

The backwardness of Bastar is due to illiteracy and lack of facilities like transportation, irrigation, electricity and cottage industries and in this respect it is more backward than the other Adivasi areas of the State. Though the Central Government has declared it an Adivasi sub-plan area and has undertaken developmental activities, yet why has it not been declared as a 'no-industry district' ?

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to declare this Adivasi area as industrially backward district to enable the local educated youth to set up cottage industries and utilise the available forest and mineral resources. This would solve the increasing unemployment problem in the area. Timely action should be taken remedy the resentment among the Adivasis regarding supply of forest and mineral wealth from their area to the industries in other States.

[English]

(vi) **Need to give more financial assistance to Cardamom Trading Corporation and representation to Cardamom growers of Karnataka in the corporation**

KUMARI D. K. THARA DEVI (Chikmagalur) : Sir, to safeguard the interests of Cardamom growers of Karnataka, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 :

Karnataka produces about 1500 tonnes of Cardamom, through majority of small growers. The trade is in the hands of a few vested interests and both the export and internal markets are controlled by these people at the cost of small growers and consumers. They buy cheaply from them and sell it to consumers at abnormal prices. To give a remunerative return to growers and to sell the Cardamom to consumers at reasonable prices, the Cardamom Trading Corporation will have to buy steadily substantial quantity (at least fifty per cent, that is, 700 tonnes) of Karnataka production from June to February (Harvesting time). The Corporation needs about Rs. 5 crores of assistance from the Government as Seed Capital for purchases. The rest can be raised with Banks. At present, the Government has

given an assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs for the Corporation. Rs. 50 lakhs is too meagre to participate in steady buying (to maintain steady cardamom prices), since the unit value of Cardamom on an average is between Rs. 150 and Rs. 200 per kg.

The growers have not been benefited by the C.T.C. as it does not have funds for steady buying and to keep the market steady. The poor performance of the C.T.C. has given ample scope for vested traders to exploit the growers and consumers. The growers of Karnataka are agitated at the functioning of the C.T.C. The full Board of the C.T.C. has not been formed yet. There is no grower's representative to activate the Corporation in the interests of the growers. Therefore I request the Government :

(1) To give Rs. 5 crore as Seed Capital to the Cardamom Trading Corporation; and

(2) To form the full Board, with due representation to the growers from Karnataka as initially C.T.C. is to market Karnataka Cardamom.

(vii) **Demand for a road-cum-railway bridge across the river Krishna to join Repalle and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali) : Repalle in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh and Machilipatnam in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh are just separated by river Krishna to a width of about 4 kms. with their respective railway terminals. Both are very fertile and rich lands with the alluvial deposits of river Krishna. Now there is scanty facility of crossing the river by country boats. This transit is not very dependable and could operate only when there is sufficient depth of water; and in other times people have to reach from one end to the other, only through Vijayawada, contouring a distance of about 120 kms. I have been writing to the Railway Ministry more than often to provide a road cum railway bridge across the river Krishna at any nearest point. This project is economically very sound with good financial returns. Hence, I request the Hon. Railway Minister to evince personal