

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to raise the import duty on PVC to the level of other Polymer commodities to pre-budget level**

[English]

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN (Tiruchendur): The PVC manufacturing units are major units in India which provide employment to thousands of people in our country. In my constituency, the DCW (Darngdara Chemicals Works) is the only major industry which provides employment to more than 5,000 people directly and indirectly. They are planning to go in for expansion which will give a proposed employment to nearly 1000 people. In the current year's Budget, the import duty on PVC has been reduced by 40 per cent, while the import duty on other polymer commodities was not changed. Due to this 40 per cent cut in import duty, the trading house imported large quantities of PVC which affects the indigenous companies particularly the DCW Ltd. Where more than three months stocks are accumulated and the company will be on the verge of closure if this trend continues. The reduction on the customs duty on PVC has indirectly helped the trading house abroad and their agents in India at the cost of the smooth working of the indigenous units. After the customs duty reduction on PVC, the indigenous commodity is Rs. 2000 less than the imported goods per tonne which is detrimental to the smooth running of indigenous units.

In spite of the Commerce and Petrochemicals Ministries' recommendations to raise the import duty on PVC to the pre-Budget level, the Finance Ministry is just delaying to safeguard our indigenous PVC manufacturing units in the name of Dunkel policy. It is pertinent that the Government should be aware that the developed countries dumped the PVC in

India at the cheapest rate while in their own countries, the selling price there of is more than double in comparison with the import price to India. So, I request the Finance Minister to raise the import duty on PVC equal to the other polymer commodities at the pre-Budget level.

- (ii) **Need to chalk out a short term Taj Mahal Renewal project under a Coordinated authority.**

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): The poor maintenance of Taj Mahal has discouraged tourists from all over the world. The Archaeological Survey of India, the Agra Municipality and the Agra Cantonment Board can be said to be responsible for the decline of the fame of the Mughal area monument. There is lack of drinking water, shopping complex facility. Even hygienic food is not available. The area is littered with garbage and crowded by hawkers and beggars. There are no guide posts around. The monument of eternal love itself is yellowed by pollutants especially sulphuric emissions from the factories around. The Ministries of Tourism, Railways, Defense and human Resource Development who are jointly concerned try to shift the responsibility of providing facilities like drinking water, clean roads, clean railway station, parking lots and good hotels and for not clearing the place from hawkers, beggars and hoodlums. The surface image of the domes and minars of Taj Mahal can still be preserved if a statutory ban on all industries coming up within 30 Kms vicinity is imposed. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to chalk out and implement a short term Taj Mahal Renewal Project under the a coordinated authority.

- (iii) **Need to set up coach repairing workshop at Nemon Railway Station near Trivandrum**

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): There