

12.24 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED
FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT CESS BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of customs on the export of certain agricultural and processed food products for the development and promotion of their export and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection by way of cess, of a duty of customs on the export of certain agricultural and processed food products for the development and promotion of their export and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
I introduced the Bill.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED
FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : On behalf of Shri Arjun Singh I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority for the development and promotion of exports of certain agricultural and processed food products and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority for the development and promotion of exports of certain agricultural and processed food products and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Now we go to next item—Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to declare Mannarked and Chittoor Taluks of Palghat districts of Kerala as drought affected areas

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the severe drought situation prevailing in Mannarked and Chittoor taluks of Palghat districts in Kerala. When there were floods in the rest of Kerala, these two Taluks, particularly, the places like Kozhinjampara and Attapaddi came in the grip of severe drought due to failure of monsoon. The South West Monsoon did not reach this region which is known as the "rain shadow area" of the Western Ghats. Normally, these areas get rain from the North West Monsoon. This year that too has failed. Thus as many as ten villages like Kozhinjampara, Eruthempati, Kozhipati etc. in the Chittoor taluk and seven villages like Palakkayam, Kallamala, Padavayal, Sholayar etc. in Mannarghat Taluk are facing the worst drought condition.

In Attapadi, Harijans and Girijans constitute 39.5 percent of the population. This place was visited by the Prime Minister in the month of September this year. The people are facing miseries due to the destruction of cattle and damage to crops as

*The Speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

a result of drought. Most of the people in this region live on the income from cattle. Today they have lost their chief means of livelihood.

In this situation, I would request the Central Government to declare these two taluks as drought affected areas and take immediate steps to provide relief to the people.

(ii) Need to improve the conditions of hospitals in Delhi and open two new hospitals.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards inadequacy and miserable conditions of the hospitals in the Capital of India.

It has been a long time since Delhi was made the capital of the country. There was a time when its population was confined only to the walled city area of Delhi and there were few hospitals. Later, New Delhi came into existence and along with it some hospitals also. After the independence, the patients have been getting top facilities of world standard in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. But the question arises whether these facilities are adequate.

The population of Delhi has increased manifold now, but the number of hospitals remain inadequate. There has been some expansion in Hindu Rao, Jai Prakash Narayan hospitals etc. but are these hospitals adequate to meet the needs of the increasing population of the Capital ?

Also, the maintenance of these hospitals is very important. Due to lack of the common facilities, sanitation, beds etc., the problems are constantly on the increase.

I suggest that the Government should look into this immediately and one hospital each in Chandni Chowk area and trans-Yamuna Colonies should be opened immediately. If it is not done, then the number of quacks, and nursing homes which are costly will further increase in the capital.

(iii) Need to provide adequate funds for constructing railway lines in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the matter of survey and construction of new railway lines the Eastern Railway has always been neglecting Uttar Pradesh. The glaring examples of this discrimination are (1) the slow work going on in converting the Moradabad-Ramnagar meter-gauge railway line into a broad-gauge line which connects a very large part of Uttar Pradesh into a broad-gauge line, (2) not starting the construction of Rampur-Kathgodam broad-gauge line survey for which had been completed many years back ; (3) Non provision of adequate funds for survey of Tanakpur Ghat-Bageshwar railway line and (4) Non-conversion of Kathgodam-Pilibhit-Lucknow narrow-gauge line into broad-gauge line.

I, therefore, urge the hon. Transport Minister to start immediately, the above mentioned works and provide necessary funds during this plan period.

[English]

(iv) Need to set up TV relay Station on Harsley Hills and Palakonda Hills in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. RAMA CHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : The districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah and Chittoor are served very poorly as far as Doordarshan Transmitters are concerned. The people of these areas are not able to witness the National Programme on T.V. There are two places of very high altitude in these districts.

Horsely Hills in Chittoor District is at a considerable altitude and situated in between the districts of Chittoor and Anantapur. Palakonda hill in between Kadiri and Palivendula is situated at a very high altitude and this is situated in between Cuddapah and Anantapur districts. If T.V. relay centres are set up on Horsely Hills and on Palakonda Hills it will cater to the needs of three districts, namely, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Chittoor districts. So, the