

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER ; Shri C. Janga Reddy . . . Now we will take up matters under Rule 377.

15.09 hrs

[Translations]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Shortage of black and white roll photo films in Kerala.

* SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palaghat)* : I would draw the attention of the Government to certain problems being faced by the photographers of Kerala.

There are more than 10,000 families in Kerala which depend on photography for their livelihood. Their profession is facing a crisis, due mainly to the shortage of black and white roll films. In 1984, the Government had on the basis of a report from the Hindustan Photo Films Company banned the import of black and white roll film. With the ban the price of this film went up from Rs. 15 to Rs. 40/-.

As a matter of fact the Hindustan Photo Film Company does not have the capacity to produce enough film to meet the country's requirement. With the imposition of ban, the existing stocks of films found its way into the blackmarket.

Besides, certain trade restrictions imposed by Hindustan Photo Films company have also caused tremendous hardship to the consumers. The condition that paper should also be purchased along with the film can only create more economic burden on the ordinary photographers. The company insists that one packet of paper should be purchased along with 7 rolls of film. In fact even one-fourth of a packet of paper is not required for 7 rolls of film. Because of this insistence, a photographer who buys 7 rolls of film has to spend upto Rs. 352/-. Although the price fixed by Hindustan Photo Film company for its film

'Indu' is only Rs. 15.90, it is selling at between Rs.20 and Rs.24 in the blackmarket. This situation has caused severe financial strain to the ordinary photographers.

Therefore, I request the Government to take the following steps immediately :-

1. Resume import of roll film and thus relieve the shortage.
2. Required quantity of black and white roll film should be supplied to the photographers of Kerala. On the basis of card, each photographer should be given 50 rolls per month at the controlled price.
3. The conditional sales system being followed by Hindustan Photo Film Company should be abolished.

[English]

- (ii) Need for Central Governments taking Comprehensive measures for checking soil erosion in and Orissa providing assistance to the state Government for implementing such schemes.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, under Rule 377 I want to raise following matter of urgent Public importance.

Soil erosion is a serious problem in Orissa. According to the satellite imagery about 47% of the total land surface suffers from soil erosion of some kind or the other. Although erosion through wind takes place all along the coastal regions, erosion through water is the main problem for the State. About 33 lakh hectares of agricultural up-lands which are mostly cultivated with bunds and terraces, suffer from silt erosion. Besides 2.5 million hectares of land are affected by salinity or water logging. In the coastal region, the adjoining cultivated lands are affected by drifting sand dunes through wind erosion.

Unless Central Government implements special schemes in Orissa for soil conservation, erosion will cause further wastage to the agricultural land and the farmers will continue to suffer. There are certain appro-

* speech was Originally delivered in Malayalam.