

of huck to the co-operatives and other fibre producing centres. The export of coir yarn adversely affects the production of coir goods which keeps a heavy demand abroad. Further export of coir yarn is disastrous to the employment of people engaged in coir products and its export.

So, may I demand immediate attention of the Government to the problem of the Coir Industry and the implementation of the Sivaraman Committee Report after discussing with the concerned. I demand immediate ban on the export of coir yarn to protect the coir industry from further ruin.

(iv) NEED FOR A NEW WAGE AGREEMENT FOR STEEL INDUSTRY WORKERS.

SHRI ROBIN SEN (Asansol): With your kind permission, Sir, I wish to make the following statement under Rule 377:

The present attitude of the Steel management has become a matter of serious concern to all. The last four year wage agreement for steel workers has expired on 31-8-78. The agreement had kept provisions for fresh discussion for new agreement one year before the expiry of the agreement. The steel management had deliberately ignored the provisions and called the meeting of the National Joint Consultative Committee for Steel Industry only on 28th July 1978. The workers' representatives have submitted the Charter of Demands by the middle of August 1978 and urged upon the management for a quick settlement. The demands were, *inter-alia*, need-based minimum wage on the basis of the recommendations of the 15th Indian Labour Conference, full neutralisation of the rise in cost of living index, revision of scales, incentive, bonus, PF rules, retirement age, introduction of shift-allowance, enhancement of leave facilities, educational facilities, medical facilities, housing facilities abolition of contract system and absorption of contractor

labourers, etc. The management has given only verbal assurance of a quick settlement but is actually resorting to dilatory tactics to settle issues. The Steel management and the Steel Ministry have lost all credibility as they have gone back from their promises to implement the Study Group reports. The said Study Groups have given unanimous recommendations that include recognition through secret ballot and that was accepted in the plenary session of the Steel union representatives under the Chairmanship of Shri Biju Patnaik himself. It was never implemented. Rupees 35 lakhs have gone waste. The present negotiation also has come to a deadlock because of the Steel management's anti-working class attitude and the Bureau of Public Enterprises pulling of strings from behind. The Government's assurance not to interfere in the negotiation has been flouted and the reasonable demands are being rejected on BPE's instruction. The situation is grave and unrest is being invited in the industry by the anti-worker attitude of the management and the Government. In these circumstances, I urge upon the government to avert a confrontation and help to bring a peaceful and negotiated settlement without any further delay.

(v) ABSORPTION OF DEPUTATIONISTS IN FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY (Calcutta South): Under Rule 377 I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to 5000 employees of the Food Corporation of India. It is a matter of such an urgent public importance and I am happy to note that the Minister of Agriculture himself is here.

The story of the sufferings of 5000 employees serving the Food Corporation of India on deputation for the last 12 years need to be told to the Lok Sabha in the hope that their legitimate grievances may be removed by the Government of India and particularly by the Ministry of Agriculture.