

[Shri R. K. Mhalgi]

requirements of all the foundry units in the State were fulfilled. As a result the foundry units in Western Maharashtra have been starved of coke. The non-availability of railway wagons for transportation of coke has also affected the stock position in the foundry. In addition, it is alleged that there is large-scale pilferage during transportation and the foundries have to pay high prices for the coke. The Association of Indian Engineering Industries has taken up this matter with the Centre. But so far there is no definite move. The hon. Minister concerned should immediately take up the issue and make a statement.

(iv) LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE  
STATE OF MANIPUR

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Under rule 377, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

The deterioration of the law and order situation in the North Eastern Region of the country, particularly in the State of Manipur, resulting in the killing of many youths in the process of operation against the so-called underground elements during the last few days by the CRP forces, should receive the immediate attention of this august House and the Government of India before the situation further deteriorates. The problem of insurgency in the North Eastern areas is not a new thing. Unfortunately, this has not been taken up in the correct manner so that the problem lingers. On the 12th of this month, some Manipuri youths were reported to have been killed in an operation against the underground elements by the CRP. The manner in which the killing took place has caused grave discontent among the general public in Manipur and further reports of such encounters are pouring in, thereby indicating that the situation demands careful and correct handling. The Union Home Minister is requested to intervene in the matter and ask

the State Government to order a judicial probe into the incident so that the sensitive North Eastern areas should not be further provoked by wrong handling of the law and order problems, which do not arise from normal political issues but are deeply rooted in regional sentiments and extreme economic backwardness of the people at large. The solution of these problems calls for not mere police action but also a comprehensive socio-economic programme, which is well implemented. May I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement on the subject at an early date so that the real issue will be identified?

(v) REPORTED DECISION FOR INSPECTION  
OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS BY  
AN INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF SCIENTISTS

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponani): Sir, it is most unfortunate that the Government policy regarding nuclear installations is falling a prey to the US pressure. The Prime Minister had repeatedly assured this House and the entire nation that India's nuclear installations would not be thrown open to international inspection. This assurance, even in the face of the US interrupting fuel supply for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, won wide public approval. The Prime Minister had also assured the nation that if the US did not honour its treaty obligations with respect to fuel supply, India would look to alternative sources of supply. The wide public approbation of the policy has made it a national policy beyond all controversies. But reports have now appeared that an international panel of scientists chosen by India and the United States will examine all types of safeguards on atomic energy establishments. This is a shocking development that signifies a reversal of policy and surrender to the US pressure. The Government owes a detailed statement to this House and, through it, to the entire nation.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 O'Clock.

13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen Hours of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS (AMENDMENT, BILL—Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Pratap Chandra Chunder on the 21st November, 1978, namely:—

“That the Bill to amend the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Kодиyan,

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I am not very happy over the provisions of the amending Bill. As many hon. Members have already pointed out, the amendments suggested do not solve the problem or even the difficulties that are said to have been met with during the implementation of the original Act. By this amending Bill Government proposes to have more officers appointed, and also to empower the State Governments to prohibit prostitution in certain areas.

The original Act came into force in 1958. Its main object was to prevent commercialisation of the vice of trafficking in women and girls. I am sorry to point out that since the Act came into force in May, 1958, our experience is just the contrary. The very same thing which the enactment wanted to prevent is happening. Commercialisation of this vice of prostitution has not only been happening since the enactment came into force, but it is happening on a much wider scale.

Now the basic reason for the prevalence of prostitution and for a large number of girls and women resorting to this kind of life as has been pointed out by the previous speakers, is poverty that exists in our country. I agree with them. Poverty is the basic reason. If poverty is the basic reason that compels a large number of women and girls to resort to prostitution as a way of life, then question arises as to what has been done in order to remove the basic cause. That is my first question.

Unless we tackle the basic problem of large scale poverty and the ever-increasing unemployment—according to the latest information there are more than one crores of educated men in the live registers of the Employment Exchanges of the country not to speak to the uneducated and unskilled labourers both in the urban and the rural areas—so long as poverty is allowed to continue and unemployment is allowed to grow without any check being put on its growth, I do not know how this problem of prostitution will be solved. Now I should say that our experience has shown that this Act has only resulted in harassment and persecution of those people of the lower income group who because they do not have any other resources, perforce have to resort to such a very bad way of life.

Prostitution has now assumed new forms and it has entered higher levels of society. What is happening in the commercial world today? Nobody is caring. Take the posh hotels in our country. Are the Five Star hotels running properly? Is it not a fact that any number of women are available, of course, on payment of specific charges in these posh hotels? What I want to point out is that even the commercial world is using sex increasingly as a way of making easy money.

In some of the business establishments and commercial firms, when people go for placing orders and inspecting the articles produced by those commercial firms, the would-be