

country. There is a loss of production to the tune of about Rs. 15 lakhs every day.

I must make it clear that the workers and the management are bound by a tripartite settlement and within that settlement whatever benefits or incentives can be given, have been offered to the workers... (Interruptions) But they are not coming round. I think it will be settled soon. That is my information. But, through you, I would like to request the workers to come back to work in the interests of the country and in their own interests.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Joint Secretary who is on the Board of Directors has given an assurance and how can he go back on his words?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not Question Hour. The Minister has been kind enough to reply to you.

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH: In his case the Minister is present whereas in our cases the concerned Ministers are not here. You kindly make it clear whether the Ministers should remain present to reply to 377 statements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very clear. He is here and he was kind enough to give a reply.

(vi) NEED FOR IMMEDIATE SUPPLY OF RAILWAY WAGONS TO LIFT HIGH GRADE COAL FROM THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL COALFIELDS

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH (Jamnagar): With your permission, Sir, I want to make the following statement under Rule 377.

The reported news that coal on fire as pithead stocks are mounting near mines in Eastern and Central Coalfields due to failure of the Eastern Railway to supply adequate wagons to lift high grade coal. The government should take immediate action before fire breaks out in many areas

threatened. In view of shortage of coal in many parts of the country, this reported fire, if unchecked in time, will upset industrial output in the nation.

(vii) SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURING UNITS PUNJAB

SHRI IQBAL SINGH DHILLON (Jullundar): Under Rule 377, I want to make a statement on the matter of urgent public importance as under:

"That the Sports goods manufacturing units in Punjab State are facing closure due to non-availability and sharp rise in the price of inputs required".

The industry had already reached the export target of 18 crores last year and is expecting to hit the target of 30 crores this year.

But difficulties had been cropped up during the last three months due to export of leather and leather manufactures. This has caused shortage and encouraged thereby rise leather prices. Now this has caused hindrance to compete the manufacturers of sports goods in the foreign market.

Again Karnatak Government has also imposed 100 per cent cess on cane and this has raised the prices of cane steeply, and above all, the supply of Willo wood has also been stopped by the J. K. Government.

There are 500 units in my Parliamentary Constituency namely, Jullundar, employing about 30,000 workmen. These small scale industrial units are very labour intensive and employing skilled labour who is doing the profession for the last fifty years. This skilled labour migrated from Sialkot (now in Pakistan) earned a very good name in the industry in foreign markets after partition of country and took up this profession in Jullundar City and similarly, they enjoy the old reputation in the foreign and internal markets. As 50 per cent of these small