

[Shri R. K. Mhalgi]

Standing crops in about 30,000 hectares were damaged. According to official information the damage is to the tune of 150 lakhs. About 1200 houses had been damaged and 1300 villages are affected. The Government of Maharashtra have started providing relief to the affected farmers and villagers. The Union Government also must come forth for immediate financial assistance to the people affected by natural calamity.

(iii) KERALA GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR RESCINDING OF NOTIFICATION WHICH DECLARED COCONUT HUSK AND COIR FIBRE AS ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): I should like to make a statement under rule 377. Coir industry is one of the traditional industries of Kerala providing employment to lakhs of people in the State. The Government of Kerala have been implementing a programme for self-employment of coir workers through cooperatives with special assistance from the Government of India. The main objective of these programmes is to ensure steady employment and reasonable wages to the coir workers. Availability of raw materials at reasonable price is a *sine qua non* for the success of the scheme. Since certain regulations are highly essential for ensuring adequate supply of coconut husk and coir fibre at fair prices, the Government of India issued the Coconut Husk Control Order of 1973, under the provision of the Essential Commodities Act of 1955. The State Government had also issued orders under D.I.R. in 1977 regulating the price, movement, sale and export of coir fibre. Consequent on the withdrawal of the Emergency, these orders ceased to be in force. The Government of Kerala have requested the Government of India on 15th December, 1978 to issue necessary orders rescinding their notification by which coconut husk and coir fibre have been declared as essential commodities so as to enable the Kerala Government to declare them as essential articles

under the Kerala Essential Articles Control (Temporary Provision) Act.

I request the Central Government to issue necessary orders.

(iv) NEED FOR PROPER PLANNING TO CONTROL FLOODS TO OBVIATE PEOPLES SUFFERINGS.

श्रीमती चन्द्रावती (भिवानी) : जनाबेभ्रात्री, मैं दफा 377 के अधीन निम्न बक्तव्य देना चाहूंगी—“यह कि देश में जो हर मौसम में बाढ़ आने लगी है, वह प्रशासन की अनियोजित व अकाल्पनिक तरीके से है। जंगल काट लिये गये हैं और बरसात के पानी के प्राकृतिक बहाव जो नदियों में मिलता था, उस में रुकावट डाल दी गई है। क्योंकि ज्यादातर बड़े शहर नदियों के किनारे बसे हुए हैं और शहरों के बचाव के लिये प्राकृतिक बहाव पर रोक लगा दी व जंगल काट दिये, जिस से भ्रष्ट साल करोड़ों रुपये की फसलों की हानि होती है व करोड़ों आदमी दुख उठाते हैं।

(v) REPORTED CLOSURE OF BERAR OIL INDUSTRY AT AKOLA FOR WANT OF COAL.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): It is reported that Berar Oil industry, a leading vegetable ghee unit at Akola had to be closed down since 10-2-1979 for want of coal affecting more than 650 workers and many other related economic activities. There are also reports that many other industrial units have been closed down and large number are likely to be closed as a result of acute scarcity of coal in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State affecting thousands of workers. It is also reported that stock position of coal in different power stations in Maharashtra has been affected badly and stands as below as on 20th February, 1979: Nasik—nil, Perli—1 day's stock, Paras—3 days' stock, Bhusaval—3 days' stock, Koradi—6 days' stock, Balharshah—7 days' stock, Khaparkheda—10 days' stock. Daily requirement for all 7 power stations together is 15,000 tonnes, i.e., about 682 wagons (4-wheeler) per day. During recent period, this amount has never been supplied and gradually the stock at each power station has been slowly consumed. Assurance has been given in the past by the Minister of Energy that there is no shortage of coal. The Minister of Railway has given assurance that there is no problem of movement. Yet, the thermal stations are