

works have also been hampered due to Scheduled Tribes remaining in the Scheduled Castes category and the Scheduled Castes remaining in the Scheduled Tribes category. For example, in Uttar Pradesh apart from 5 Scheduled Tribes all other Tribes are in the list of Scheduled Castes. It obviously is creating many difficulties.

I, therefore, demand from the Government that a comprehensive Bill to amend the aforesaid list should be brought before Parliament.

[English]

- (vi) **Need for completion of inter-State Durgapur-Jamshedpur 400 KV line to meet power requirements of Orissa**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Sir, Orissa has a share of 75 MW from Farakka Supper Thermal Power Project and 30 MW from Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan. To evacuate power from these Stations, there is no direct line to Orissa. In the absence of appropriate transmission lines, Orissa will get its share of power only to a limited extent through D.V.C. and West Bengal transmission system leading to operational and commercial problems. Since Joda-Jamshedpur 200 KV line has already been completed, smooth evacuation of power to Orissa will be possible only after the inter-State Durgapur-Jamshedpur 400 KV line is completed early.

The proposal has been sent by the Government of Orissa to the Centre to complete the above-mentioned inter-State line. I request the Union Minister of Energy to take early steps to complete inter-State Durgapur-Jamshedpur 400 KV line as early as possible. As the power position in Orissa is very critical, this inter-State line should be completed at an early date.

- (vii) **Demand for providing alternative employment to the Yoga teachers being removed from service by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.**

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had in

1980-81 introduced a scheme of yoga teaching in 500 Kendriya Vidyalayas spread all over the country. About 800 yoga teachers were appointed and posted in these Vidyalayas in the pay-scale of Rs. 425-750. They were appointed temporarily and were granted extension on every 30th April till further orders.

The scheme became very popular and the yoga teachers have been awaiting regularisation of their service. But the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan at the instance of the Ministry of Human Resources Development has decided to discontinue teaching of yoga in these Vidyalayas and has decided to terminate the services of these 800 yoga teachers many of whom have become age-barred for appointment in the meanwhile.

I urge the Government to provide these unfortunate teachers alternative employment in the name of justice.

- (viii) **Need for expansion of insurance service in the State of Sikkim.**

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : There is a crying need for expansion of insurance service in the State of Sikkim. Till today the service is minimal. Not much attempt has been made to educate the people of the State on the benefits that insurance schemes bestow to the people and at the same time the much-needed infrastructure has not been set up in the State. The pity is that none of the subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India have undertaken any constructive functioning almost for the last decade in its apportioned fields. It is, therefore, extremely desirable that, to give a fillip to the insurance service, a divisional office needs to be set up at the State Capital, Gangtok, at the earliest. It has been keenly felt that settlement of insurance claims in Sikkim takes a long time giving much hardship to the claimants, as they have to run to the offices which are located outside the State. There is a genuine and legitimate demand of the people of the State that local youths should be given chance for appointment in the offices located in the State. There is

also the need that crop insurance facilities should be extended in Sikkim. This is particularly so in respect of cash crops like cardamom, oranges, ginger and the like. It is to be hoped that the Government would consider these matters sympathetically and take action to spread the benefits that accrue from insurance schemes.

12.25 hrs.

TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we shall take up Item No. 12, Tea (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration.”

The main objectives of the Board, which was set up under the Tea Act, 1953 include besides regulation of production and exports of tea, measures for development of the tea industry, such as increase in productivity, improvement in quality, undertaking research projects, promotion of Indian Tea and provisions of incentives for planned increase in tea production and modernisation of tea industry. For this purpose the Board incurs expenditure on tea promotion activities and number of other schemes. In order to defray this expenditure there is a provision under Section 25 of the Tea Act for levy of cess at a rate of not exceeding 8 paise per kg. Over the years expenditure of the Tea Board has been increasing and rate of cess was increased from 4 paise per kg. to 6 paise per kg. on 27.11.1975 and 8 paise per kg. with effect from 11.8.1978.

The average tea prices in 1978 when cess was fixed at 8 paise was Rs. 14 per kilogram. In 1985 average auction prices were Rs. 25 per kg.

Although the rate of cess levied is near the maximum allowed under the Tea Act, the cess collections are no longer sufficient to meet the expenditure of the Tea Board on its developmental schemes. The shortfall in cess collection in 1983-84 over the net expenditure was of the order of Rs. 47 lakhs, and in 1984-85 was of the order of Rs. 115 lakhs. If the current rate at which cess is levied is maintained, the gap is likely to increase because of a higher level of expenditure envisaged in the 7th plan. Further, the lower cess collections will limit the capability of Tea Board to extend its operations for promotion of tea in India and abroad as well as its developmental activities for increasing production—especially so—in the context of resource constraints with regard to plan outlays.

Taking into account the increase in prices and profitability over the last seven years which has enhanced the capability of the industry to bear a higher rate of cess, as well as the need for increased incentives and expenditure by the Tea Board, upward revision of rate is fully justified. Teas produced in certain weak areas where profitability is low, for which concessional excise duty has been extended, can be exempted from the increased rate and continue to pay a cess at 8 paise per kg. This differential is justified keeping in view the peculiar topography and agroclimatic factors and special developmental needs of the tea industry in these areas.

There is, at present, no express provision in the Tea Act to provide for powers of the Tea Board to write off losses as irrecoverable. The Bill also seeks to incorporate a provision to this effect in the Tea Act.

I take leave of the House for consideration of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration.”

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Sidipet) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank