

12.15 Hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need for a fixed policy for marketing and pricing of cotton to save farmers from ruin**

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : The cotton growing farmers are anxious about the price of cotton this year. Their main difficulties are marketing and downward trend of the price structure. In 1982-83 the cotton production slumped due to the price crash in the previous year, due to an excellent crop of 84 lakh bales, against the next year's crop of only 6 lakh bales. Then the Government imported the same cotton at a higher price due to the shortfall, costing the exchequer very precious foreign exchange. A fixed policy should be formulated every year, according to the need of cotton and prices fixed accordingly.

When the cotton season ended last year in August, the price of leavy staple cotton per candy was around Rs. 7,000, but now the prices have come down to Rs. 5,500 per candy. That means approximately a loss of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per quintal. The Price of cotton is fixed by the cotton growing States on the basis of cost of producing the crop. With the sudden fall in prices, the worst sufferers are the poor farmers. Besides that, their returns are never paid to them on time. As the season is fast ending, the Government should take immediate steps to rectify the faulty policy for cotton marketing and save the cotton farmers from ruin for all times for doing their work too well.

- (ii) **Need for immediate clearance for establishment of Railway Coach Factory at Palghat, Kerala**

SHRI K. KUNHAMBUR (Adoor) : An Export Committee was appointed to identify land for establishing a railway coach factory in Kerala. The Kerala Government indicated Palghat as a suitable place as water, electricity and railway lines were easily available. The Expert Committee, which went into the question, had expressed their satisfaction as to the

suitability of Palghat for such a factory. The former Minister of Railways had also given assurance to establish the factory at Palghat in Kerala.

Unfortunately, some people are making efforts to get the site of the railway coach making factory changed from Palghat. Today Kerala does not have any heavy industry related to railways. Therefore, I would request the Government to give immediate clearance to start work on this railway coach factory at Palghat in Kerala.

- (iii) **Need to reconsider the decision to retrench surplus employees of Delhi Milk Scheme**

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) : About 800 workers, who have worked for a number of years in the Delhi Milk Scheme, are going to be thrown on the roads, just because a State Inspection Unit, consisting of some officers, who are not well acquainted with the functioning of the organisation, has found these employees to be surplus. These employees, who have given their entire life to the organisation, have been found all of a sudden to be surplus. This has caused strong resentment among the other employees. The Central Government must intervene and save the jobs of these 800 employees; otherwise, the situation may go out of control.

The Delhi Milk Scheme is an essential service. The retrenchment of 800 workers will lead to labour unrest. This is against the well established policy of Government. The Government should not do anything which may render hundreds of workers jobless.

I, therefore, request the Minister to intervene so that these workers may be saved from being retrenched.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to take steps to save the pulses crop in Vidisha Parliamentary Constituency areas affected by pests**

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, pulses crops in thousands of acres of land of nearly 90 percent villages of Udaipura, Badi Budani and Nasarullah Development blocks in the