

paper board necessitating imports. Big paper mills are making use of all available resources of hard and soft woods and bamboo in the country at very cheap prices. The hand-made paper industry, has not been able to make any dent, as its contribution is not even one per cent to the total paper production in the country.

Faced with a formidable literacy Programme on the one hand and the demand for higher grammage paper and paper boards from other quarters on the other, the only solution seems to lie in the small-scale sector. Certain technological improvements have been recorded in the Paper Industry in the small-scale sector, and it has been found that their application can increase productivity and help bridge the gap between existing production and demand of paper and paper boards.

The small-scale sector cannot afford these improved models of small-scale paper units (tiny units) unless there are certain positive incentives provided for the creation and growth of such units. The matter cannot brook any delay. I would request the Government to look into it immediately and order (1) exemption of small-scale paper units from payment of excise duty in full upto a production of 300 tonnes of paper and paperboard, of any grammage or kind in a year, (2) reservation of manufacture of thicker and coarser varieties like craft paper, Manila paper, Wrapping paper and pulp-board and all other higher grammage varieties, for the small-scale sector, and (3) supply of waste generated in Government offices-waste paper and old records in Government offices, textile wastes, cloth cuttings, etc. in Ordnance Clothing Factories and mills under the National Textile Corporation direct to the small-scale paper units instead of through middlemen. Unless and until these concessions are given, there is no scope for creation of a new sector for producing paper to meet the oncoming crisis.

12.4 hrs.

[SRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL *in the Chair*]

(ii) NEED TO SUPPLY FERTILISERS TO FARMERS ON SUBSIDISED PRICES

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: (Chittoor): Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377.

The prices of the inputs of agriculture are increasing day by day. The labour charges, iron, wood, cement and other commodities are becoming scarce and their price is going beyond the limit. Due to this rise and price of either commodities, the agriculturists are not able to produce the agricultural products without loss and the prices are becoming unremunerative.

To add to this difficulty, recently, the Government has increased the price of urea from Rs. 1450/- to Rs. 2000/- per tonne. The increase is about 40 per cent of the existing price of urea. It is stated in the press that the cost of the nitrogenous fertilisers would also be increased on parity with urea. This rise in the price of chemical fertiliser is most shocking to the agriculturists and they will not be able to take to agriculture without loss. Unless the prices are reduced, there will be much agitation among the agriculturists. Therefore, the Government should not enhance the prices of fertilisers. Some people think that the rise will affect only big farmers who use fertilisers, but it is not so. About 80 per cent of farmers who use fertilisers are small and marginal farmers and they are affected by this rise in price of fertiliser.

The merchants who have purchased fertiliser at a low cost will be benefited by earning lakhs of rupees due to this price rise at the cost of the peasants. The Government should order that the stocks now with them should be sold at the previous level of prices.

[Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu]

Even the U.K. Government which is under pressure through inflation is obliged to agree to higher prices for foodgrains, to be supplied by continental countries through the E.E.C. agreement, just because the European farmers have to be assured of just the remunerative prices. Why should our Government be unwilling to continue the earlier policy of subsidising fertilisers or at least abstain from increasing the prices of fertilisers borne out of petrol products, thus allowing the difference to be treated as subsidy for agriculture? Otherwise, the farmers would be justified to complain that apart from abandoning the earlier subsidy they are being burdened to the tune of Rs. 100/- per hectare through these high prices, a burden which is much bigger than land revenue.

(iii) REPORTED SHORT SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES TO ORISSA AGAINST ALLOTMENTS

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377.

Essential commodities like salt, controlled cloth, sugar, kerosene oil, soft coke and cement are in short supply in Orissa as against their allotments. Against Orissa's requirement of 2 lakh tonnes of salt, it is getting less amount because of non-availability of wagons and because of restrictions for import of salt from Tuticorin. Controlled cloth is not being supplied to the State according to its requirements. Against the requirement of 2000 bales per month, the State got only 892 bales from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

Against the allotment of 57,582 M.T. sugar from 17th December, 1979 to the end of May, 1980, only 48,775 M. T. have been received. So, there is an acute scarcity of sugar in Orissa.

There is also shortfall of kerosene allocation to the State. So far as the

soft coke is concerned, as against the State's requirement of 250 wagons a month, only 22 wagons per month is being supplied.

The Orissa Government have not been given allotment of cement against their full requirement of 2 lakh tonnes per quarter. Only 77,400 tonnes were allotted during April, 1980 to June 1980. The Central Government should look into this and should take urgent and effective steps for ensuring speedy delivery of the allotted quantities of the above mentioned essential commodities to Orissa.

(iv) REPORTED LOCKOUT IN PREMIER AUTOMOBILES LIMITED BOMBAY

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Sir, under Rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter.

The Premier Automobiles Ltd., in Bombay, and makers of the Fiat prototype Padmini car is once again on a lockout. Due to the lockout, the workers of the factory, and the buyers of this car, primarily the taxi drivers, are suffering. After every lockout, the price of the Padmini car is raised.

This fact creates an apprehension that the lockout of the company is due to a sinister collusion between the management and some trade union leaders. The Central Government should intervene immediately and ensure that the factory is reopened.

(v) REPORTED ACUTE SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF RAJASTHAN BORDERING PAKISTAN

श्री मनमूल सिंह चौधरी (बीकानेर) : माननीय केयरमेन, महोदय, नियम 377 के अधीन सूचना ।

सूरतगढ़ तहसील एवं पाकिस्तानी सीमा से सटी हुई अनूपगढ़ तहसील क्षेत्र के अनेक गांव पीने के पानी का गंभीर संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं । सूरतगढ़ तहसील के राजियासर, मोलसर, जारिया डीडवाना, किगदासर, बच्छवारा, करडू, वेवी दासपुरा, कोनपालसर, सांवलसर, भोजसर, एटा, ठुकराना आदि गांवों में हालत बहुत खराब