

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

Cotton and Jute Mills in the Gaya district of Bihar is being run by N.T.C. This Cotton and Jute Mill is almost on the brink of closure. The Mill has been running at loss for years together. 400 workers of this Mill have constantly been urging the management of the Mill to develop it and increase the production. They have constantly been urging the management to make available the raw material and replace the obsolete machinery. The workers who insist upon the aforesaid improvements are retrenched. The condition of the Mill is so bad that the workers have not been paid their salary for as many as four months, with the result that the children of the workers are suffering from malnutrition as well as lack of education.

Government should take appropriate action and have the Mill run properly.

[English]

(ix) Directions to Coffee Board to purchase Coffee from producers of Idukki and to provide godown facilities at Idukki

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Sir, I raise the following matter of public importance to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce. In my constituency, Idukki, there are a large number of coffee growers who own small holdings. In fact, a major chunk of coffee produced in Kerala is from Idukki District. Coffee produced by growers is collected by the Coffee Board through their agents. The collection season is from January to March. This year the collecting agents are not able to purchase the coffee from growers on account of the fact that the coffee already purchased by these agents have not been lifted by the Coffee Board. Sufficient transportation arrangements are also not provided by Coffee Board for lifting coffee from pooled depots to main storage depots. This is a period of repayment of loans to the cooperatives and other banks and the farmers are in a predicament. They are not able to sell their yield. I want the hon. Minister to pay his immediate attention to this matter I request him to direct the Coffee Board to take urgent steps to lift coffee

immediately from the pooled depots, purchase the coffee produced by the growers and take necessary steps for providing additional godown facilities wherever necessary in the district of Idukki.

Also as coffee cultivation is not profitable in the present context of high costs of cultivation, I request that the minimum release price of coffee may be enhanced and the excise duty on coffee may be lifted.

13.04 hrs.

REPORT OF NATIONAL TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, hon. Minister, Shri Z.R. Ansari may continue his speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a partly-heard
speech.

The other day while taking part in the debate on the Report of the National Transport Policy Committee, I just had time to meet a few questions which have been raised by hon. Member regarding the port sector. With regard to port sector there is only one point which I just want to clarify regarding minor ports. The management of minor and intermediate ports is the responsibility of the State Governments. The upkeeping and improvement of the minor ports and their development is under the control of the State Governments. But the Working Group on Ports set up by the Planning Commission for the Seventh Five Year Plan has recommended a scheme to provide Central assistance to the States for the development of minor and intermediate ports. Now, those recommendations are incorporated in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The implementation of the recommendation, namely the quantum