

Notification under Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 and review on the working and Annual Report of the Apparel Export Promotion Council for 1987

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 731 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1987 under subsection (2) of section 17 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4978/87]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1986 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Apparel Export promotion Council. New Delhi for the year 1986.

(3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5979/87]

12.13 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 16th November, 1987, will consist of :

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Consideration and passing of :

(a) The Constitution (Fifty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(b) The High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1987.

(3) Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :

(a) The Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Amendment Bill, 1987.

(b) The Authorised Translations (Central Laws) Amendment Bill, 1987.

(c) The Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(d) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 1987.

(e) The Parsi Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following may kindly be included in the next week's agenda.

In Bihar there were unprecedented floods owing to very heavy rainfall this year. Many railway lines were badly damaged and railway traffic came to a standstill. The Bakhtyarpur-Rajgir line was also submerged and has been closed since long. As a result thereof the pilgrims, tourists and daily passengers visiting Rajgir Nalanda, Padapuri and Bihar Shariff have to face a lot of hardships.

Therefore, the matter regarding immediate repair of all damaged railway lines including the Bakhtyarpur-Rajgir line should be included for discussion in next week's agenda.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The following matters may be please be included in the Agenda for the next week :

(1) Cyclones are occurring very frequently along the coastal line of Andhra Pradesh. Tidal waves in November 1977 have caused colossal damage having no parallel in living memory. This year during the last few days a third cyclone is now threatening the State. The frequent onslaughts by the cyclones are causing huge loss of crops, houses and other assets in additions to loss of human life and cattle population. So the Union Government should undertake indepth study of the causes for frequent recurrence of cyclones in Bay of Bengal along the coastal lines and whether there are any ways and means to reduce the intensity of these cyclones so that the damage is minimal, if necessary, with the collaboration of countries which possess better technical know-how and expertise.

(2) Some of the farmers who lost paddy and other crops due to unprecedented floods in Godavari River in East Godavari and West Godavari Districts have not yet received the compensation under the comprehensive crop insurance scheme. It is most unfortunate that the compensation to affected farmers is not paid even after an year. This made the farmers loss confidence on the implementation of the crop insurance scheme. The Government should also make Revenue village as unit for the "defined area" under the scheme, if the really affected farmers in a village are to be helped because the present norm of treating Taluk/Panchayat Samithi/Mandal is not adequately taking care of the real sufferers.

SHRI SHRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry) : I request that the following may be included in the next week agenda :

Rajahmundry is one of the very important cities in Andhra Pradesh. In addition to its historical importance, it has been developing into a major industrial centre in Andhra Pradesh. About 4 lakhs people are residing in the town. However, the rapid colonisation due to industrialisation of the town is resulting in pollution

of the river Godavari. The drainage water is being released into this river. The pollution of the river is more than 50% due to drainage water. Unfortunately, the town and villages of the Eastern, Central and Western deltas on the down-stream depend exclusively on this polluted water for drinking purposes. Nearly 60 lakhs of people consume this polluted water every day. Because of the use of the polluted water, the people fall prey to various diseases. The polluted water has become a major health hazard in this area. Several dreaded diseases like jaundice and Ameobiosis are spreading very fast. Hence in order to check these dreaded diseases, it is very decessary to save Godavari river water from pollution. The cleaning of Godavari should be taken up at once on the lines of Ganga cleaning project. Also suitable connection scheme should be taken up to carry the effluents to the nearest drainage which is already connected to the sea.

12.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

I request the Union Government which is very much concerned about prevention and control of all sorts of pollutions to initiate action to save the people from pollution of the waters of river Godavari.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : I request that the following may be included in the next week agenda :

25th November is being observed as an 'International Meatless Day' as a mark of respect to Sadhu Vaswani, who was a saviour of the dumb and defenceless creatures and the voice of voiceless birds and animals. He had seen God's image shining in them.

Sadhu Vaswani was a Prophet of Compassion and once exclaimed with sadness "Take my head, but pray stop all slaughter."

The Meatless day campaign is gathering strength and in 1986 in response to the call given by the Sadhu Vaswani Mission in India and abroad, 1.2 million persons had

taken the solemn pledge to remain meatless on 25th November.

On this day last year Municipal slaughter houses in cities like Bombay, Sholapur, Pune, Kolhapur, Rajkot, Junagarh, Baroda, Ulhas Nagar and Cantonment Boards of Pune and Kirkee etc., were ordered to be closed and 25th November was declared the "Meatless Day."

This year on the occasion of 108th Birthday of Sadhu Vaswani the Government of India should initiate action and declare November 25th as Meatless Day and issue directions to all the State Governments and Union Territories to order ban on slaughter of all birds and animals on this day. It would be real tribute to the great saint Sadhu T.L. Vaswani.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of the farmers today is very critical, The Rabi crop was destroyed because of unexpected rainfall and the khariff crop was damaged because of failure of rains on time. The farmer was ruined in both these situations but farmers of some States have met the situation successfully with their hard work and common-sense. I am proud that Punjab is the first and the foremost among these States. In spite of unprecedented droughts sugarcane, cotton and paddy crops were not destroyed. By mobilising additional resources, by buying expensive diesel and by utilising more power and fertilizers, insecticides etc. the farmers were able to save the crops. As a result thereof they had to spend more for producing crops this year. According to the assessment of a high level committee, the farmers in Punjab had to spend Rs. 100 per quintal more this year. In spite of droughts, 3.04 lakh tonnes of fertilizers were utilized this year instead of the usual consumption 2.98 lakh tonnes. Paddy could be cultivated only on 14 lakh hectares of lands instead of 18 lakh hectares. As a result thereof, production went down by 20 to 30 per cent. Tubewells had to be sunk deeper which resulted in an additional expenditure of Rs. 37.50 crores by the farmers of Punjab. In view of all this

it becomes imperative for the Government to provide additional financial assistance. Today the price of cotton has declined by Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 in the open market. First of all, I would request the Government to make arrangements by which the farmers are able to get remunerative prices for their produce, secondly all outstanding loans should be waived, high yielding varieties of seeds should be applied to them to encourage better crops in future and centres for storage of such quality seeds should be established in different places from where the farmers should be able to get supply of seeds conveniently. I want to urge upon the Government that in order to encourage the farmers of Punjab they should be granted a special position and Punjab Government's demand for Rs. 4655 crores as Central assistance for combating the draught situation should be met from the Central exchequer and necessary announcement should be made in this regard immediately and various problems of the farmers should be discussed in the House in the next week.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are three towns in Bastar districts of Madhya Pradesh and the district headquarters of Jagdalpur is the largest among them and has a population of about 80,000. In this district, there is an urgent need for a Fire Fighting Engine. Property worth lakhs of rupees is destroyed by fire but the administration has not been able to acquire a Fire Fighting Engine so far on account of resource constraints which is absolutely essential to extinguish fire. Besides, being district headquarters, high officials, important leaders and Ministers frequently visit this place. At the time of such visits, it is essential to keep a fire fighting engine ready to meet any emergency at the Air strip. The Jagdalpur Municipality has been making constant efforts for acquiring a Fire Extinguisher but all in vain because of paucity of funds. Requests to the State Government have also been made in this regard but no action has been taken so far. Whenever some V.I.Ps visit this area, the fire engine has to be asked for from Bailladeela Project which is at a distance of 122 kms and as such 244 kms have to be covered for bringing the Fire Engine and then sending it back. The expenses

incurred for this purpose till now may perhaps be equal to the cost of one engine. We can just bank upon central assistance now.

Hence, this being Adivasi dominated district, Central Government is requested to accord special grants which should be adequate for acquiring a Fire Fighting Engine.

[English]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda :

The Tibbia Hospital in Delhi today is plagued with mismanagement, apathy and neglect. It lacks the basic facilities and medicines are rarely available in its stores though it is stated to be receiving adequate grant from the Government. So much so that the patients have to buy even a 'syringe' from outside and the staff and the residents in the complex prefer to visit private clinics for treatment. In the Gynaecology departments, no operations are handled. If any complication develops, the patient is referred to other hospitals. The surgical instruments are scarce. Sometime back, a heart-patient doctor, who was operated for some bone trouble, is alleged to have died due to lack of post-operative facilities. There is no Intensive Care Unit or emergency ward in the hospital. Allegedly no doctors are available after OPD duty hours though a House Surgeon is put on duty.

The students are disillusioned and frustrated. The Post-Graduate Course in Unani medicine is yet to be introduced and the students have to go to Aligarh for further education as most heads of departments are themselves merely Graduates or Diploma holders. There is no advance equipment and the professors use their 40 years-old notes for teaching. Out of 120 lectures, only 20-30 are said to be taken in a Session.

The hostel building is in a very bad condition. Dilapidated buildings, inadequate construction and filth are a common sight in the complex.

The College was affiliated with Delhi University in 1977 but the students demand

its taking over for better administration. An agitation in 1983 for this resulted in the death of a student. I would request the Government to go into the entire working of the hospital and to take immediate measures to set it in proper order.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next weeks agenda :

Bombay is an over-crowded city. Number of people are coming to the city everyday from various States of the country for their livelihood. This has created problems like housing, slums, transport, telecommunication and environment etc. It is beyond the capacity of the State Government to make available funds to solve all these problems of Bombay, having limited resources. It is the duty of the Central Government to give special aid to Bombay to solve all the above-mentioned problems in the light of the fact that Metropolitan city of Bombay is considered as mini-India.

There is an urgent need to discuss this matter in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following may be included in next week's agenda.

It has been observed that thousands of villages in Madhya Pradesh have not been electrified so far. Different reasons have been attributed to this state of affairs e.g. shortage of electric poles, cables, D.Ps etc. As regards the rest of India in many cases the entire States have been covered. Such States are Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and two others. I want to request the Government that keeping in view the backwardness of Madhya Pradesh arrangements should be made for the electrification of even the smallest village in this State. I want to suggest that these villages should be electrified with Central assistance at the earliest.

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (i) This House may discuss the need to amend the Urban Land Ceiling Act in the next week.
- (ii) This House may discuss the condition of hospitals in Delhi and other parts of the country and the problems of doctors and para-medical staff for giving proper treatment to the poor and the needy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : I would like to assure the hon. Members who have participated that we shall try to accommodate as many items as we can.

12.30 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE INCIDENT OF 'SATI' AT DEORALA VILLAGE IN RAJASTHAN AND STEPS PROPOSED BY UNION GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SUCH DEPLORABLE INCIDENTS IN FUTURE—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The next item is : Further discussion on the situations arising out of the incident of 'Sati' at Deorala village in Rajasthan and the steps proposed by the Union Government to prevent such deplorable incidents in future." Already, there are many members yet to speak. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to be very brief in order to accommodate many other members to participate. Now, Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan to continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir yesterday while expressing my views on this subject, I was saying that there is vested interest of hypocrites behind the perpetuation of the sati custom. It has no religious basis. Raja Ram Mohan Roy had stated

in 1815 that there is no religious feeling behind the practice of Sati. People follow this custom for their own selfish ends. In order to take over the property of the widow, that she is made to become a sati by force. If she is not willing, lathis and spears are used to force her to immolate herself. The widowed mother is watched away from her children and her property, which rightfully belongs to her children, is usurped by the relatives. Children have to lead lives of orphans and the daughters are forced to become prostitutes. This is the type of self-interest underlying this practice.

The main reason behind Roop Kanwar's murder in Deorala was to swallow the enormous dowry which she had brought at the time of her marriage. When she came to know about it she hid herself in another house but it was publicised that she was going to commit Sati. All the hypocrites, murderers began to collect there. Her husband died at 7.30 and it took 4 or 5 hours to publicise the event. When Roop Kanwar protested she was made to consume liquor and then beaten up and made unconscious before bringing her to the funeral pyre by force. When she regained her consciousness and was unwilling to proceed to the pyre, she was forcibly made to sit on it. When she regained consciousness, she was not willing to go toward the pyre. She was forcibly put on the pyre. She tried to escape from there also, but 8 to 10 mound of wood was put on her. When she started crying in protest 'ghee' and some cloth was forcibly put into her mouth to silence her and in this way she was burnt alive along with her husband. This is how that heinous crime was committed there. The practice of Sati has been condemned in every religious scripture and there is no mention of 'Sati' in any of these texts. We can neither find it in Vedas and nor in the Bible. The hypocrites have started this practice and it should be put to an end at the earliest.

All our social reformers including Gautam Buddha, Mahavira, Chaitanya, Guru Nanak and Mahatma Gandhi have condemned this practice but it is a matter of shame that it is still being practised. This custom of burning the women alive has not yet vanished. I thought that this practice has been done away with but this