

year's budget Government have imposed excise duty at the rate of 30% advalorem on LDPE/ Laminated cotton fabrics as an anti-evasion measure merely on some apprehension of misuse of the exemption. This decision of the Government is based on some alleged unsubstantiated reports without going through its impact on the small scale units. This decision of the Government has entailed lot of hardship to the small scale units who are only manufacturing LDPE coated/laminated cotton fabrics and are not, in any way, connected with the manufacture of PVC coated rexin and artificial leather cloth like fabrics. This is a grave injustice to these small scale units. Government should have rather taken certain measures to identify these products. According to ICI technology there is a very simple test to differentiate these two plastic materials i.e. LDPE and PVC which are commonly used for coating purposes on cotton fabrics.

There are many other tests of differentiating these two plastics, which can be carried out without any extra cost and even at roadside.

Sir, there are about a hundred units in the country who have LDPE flat film extrusion lamination plants used for making LDPE coated or laminated cotton fabrics. PVC coating is impossible in these plants. There is yet no flat dye in the country to extrude PVC film for coating purposes. As such there is no chance whatsoever for the exemption on LDPE coated cotton fabrics being misused in these LDPE extrusion lamination units. As a result of the imposition of 30% duty these units are suffering for no fault of theirs.

LDPE flat film extrusion lamination units use LDPE in its natural colour. The LDPE coating or lamination of LDPE coated fabrics is neither coloured nor printed nor embossed. To check misuse, if thought advisable, the exemption be restricted to LDPE

coated cotton fabrics where LDPE coating or lamination is neither coloured nor printed nor embossed. This restriction coupled with 'burning' test will surely help in rooting out misuse.

I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to give his considered thought to this.

(II) Need to pay remunerative price to farmers for their produce

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): The cost of electricity and other infrastructure used by the agriculturists is going high and thus the farmers are facing financial crisis.

It is high time that Government should pay immediate attention to the problems of agriculturists.

They should be given remunerative prices for their produce.

(III) Need to lay a new Broad Gauge Railway Line from Lanka to Silchar in Cachar district

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI SUDARSAN DAS (Karimganj): The Hill-Section Railway track under N.F. Railway which operates between Badarpur Junction in Barak valley and Lumding Junction on Brahmaputra Valley main line is century old worn up rail-track and might collapse at any moment. This track consists of 37 tunnels and even Express trains take 12 hours for 165 kms. run in normal weather conditions but during rainy season travelling is a nightmare for the passengers and it is difficult for Goods trains that cater to Karbi Anglog, North Cachar Hill districts, Cachar,

[Sh. Sudarsan Das]

Karimganj Districts, part of Manipur State, Mizoram State and Tripura State. The Railway Board completed a survey long time back to construct a new B.G. Railway line from Lanka Station on the main line to Silchar in Cachar District but the construction work has not yet started. If that is done, obviously this would mitigate the plight and miseries of millions of people living in that area.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Government of India to commence the work of construction of this new line expeditiously.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to enquire into growing irregularities in the functioning of Cooperatives in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cooperative movement is a strong pillar of our country's progress. With this objective in view, the Cooperative movement was started in our country so that helpless and poor farmers and labourers may be benefited. But with the passage of time, evils and corruption have crept in the Department of Cooperatives. Because of this poor farmers are facing difficulties. Many complaints have been received that the loans and fertilizers etc. given to the farmers and others for cultivation purposes by the Department of Cooperatives are shown more than actually given to them. At places, such serious complaints have also been made that fake loans are shown against the names of the farmers. Besides, cases have been reported where even after the payment of the loans by the farmers these are shown as outstanding against their names. All this leads to victimisation of the farmers and there have been cases where the farmers have even

been sentenced to improvement due to this reason.

I request the Central Government that a detailed enquiry should be held with regard to such cases, specially in Uttar Pradesh. There are farmers who have already re-paid their loans but amounts are being shown against their names or there are instances in which more balance has been shown than actually is due. Such things should be set right.

[English]

(v) Need to develop Colachel Port, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Colachel harbour of Tamil Nadu has to be developed at the earliest in the interest of revival of economic activities in the locality. This is the only harbour for Tamil Nadu on the West Coast. This is an ancient historical harbour. This harbour had regular trade and commerce with foreign countries till recently. The importance of this port is at a vanishing stage. The harbour has been neglected for long and its export potentiality has retarded and consequently the people of this area suffer economically. Trade and commerce in the locality would be revived if the port is developed. There is scope for export of marine foodstuffs, fibre, coir and other products from this port as there is no other nearby port. So, I urge upon the Government to take early steps for the development of Colachel port.

(vi) Need to provide adequate funds for the construction of bridges over rivers Khabull and Luhl

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur): Majuli is the biggest river island in the world. It is situated only 35 km. from Lakhimpur district. Due to the absence of two bridges on