

Ramzan. It is feared that due to the short span of time available to the Haj pilgrims their number is bound to be reduced considerably because as per the present arrangement usual number of pilgrims cannot be shifted to the Saudi Arab. It would, therefore, be necessary for the Government to arrange more ships so that usual number of pilgrims can go there. At present only the services of two ships are being utilised for Haj pilgrims. More ships will now be required for this purpose. Apart from the ships, a large number of pilgrims will have to be accommodated by the air services.

I urge upon the Government to ensure that the number of pilgrims going for Haj pilgrimage should not be reduced because of the ban imposed by the Saudi Arabian Government. The necessary arrangement should be made to carry the traditional number of pilgrims to Saudi Arab.

(v) NEED FOR MAINTAINING SENIORITY OF ENGINEERS FROM EX-HYDERABAD STATE TRANSFERRED TO MAHARASHTRA

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Sir, under the States Reorganisation Act, the Government staff was assured of their postings on the same post they had held earlier in the States that were allotted. Unfortunately, in the case of engineers from ex-Hyderabad State, persons who were directly recruited as Class II officers by the ex-Hyderabad State Public Service Commission were denied their seniority and promotions. These engineers filed a writ petition No. 112-114 of 1968 in the Supreme Court of India which also gave a judgment in their favour on 29th September, 1969. All the efforts of these engineers to get their grievances redressed in spite of the Supreme Court judgement have failed.

The Central Government should direct the Government of Maharashtra to do justice in the light of the Supreme Court Judgement to the engineers who have been transferred to their State due to States Reorganisation Act.

(vi) NEED FOR REMOVAL OF ANOMALY IN THE DATES OF HOLIDAYS FOR DUSSEHRA AND DIWALI IN 1982

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The year 1982 is galore with interesting discussions and uncertainties due to certain astronomical and astral combinations. One such incident has created a strange anomaly. A stellar event, occurring after 19 years, has laid to a major controversy concerning the correct dates for Dussehra and Diwali. Based on the Central Government Almanac (Panchang-Patra), the Government has declared September 27 and October 16 as holidays for the festivals of Dussehra and Diwali. It is a well-known fact that the Indian Astronomical Ephemeris compiled some years back by the Calendar Reform Committee has no following, nor public acceptance due to the basic differences on the issue of Sayana and Nirayana calculations. This dialogue has been there for over 70 years, since the beginning of this century and even during the time of Lokamanya Tilak, who tried to popularise the Tilak Panchang.

Over 200 famous astrologers, representatives of Shankaracharyas, Dharma-Shastrie and Pandits from all over the country met at Ahmedabad last year and decided the issue in favour of October 27 and November 15 as the proper dates for Dussehra and Diwali festivals. The State Government of Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal have accepted the verdict of All India Astrologers and Pandits taken at Ahmedabad under the auspices of the Veda-Shala Organisation.

If the Government, therefore, does not reconsider its decision and change the date for these festival holidays, people of Delhi and some Northern States will celebrate a different Dussehra and Diwali, while the country will be witnessing two Dussehra and Diwalis. I call upon the Government to resolve this issue as early as possible and remove the anomaly. The

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

decision has to be in line with the Dharma-Shastri findings and should not be confused with the system of Astral calculations which has rightly or wrongly no following in general public and not backed by the astrologers, Shankaracharyas and Dharma Shastries. An early statement in Parliament on the Government's decision is very necessary on this issue.

(vii) NEED FOR REORGANISATION OF DAIRY BOARD AND CORPORATION

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gokharpur): There have been serious disclosures over the last three years in respect of lop-sided development and implementation of Dairy Development Projects. Large-scale diversion of funds have been reported affecting seriously milk production in the country and leading to dependence on imports. There has also been large-scale imports of dairy equipment. Under Operation Flood-I, one State of Gujarat has been given Rs. 21/- crores as against about Rs. 20/- crores for four important States of U.P., Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab put together. Despite all this, there is a complete failure of milk production only in the State of Gujarat. Under Operation Flood-II, these disparities are being further aggravated due to failure of the Government to check these activities. This calls for thorough reorganisation of Dairy Board and Dairy Corporation. This is a very important issue. Therefore, the Government should take immediate steps to improve the situation.

(viii) NEED FOR EXEMPTION IN EXCISE DUTY ON DIESEL FOR SMALL FISHING TRAWLERS OPERATING IN MAHARASHTRA, GUJARAT AND GOA

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE (Rajapur): The fishermen from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa have come to Delhi to place their grievances before the Government. The Prime Minister has agreed to meet them and accept their memorandum. The fishermen

have earlier communicated their grievances to the Minister for Agriculture.

They have drawn the attention of the Government to the hardships caused to their fishing operations due to increase in the prices of diesel oil on account of excise duty. They have reminded the Government that though there was total exemption of excise duty on diesel in the case of big trawlers, equipped with marine engines of more than 150 HP capacity on the basis of Central Government notification, such exemption was not available for poor fishermen owning mechanised boats of smaller horse power. The fishermen have demanded that exemption on excise duty should be given to those poor fishermen as well and adequate subsidies should be given to them.

I request that the Government should make a statement on the legitimate demands of the fishermen.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I crave your indulgence to make a submission about this matter which is raised under rule 377. Government generally takes considerable time to make its response.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. You write to the Government and convey it to them.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: But since this is a matter of urgent importance which affects the life, work and incomes of poor fishermen, your good officer may be used to request Government to give an early and sympathetic response.

(ix) NEED FOR ENSURING REMUNERATIVE PRICES OF GUR TO FARMERS

श्री बी० डी० सिंह (फूलपुर) : पाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एतद् द्वारा माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का ध्यान एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण कृषि उत्पादन 'गुड़' की कीमतों की ओर आकर्षित