growers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu from ruin.

(vi) Need to ensure adequate and regular supply of all essential commodities through public distribution system

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar): Sir, the Public Distribution system which was added as a new item of the Minimum Needs Programme in the Seventh Five Year Plan from 1987-88 onwards has its network spread all over the country and the Central Government has been discharging the responsibility of procurement and supply of seven essential commodities viz. wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, controlled cloth, kerosene and soft coke at reasonable prices. But it is the common experience of the people that the public distribution system, as it stands now, suffers from various limitations. Firstly, it does not cover the entire population. Secondly, supply of the commodities is inadequate and irregular, thirdly there always remains a gap between allotment and supply to the States and Union Territories. Fourthly, the quality of the articles particularly that of rice supplied is not always up to the standard, and lastly, the prices are not adequately subsidised. Moreover, the Central Government is yet to take the responsibility of supplying at least seven more items of daily necessities.