

Under the circumstances, I would request the Government of India to take urgent steps immediately to order a moratorium on repayment of all loans taken by the pepper cultivators with relaxation of interest and also abolishing the export duty of Rs. 3 per kilogram imposed recently by the Union Government. If the above two steps are not taken, our pepper production will be adversely affected which will lead to further erosion of foreign exchange.

[Translation]

(xiii) Need to extend crop insurance scheme to fruits and vegetables

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ten scheme proposed to be introduced by Government for crop insurance is welcome, but fruits and vegetables have not been included therein although these are perishable commodities and are most affected by the vagaries of weather. The farmers who produce these commodities are also poor. Therefore, fruits and vegetables should also be covered by the crop insurance scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : You miss the train when you are late, but here I have accommodated you.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : So kind of you.

(xiv) Need to make drastic changes in the management of Keshorath Patan Sugar Mill in Bundi district of Rajasthan

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to draw the attention of Government to the gross mismanagement in the Keshorath Patan Sugar Mills of the cooperative sector located in district Bundi of Rajasthan. The aforesaid mill was previously in the cooperative sector, but was taken over by Government in the wake of many disputes and persistent losses. But ever since the mill has been taken over by Government, the mismanagement has increased all the more. It is increasing losses every year. Non-payment of dues in time to the cane-growers coupled with lack of incentives on sugarcane production are some of the reasons which have given rise to widespread public resentment.

I draw the attention of the hon. Food Minister to it and urge Government to make

drastic changes in the Management of the mill so as to run it efficiently.

(xv) Need to start work immediately on Lalitpur-Banda Railway line

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, sir, the Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh does not have any railway facility. No industry can be set up there in the absence of a railway line. This area is decoit infested and a lot of poverty and unemployment is there. Although Khajuraho is a world famous tourist centre, yet it has not been connected by rail. A railway line from Lalitpur to Banda via Tikamgarh Khajuraho has been proposed and its has also been completed. The propose of about 100 to 125 kilometre length brost the trade and industry in this area. The availability of means of transport will also help in the liquidation of decoits. At the same time, the people will have the facility of transporting through the railways take wood, minerals and other goods worth crores of rupees which are at present transported by trucks. It will prove the way for the development of this backward area. Therefore, the Railway Minister is requested to see that the work on the Lalitpur-Banda railway line is taken up early.

[English]

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order ?

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : Regarding thrusting of national TV programmes on the State of Tamil Nadu, I have already given a notice... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : You have assured me Sir that it would be taken under Rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER : You can read it now if you have got it with you.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : I have already given notice... (Interruptions)