

The Chief Minister of Kerala has asked for special assistance of Rs.100 crores, but nothing has been given so far. The floods in Kerala have not been abated so far; they are still increasing. The damage to property due to these floods runs into hundreds of crores of rupees.

Again, I would submit that the Minister of Agriculture should visit Kerala immediately. Secondly, whatever amount is possible to be released should be released immediately to the State of Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This matter will be taken up for a discussion today at 4 p.m. Those hon. Members who want to participate in the discussion, can do so at that time.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS-*CONTD.*

(ii) **Industrial Accident at Bokaro Steel Plant**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, It is with deep regret that I would like to announce to the House that on 23-7-1994 an accident took place at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) of SAIL which resulted in the deaths of Thirteen persons.

The facts are that on 23-7-1994 at 1240 hours there was a sudden leakage in the recirculating water line in the Steel Melting Shop No.1 at Bokaro Steel Plant which resulted in the escape of steam and hot water into the atmosphere. This caused

severe burn injuries to 29 persons working in the vicinity of the said water line.

As a result of the accident 13 persons have succumbed to their injuries of whom 11 were contract laboureres, one was a private contractor and one was an employee of the BSL.

Immediately after the accident, all the affected persons were rushed to Bokaro General Hospital. 5 persons were immediately discharged after receiving first aid, while others were discharged in stages. At present, there are 5 persons in the Intensive Burn Unit of the hospital, undergoing treatment.

SAIL has already constituted an enquiry committee under the Chairmanship of Director (Operations) SAIL. The committee is expected to submit its report on 9-8-1994. Government of Bihar has ordered a magisterial enquiry into the incident to be conducted by the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Bokaro.

Management of Bokaro Steel Plant has offered employment to one of the dependents of each of the deceased, besides compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In addition, ex-gratia payments have been sanctioned in respect of all the deceased and injured persons.

The Superintendent (Maintenance) and Manager (Maintenance), who are incharge of the boiler area have been placed under suspension, following the accident, pending detailed enquiry.

Immediate steps have been initiated to further intensify safety procedures

throughout the Plant. The production in the Steel Melting Shop resumed at 1640 hours on 23-7-94. Situation in the plant is normal. The Trade Unions as well as Officer's Association are cooperating in maintaining peace and normalcy.

15. 16 hrs.

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-
GENERAL'S
(DUTIES, POWERS AND
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)*
AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I
beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill
further to amend the Comptroller and Auditor
-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions
of Service) Act, 1971.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: The
question is:

That leave be granted to introduce
a Bill further to amend the
Comptroller and Auditor-
General's (Duties, Powers and
Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA
MURTHY: I Introduce the Bill.

15. 17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need To Set Up Exclusive Cargo
Services And Cargo Planes To
Facilitate Promotion Of Exports
Of Various Agricultural Products**

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH

15. 15 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

[English]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY
(Pedapalli): Sir, I beg to move:

That in pursuance of sub-section (3)
(c) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act,
1948, the members of this House do proceed
to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may
direct, four members from among
themselves to serve as members of the
Central Silk Board, subject to other provisions
of the said Act.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: The
question is:

That in pursuance of sub-section (3)
(c) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act,
1948, the members of this House do proceed
to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may
direct, four members from among
themselves to serve as members of the
Central Silk Board, subject to other provisions
of the said Act..

The Motion was adopted.