

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifth Report of the Departments Related parliamentary standing Committee on industry on the status of sponge iron industries.

12.33 1/2 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to set up Industrial Growth centre at kannanore in Kerala

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Kannanore): Sir, the scheme for setting up industrial Growth Centres to help and develop backward areas each state was formulated quite a few years ago and one of the districts identified of this project in Kerala was Kannanore. Land for setting up the Centre in Kannanore has been identified at Koothuparamba but no progress in this regard seems to have been made thereafter and delay will only cause cost escalation and defeat the very objective of the scheme. I therefore, earnestly request the Central Government to ensure allocation of funds for the scheme and to set up the Growth Centre at Kannanore.

12.34 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(ii) Need to declare minimum support price for copra.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, it is a well known fact that coconut is one of the most important crops of Kerala in terms of area, income and employment. Now, the coconut growers are in distress on account of steep fall in prices of coconut and coconut oil. The average annual price of copra was over Rs. 3000 /- per quintal during 1992. Now, the price of copra has come down to Rs. 2,200 /- per quintal. The fall is over 30 per cent. As a result of the steep fall in prices, the income base of coconut growers have been eroded and they are in great difficulties. Majority of the coconut growers are small and marginal farmers.

State Government of Kerala has already requested the union Government to declare a minimum support price for copra at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per quintal. therefore, request the union Government to take immediate action in this regard and save the coconut growers from hardship.

(iii) Need for early completion of work of gauge conversion between Neemach and Ratlam on Western Railway.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: (Mandsaur): The scheme of gauge conversion between Neemach and Ratlam in Ratlam division of Western Railway has been sanctioned and funds have also been earmarked in the budget for the financial year 1993-94 for the same. But for want

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

timely arrangements and inviting tenders, the work could not be started early. Although, work is going on but it is only limited to broadening of some bridge. Work for the major portion of the scheme is yet to be started. The gauge conversion on this route will not only result in heavy increase in the revenue for Railways but also facilitate passenger movement as well as movement of goods trains between Kota Neemach after the gauge conversion. This route is important in the sense that there are Headquarters of CRPF, many cement factories a solvent plant, sugar mills and other industries in this region.

I therefore, request the Central Government to give sufficient funds on priority basis in order to complete this work which will meet the longstanding demand of the people of the region.

(iv) Need for reopening of M/s Raja Textile mill at Rampur in U.P.]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA (Rampur): Mr. Deputy speaker, sir, there is M/s Raza textile mill in my Parliamentary Constituency, which provides employment to 4000 labours but this mill has been lying closed for the labour employed in this mill is about 10,000. During the period of closure these laborers and their families are facing starvation and they are satisfying their hunger by selling of their household items.

The Textile ministry of the Central Government has been contacted verbally and in writing several times but an appropriate action in this regard is still awaited. Even B.I.F.R. has not found a solution to this till now. Several labour organisation have time and again requested the B.I.F.R Verbas lly

as well as in writing for an early action in this regard.

I, therefore, request the central government to ask the B.I.F.R. to revive this mill and also make arrangements for the payment of arrears of providents fund, salary and bonus for the period of last two and half years to the labourers so that they could survive.

(v) Need to include minorities in backward classes and provide them reservation in Government jobs.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATIM (Darbhanga): Mr. Deputy speaker, sir, the condition of minorities in the country is very pitiable. In the absence of their proper development they are separated from the national main stream. Although, a number of committees were formed for the development of minorities but their reports were not implemented in an effective manner. I, therefore, request the Central Government that welfare schemes should be reviewed and considering these peoples backwardness, they should be provided facilities. The Government is also requested that reservation should be provided to them by making amendments in the constitution.

(vi) Need to convert metre gauge Railways line between Siliguri and Alipurduars Junction in to broad gauge.

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government to the fact that the metre gauge line existing between Siliguri junction to Alipurduar is a very old one. The line has got its historical importance. There are a number of tea gardens and important