

nuously in eight districts, viz. Trivandrum Quilon, Pathanamthitta, Alleppey, Kottayam, Idikki, Ernakulam and Trichur. A preliminary observation made recently has revealed the sporadic occurrence of the disease in all the remaining five districts of Kerala and also the bordering districts of Tamil Nadu. The possibility of the occurrence of the disease in other coconut growing States of India cannot be ruled out in the absence of a detailed survey. There is reason to believe that the spread of the disease to new areas could be correlated with the transport of planting materials from the affected areas as soil transmission has already been established. This malady, if unchecked, is likely to spread to the healthy areas, bring about heavy crop loss and consequent reduction in oil production. In this context, the problem of 'Apple Scab' caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis* is worth mentioning. This malady is found in Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir. In view of its economic importance the Government of India has reckoned it as a problem of national importance. Likewise the root wilt disease of coconut can also be treated as a national problem. I request Government of India to take necessary steps in the regard.

(vi) Need to stop import of rubber in view of sufficient production in the country.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha): Because of the late rains in the rubber growing areas of Kerala the rubber production is more in 1983-84 than expected. The gap of natural rubber production and consumption is reduced. So there is no necessity of further import of rubber to our country. So I request the Commerce Minister to stop further import of rubber into our country.

Labour charges in the rubber estates of Kerala recently increased considerably. So I request the Finance Minister to increase the import duty on rubber to save the marginal rubber farmers of our country.

(vii) Difficulties being faced by Timber trade in Kallai

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA (Calicut) : A very grave situation has developed in Kallai, the world second biggest centre of timber trade. Today over 8000 families of different type of workers are rendered unemployed. The timber industry in the Kallai

region is lying idle because of scarcity of timber. Kallai used to earn crores of foreign exchange for the nation. Today, Kallai and its adjoining areas give us dead look, where thousands of saw mills and other industries were working day and night. The saw-mills are closed and due to this hundreds of jobs linked with timber industry are practically closed. Firewood and saw dust have become a scarcity item and the housewives in the Calicut city and its suburbs are finding it very difficult to find alternative fuel.

This situation has developed due to the implementation of the forest preservation order in a mechanical way. Deforestation is to be prohibited. At the same time, steps should be taken for the survival of the timber industry in Kallai. The Government should draw up some formula to distribute the necessary timber for the industry. Growthless and dead trees can be felled and new ones planted in their place. The quota system of the timber industry must be implemented strictly and the Government recognised timber industry must be guaranteed the required quantity from the Government stores for its survival.

I bring to the notice of the Government the plight of over 8000 families who once upon a time earned money and fame to the entire nation from all corners of the world.

(viii) Need to stop recoveries in certain districts of M.P. in view of destruction of crop and to give financial assistance to affected farmer.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh) : Just as the farmers of MP were expecting a good Rabi harvest, destiny and nature struck a cruel blow in the form of a cold wave, which was severe and unseasonal. In the districts of Guna and Rajgarh there is a cash crop of dhanja. Places like Boenagunj, Chachoda, Khumbraj, Aaron, Raghogarh, Biaora are famous for A I quality of dhanja in whole of India. Besides, the next widely sown crop of chana in these two districts also suffered a cruel blow due to "Tushar" i. e. cold wave. Similarly in places like Machalpur, Zeerapur, the only crop of opium, was also destroyed. The farmers are groaning under this loss.

The State Government which has already done the recovery of land revenue is now engaged in recovering other Tatavi, seed subsidies, bank dues and other recoveries as