

13.4 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till thirty minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after
Lunch at thirty-four minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the
Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULES 377

[English]

(i) Need to drop the proposal of shifting/closing of Central Food Technological Research Institute, Nagpur.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Sir, Ministry of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY have proposed to shift/close the Central Good Technological Research Institute, Nagpur. The Government of Maharashtra has offered two acres of land and some other facilities for the continuation of this Institute in Maharashtra.

However, the Institute has demanded 50 per cent in the recurring expenditure of the Institute. Since the research work of this Institute will benefit all concerned in the country, it is really unrealistic in demanding 50 per cent recurring expenditure from one State. Furthermore, shifting the Institute at a different place will cause an additional financial burden which is not in consonance with our policy of bringing down the wasteful expenditure

The Government of Maharashtra is constantly pursuing the matter with Central Government. I urge upon the Government to have a realistic approach and give suitable orders for suspending the shifting or closing activity immediately.

(ii) Need to attach an additional bogie to Jhelam Express for transporting Fruit boxes from Pune to Ahmednagar.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL (Ahmednagar): Sir, the boxes containing grapes, pumpkins and pomegranates are sent by farmers of Pune and Ahmednagar districts to Delhi through Jhelum Express. One bogie is specially attached for carrying the luggage and the fruit boxes. I urge upon the Central Government to attach one more bogie to Jhelum Express which would bring fruit boxes of farmers from Pune and Ahmednagar districts.

I would also request that proper arrangements for immediate deloading of fruit boxes be made at Delhi station.

(iii) Need to take steps for raising the price of papper

SHRI PALA K.M. METHREW (Idukki): Sir, the price of Indian papper has reached the lowest point and is most unremunerative now. The farmers incur heavy losses. Four years back, the price was Rs. 60000 per quintal. Since then, the cost of production of pepper including those of inputs have quadrupled but the present price is less than Rs. 3000 per quintal. Peppervines get ruined by fatal diseases on a large scale. Productivity as well as production has gone down tremendously because of the frequent floods, droughts, landslides and heavy erosion in the mountainous district.

Whereas the price of papper in the producing State of Kerala is only Rs. 30 per kilogram, the price in metropolitan cities like Delhi is between Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per kilogram because the middlemen exploit the farmers.

The Government should take immediate steps to fix the minimum price of pepper at Rs 5000 per quintal. Arrangements for bulk purchase and storage by Government agencies, retention till prices rise, deals with paper producing countries, formation of a Pepper Board or Corporation, a large pepper processing industry, steps to enhance internal consumption and measures to increase exports, liberal assistance to farm-