

Government on the working of the National book Trust, India for the year 1990-91.

- (25) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-3193/92]

13.43 hrs.

PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND PREVENTION OF MISUSE) BILL.

(i) Report of the Joint Committee

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDHARTHA): I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation of the use of Pre-Natal diagnostic Techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(ii) Evidence before the Joint Committee

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Shrimati D.K. Tharadevi Siddhartha): I beg to lay on the Table the Record of evidence tendered before the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation of the use of Pre-Natal

diagnostic Techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

13.44 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Third Report

[English]

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR (DHARWAD NORTH): I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

13.44 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to protect the Interests of Beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh**

[English]

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH (Raigarh): The Beedi industry which is one of the biggest cottage industries in Madhya Pradesh is passing through a great crisis. The production of Beedies has declined sharply. Several units have already fallen sick. The crisis in the Beedi industry can be judged from the fact that several Beedi manufacturers have shifted their units from Madhya Pradesh to Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The quality of Beedi has also gone

down due to the fact that the Beedi manufacturers are not getting the right quality of tendu leaves for the last two years.

About a million tribals in Raigarh, Sagar, Shahdol and Bilaspur earn their livelihood from beedi industry. The plight of the people particularly in the famine affected Orissa is beyond description. It is regrettable that the tribals following the stoppage of Government purchases were being forced to carry their leaf bags to 40-50 kms away in town to sell them off.

Unless the Central Government prevails upon the State Government to change the Tendu leaf policy and also to liberalise the taxes, the position will go from bad to worse. Lakhs of workers engaged in as many as 600 registered beedi factories will suffer.

I urge the Government to intervene in the matter and improve the plight of lakhs of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh.

- (ii) **Need to ensure that Delhi Development Authority does not hike land prices exorbitantly.**

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): By hiking the land prices at an exorbitant price at the rate of Rs. 1650.65 per metre the DDA has made it difficult for middle and lower middle class sections of the city's population to have a house. This hike will wipe out the co-operative housing movement in the city.

The concept of Group Housing Societies took birth sometime in the early seventies with DDA offering land at a very nominal price of Rs. 54 per square metre. The Authority offered to build roads and trunk services necessary for such areas. Though the land was allotted to several societies, the price of the land continues to escalate from Rs. 110 per square metre to Rs. 975 in 1991 and to Rs.

1650.65 this year.

This enormous hike affects over 200 Housing Societies awaiting land in Dwarka project, coming up on the outskirts of the city. It is omitted that the price of land and cost of development may have gone up by three to five times, but the DDA had hiked up the land prices 15 times.

The new prices have been fixed without any criteria. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter to ensure that middle and lower middle class citizens are not charged exorbitantly by the DDA.

- (iii) **Need to open more cooking gas outlets in several regions, particularly Seoni, Narsingpur and Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people in most of the districts in Madhya Pradesh and particularly in Seoni, Narsingpur and Jabalpur are facing a lot of problems in cooking their food, as a ban has been imposed on felling of trees under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and due to the inadequate supply of kerosene oil.

The distribution of cooking gas connections in these areas is almost nil. The residents of these regions are demanding gas connections on a large scale as an alternative source of fuel. The Petroleum Ministry in neither setting up any gas filling plant at Shahpura, Narouni (Jabalpur) nor is issuing new connections. To stop the felling of trees in these areas, the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Environment and Forests should ensure that maximum number of gas agencies and gas connections are allotted to these areas.