

with the investment of 29 crores of rupees and 4 lakh tonnes annual production capacity. The industry has not yet gone into production. Similar is the history of the factory at Akaltara in Bilaspur District which has not yet been commissioned.

The contribution of C.C.I. in the expansion of Cement Industry in M.P. should be more vigorous and purposeful. There is a big potential for cement production at Sironj in Vidisha, Hoshangabad, Rewa and Sidhi Districts. This will reduce the cost of production and transportation and also employment to many in backward regions of Madhya Pradesh and bring down the cement prices.

I call upon the Government to pay greater attention to the activities of Cement Corporation of India and bring about a time-bound production programme of cement in Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) PROBLEMS OF COCOA GROWERS OF KARNATAKA, KERALA AND TAMIL NADU

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): Sir, with your permission under Rule 377 I want to make a mention of an urgent matter of public importance.

The agriculturists of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu were able to grow cocoa on a large scale with the cooperation of the Government as well as the non-governmental agencies. Now the growers are in a position to export the cocoa to world market as their produce exceeds the requirements of the country.

Unfortunately, the cocoa growers are now facing a serious crisis as M/s. Cadbury India, who used to purchase the bulk of India's produce have indefinitely closed down their depots with effect from 18.5-1980 due to which there is no market for the cocoa affecting the cocoa growers of three major cocoa producing States.

Added to their misery it is most unfortunate that the Government of India also had abolished the import duty on cocoa in spite of the fact that the cocoa growers in the country are in a position to export cocoa.

Therefore, it is requested that the Government of India should come to the rescue of the cocoa growers and the import of cocoa should be banned and the Central Government should set up an autonomous statutory board like Coffee Board to find out the market for the cocoa and to give assistance to the cocoa growers in all the force in order to eliminate middlemen, in the interest of the cocoa growers or else they will be thrown out of employment and their produce will be wasted putting them into great loss.

(iv) REPORTED NON-AVAILABILITY OF RAILWAY WAGONS TO CARRY SALT FROM THE RANN OF KUTCH

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar): Sir, with your permission under Rule 377 I want to make mention of an urgent matter of public importance.

The little Rann of Kutch produces about 22 per cent of the sea salt of the whole country. About 24,000 labourers work in these salt pans; all of them are my constituents. Vast quantities of salt awaits railway haulage from Kharaghode, Kuda, Halvad and Malia railway stations due to shortage of wagons. With the onslaught of the monsoon rain much damage will be caused if this salt is not immediately transported from railheads. I request the Minister of Railways to look into this immediately and see that wagons are made available before the monsoon arrives.

(v) NEED FOR REVIEWING PRICE OF PADDY

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, with your permission

under Rule 377 I want to make a mention of an urgent matter of public importance.

The announcement of paddy price by the Agricultural Prices Commission for this year as Rs. 95 per cent per quintal of coarse grain is causing much concern to the paddy producers throughout the country.

The Government is well aware that the cost of labour went high and there is going to be a rise of Rs. 25 per cent of chemical fertiliser per bag which is going to raise the cost of production very much.

It has been assured by the Government that in calculating the price of agricultural commodities, the investment and the supervising charges, the rise in cost of living of the producers will also be included.

But in fixing the supporting price of paddy these things were not taken into consideration.

The Andhra Pradesh Government has already recommended Rs. 125 as the support price for a quintal of paddy. I suppose that the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and other Governments also recommended a higher price than the price fixed by the A.P.C.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government to review the situation and revise the support price as desired by the A.P. Government and paddy producers.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled, after Lunch, at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON
ACCOUNT (ASSAM) 1980-81—contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chandrajit Yadav.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: This is the second time that this House is considering the Vote on Account for Assam. I think this provides an opportunity for this august House to consider the serious problems which Assam to-day is facing. Assam and the neighbouring States in that part of our country have been able to get the attention of the entire nation. People feel a lot of concern. The political situation today has become very complicated and very complex.

One of the reasons why people are dissatisfied and becoming impatient, is that this State is one of the most backward States of the country. If you see the *per capita* income of Assam, it is the lowest, but for Orissa. Also, the expenditure incurred in this State during the first four 5-year plans is one of the lowest. To give an example. Assam's *per capita* expenditure in the first 4 plans is Rs. 34 as against Rs. 121.60 in Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 91-90 in Bihar, Rs. 69-60 in Tamil Nadu, Rs. 105-90 in West Bengal and Rs. 43-70 in Kerala. It is very unfortunate that the people in Assam have a feeling that they are being neglected by the Central authorities in Delhi, and that a due share in the matter of development is not being given to them. Rather, it is being denied to them; and, therefore, they had a very serious grouse against the attitude of the Central Government.

There are certain points to prove this: e.g. Assam's share in the total crude oil produced in this country is one-third. At the rate of Rs. 42 per tonne royalty which Assam is being given, they get about Rs. 22 crores. They say Assam, which is producing oil, gets only Rs. 22 crores as revenue, while against that, the royalty given to Barauni on the Assam crude oil is