

13.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to safeguard the interests of caprolactum producing company, FACT, Kerala.**

[English]

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, FACT, Kerala and GSFC, Gujarat are the two companies producing caprolactum in the country. FACT is producing 40,000 - 50,000 tonnes and GSFC, 18,000 tonnes of caprolactum. The total consumption of caprolactum in the country is 75,000 - 80,000 tonnes. So there is a deficit of 20 to 25 thousand tonnes.

Prior to the 1992-93 budget, 80 per cent customs duty was imposed on imported caprolactum. But, after the budget, the customs duty was reduced from 80 to 50 per cent. As a consequence, the price of imported caprolactum came down from Rs. 81,000 per tonne to Rs. 45,000 while the price of FACT caprolactum remained at Rs. 80,000 per tonne. As a result FACT could not compete in the market and 4,000 tonnes of caprolactum valued at Rs. 30 crores accumulated in the godowns of FACT. Imported caprolactum is now capturing the market pushing aside FACT and GSFC. In order to save FACT from this crisis, the following suggestions are made:

1. Allow only the import of caprolactum needed to fill the internal deficit.
2. Importers should be asked to compulsory purchase of FACT caprolactum
3. Anti-dumping rule should be used.
4. A tripartite meeting of the representatives of the Government, FACT and nylon

industries who use the caprolactum should be called for finding a suitable solution to this problem.

5. FACT should be allowed to start nylon and nylon based products.

6. Ammonia plant for FACT should be cleared immediately, so that import of ammonia, a raw material for caprolactum can be stopped by FACT.

- (ii) **Need to check the growing menace of filariasis on the country.**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPANTI (Bengaluru): Sir, An estimated 304 million people in India are exposed to the risk of filariasis infection, according to the latest official figures. Out of these, about 22 million are microfilaria carriers and 16 million chronic filaria cases. States which are most filariasis-infected are Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Bihar as well as the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Orissa has been a breeding ground for filariasis.

In India, filariasis is caused mainly due to the infection of wuchereria benefit transmitted by the culex fatigans mosquito. The present National Filariasis Control Programme in India was launched in 1956, based on the results of experience on pilot projects in Puri district of Orissa. The disease has caused acute social problems, particularly, among unmarried boys and girls. It continues to spread unchecked.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to take necessary expeditious action in this regard.

Thank you.