12.58 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRD AND TWENTIETH REPORTS

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(1) Third Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighty-sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Unauthorised Occupation of Railway land.

(2) Twentieth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and thirty-sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Railway Expenditure.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

TEA BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): On behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to move the following:—

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with rule 4(1) (b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members, of the Tea Board subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with rule 4(1) (b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

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13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up the matters under Rule 377.

Dr. K. S. Bhoi.

(i) NEED FOR RESUMPTION OF OIL EXPLORATION WORK IN THE MAHANADI BASIN.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Sir, under Rule 377 I want to bring to the notice of this august House the following matter of urgent public importance.

It has been recently reported in a section of the press that the off-shore exploration work in the Mahanadi basin will remain suspended for over six months, as the rigs which were hired by the Oil India Limited for drilling wells are reported to have left the site a month ago keeping the work unfinished. It will take more than 6 to 7 months to hire new rigs to resume the work. It is possible that new righs may not be available at that time since international firms would start their off-shore and on-shore exploratory work during that period. Moreover, the same fate which forced the ONGC to suspend the exploratory work in the Godavari basin may wait for the Mahanadi basin also due to choppy and strong ocean current just at the time when the monsoon is over. The drill ship *'Perelin'* which was engaged in the Godavari basin is reported to have moved to the Bombay High. This could easily have been diverted to the Mahanadi basin on the coast of Bay of Bengal to keep

the exploratory work going on. I am afraid, if the exploratory work is not completed within a time-bound schedule, it may so happen that the provision of Rs. 100 crores earmarked in the Sixth Five Year Plan may not prove adequate to cover the entire area under exploration in the Mahanadi basin due to inflationary pressure from cost angle and at the last moment the work will have to be stopped due to paucity of funds. With the increase in the price of crude in the international market, the Government should not soft-pedal the progress of oil exploration which would ultimately be detrimental to the valuable foreign exchange reserve of the country. It is, therefore, urged upon the Government that special attention should be paid to oil exploration work.

It is also urged that since the progress of oil exploration work in the Mahanadi basin by Oil India Ltd. is not satisfactory, the job should be entrusted to ONGC. The Seismic Survey conducted by an expert team from the Soviet Union revealed that a vast reserve of oil can be found in both on-shore and off-shore of Mahanadi basin which, when exploited, could serve the nation's oil requirement to a great extent in future. Keeping the gravity and urgency of the issue in view, Government should take immediate steps on a war footing to resume and complete the oil exploration work in the Mahanadi basin without further delay.

(ii) DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL SCILE INDUSTRIES IN BARMER AND JAISALMER

श्री बद्धि चन्द्र जैन : (बाड़मेर) : राजस्थान प्रान्त के सीमावर्ती बाड़मेर एवं जैसलमेर जिले प्रांत के ही नहीं बल्कि देश के सबसे पिछड़े क्षेत्र हैं।

उक्त क्षेत्र में जिप्सम, बैंटानाइट, मुल्तानी मिट्टी, लिगनाइट, राक फास्फेट, चूना नमक, पत्थर आदि के भरपूर भण्डार हैं, जिनके आधार पर कुछ लघु उद्योग स्थापित किये गये हैं और किये जा रहे हैं।

देश में सबसे अधिक ऊन इस क्षेत्र में तैयार होती है। यहां के ऊनी कंबलों ने देश में ख्याति प्राप्त की है। गलीचा एवं जूट पट्टी का उद्योग भी उत्तरोत्तर उन्नति की ओर अग्रसर हो रहा है।

रंगाई छपाई का कार्य बाड़मेर जिले के बालोतरा एवं बाड़मेर नगर में दिनोदिन विकास की ओर अग्रसर हो रहा है और अनेक छोटे उद्योग स्थापित हो रहे हैं।

गवार की पैदावार इस क्षेत्र में बहुत अधिक होती है। बाड़मेर एवं बालोतरा नगर में बवार से आधारित गवारगम लघु उद्योग स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं।

चर्म उद्योग के विकास की बहुत संभावनायें हैं। बालोतरा नगर में 132 के० वी० लाइन एक साल पहले पहुंच चुकी है और बाड़मेर नगर में भी 132 के० वी० लाइन का कार्य तीव्र गति से चल रहा है और उक्त लाइन दिसम्बर 1981 तक पहुंच जाएगी।

बाड़मेर एवं जैसलमेर जिलों में जो कि अधिकतर अकाल से प्रभावित रहते हैं, लघु उद्योगों के विकास और विस्तार से अकाल का मुकाबला करने में सक्रिय सहयोग मिलेगा।

अतः केन्द्रीय उद्योग मंत्री से निवेदन है कि बाड़मेर एवं जैसलमेर जिलों के लघु उद्योगों के विकास एवं विस्तार को विस्तृत करने के लिए और औद्योगिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े क्षेत्र घोषित करें।