

But I would like to make a very broad observation. If any of the Hon. Members has a very clear-cut suggestion that they would like to make to tide over this difficulty, I am prepared to consider it. In fact, there are two issues on which they could suggest; and I would request them also to take up with their State Governments. One is coal to be supplied at soft terms, which I have requested the Chief Minister. Secondly, curing of tobacco could be exempted from power-cut because I am worried in another from which I would like to tell you. There are certain time-bound supplies that have to be effected; particularly, the U.K. has already put the time, that they should be supplied tobacco within such and such time. If there is a power-cut and there is a delay and they do not accept, then the other countries like Zimbabwe, etc., will enter into the field and they will purchase from them and we will be at a loss. Therefore, on these two issues I would earnestly request the Hon. Members sitting on the other side to persuade their Governments to agree.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, there is one point to be clarified...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already replied.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : We are very thankful to Speaker for having given us this opportunity to discuss this very important matter in this House. Though the Minister has clarified certain points, unfortunately, an important point has not been clarified from his side. As far as purchases are concerned, we have brought to your notice that the STC's present prices of Rs. 13.50 for F-1 grade and Rs. 12.50 for F-2 grade to not have any justification, and a minimum of Rs. 15 should be given. Then only the farmers can part away with their tobacco. I have also brought to your notice that the main stumbling block is non-purchase of mixed grades and saline tobacco in regard to which the Government has to take a decision. Otherwise, it is not going to help the farmers and the problem will be there; for months together, it will not be solved. That is what I have brought to your notice. Please take immediate action on that.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : What I was trying to say, the Hon. Member has not properly followed. So far as STC is con-

cerned, STC will participate in the open auction in pushing up the prices and purchasing the tobacco. It is not as though the STC is purchasing at a particular fixed price. I would not like the STC to purchase it at a fixed price. I would like the STC to participate in the auctions to push up the prices.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Unless you give Rs. 16/-, it will not help the farmers.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : How can you say that Rs. 15 should be given ?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Because you have already decided only Rs. 13 50 and Rs. 12 50. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am saying that the STC will help the prices to be pushed up. You also help the prices to be pushed up. You don't stop the auction. If you stop the auction, then the growers will suffer. (*Interruptions*) That is precisely what I am saying. So far as STC is concerned, it will purchase in the open auction

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Matter under 377 Madam, what about the lunch break ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, I propose that we forego the lunch-break.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I think the House will accept this.

13 06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need for providing sufficient funds to the State Government of Karnataka to enable it to take anti-sea erosion measures in Canara district of Karnataka and to prevent its recurrence

*SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK (Kanara): Sea erosion has created a serious problem in

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

many coastal states in general and North Canara and South Canara districts of Karnataka in particular. It is a matter of great concern that the sea erosion problem has been increasing and many new areas are affected by it every year. More than fifteen villages in Karnataka State are facing the acute problem of sea erosion. They are Bengre, Suratkal, Gangelli, Shiravanthe, Sirur, Bhatkal, Kodibaga, Manki, Murdeswara, Kasaragoda, Pavanakurava, Mallukurva, Karki, Rameswara Taggu, Mavinakurva etc etc. The total population affected by sea erosion in Karnataka State is more than twenty thousand. Unless immediate steps are taken to protect these people from sea erosion, the future of these villagers will be in dark. They have already lost their houses, valuable lands. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to provide sufficient funds for construction of sea walls in the affected districts of Karnataka to prevent the recurrence of such calamities.

(ii) Demand for taking necessary measures to prevent the closure of BALCO Ltd.

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, BALCO (Bharat Aluminium Company Limited) which is a Government of India project and Korba Aluminium plant have been set up for regional and industrial development of Mandla, Bilaspur and Shahdol districts of Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the huge deposits of Bauxite there.

The mining of Bauxite is coming to an end in the approved mining area of Raktodadar—Nahundadar. Since 1981-82, the company has been asking the Government for the release of 206 hectares of land out of 987 hectares of land in the area to continue mining activity. If this is not immediately done, it would lead to the following problems.

1. Over 5000 workers in BALCO mines and about 25,000 in the plant will be thrown out of job.
2. BALCO pays about Rs. 3 lakhs to the exchequer by way of royalty. About Rs. 5 crores have already

been deposited in this account. In case the authorities fail to grant the approval, there will be financial loss as well. The ecology of the area will not be disturbed by the approval.

The company has observed all the rules relating to the maintaining of ecological balance. It has planted over one lakh trees of different varieties over an area of 43 hectares where mining was done. This afforestation has helped tremendously in improving the density of trees per hectare. It has risen from 250 trees per hectare to 2000 trees per hectare now.

Keeping in view the above mentioned facts it is requested that the only source of livelihood of 20,000 workers i.e. the Korba Aluminium plant which has been set up at a cost of Rs. 500 crores should function smoothly in the interest of national development. I urge the Hon. Minister to issue necessary instructions to the Madhya Pradesh Government to release 20 hectares of land immediately to the company and favourably consider the allotment of remaining 186 hectares of land to it. If the land is not allotted, there is every possibility of an agitation against the Government in this predominantly Adivasi area, because they are very much concerned about their livelihood. Therefore, I once again request the Hon. Minister to grant approval for the allotment of the said land to carry on mining activity.

(iii) Need to send Senior Railway Officers to Vidarbha to suggest measures for development of railways in that region

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the districts in the country are backward, because they lack even the basic amenities. The Centre is making all possible efforts to develop such districts. It has been found that Railways have an important role in the development of the country, because all those areas are well developed which are connected by the Railways.

Incentives were announced to develop Chandrapur, Garhchirauli and Bhandana