

leader Mr. Shanker Guha Niyogi. Now, the management of Bhilai Steel Plant is not allowing them to resume the work. Many of these workers have started eating leaves and grass. It is regretted that the bureaucratic functioning of the management is creating conditions of starvation before the workers. Police is involved in terrorising the workers. The agreement reached between the labourers and the BSP management is not being honoured. Therefore, the Government of India should intervene in the matter immediately and solve the present crisis so that labourers may not face the situation of starvation.

(ix) NEED FOR PROPER UTILISATION OF WAST LAND NEAR THE MOGA RAILWAY STATION.

SHRIMATI GURBRINDER KAUR BRAR (Faridkot): I wish to bring to the notice of the House the case of the railway station of Moga in Faridkot district, Punjab. This is a large piece of land which has been lying unused for years as a result of which it has turned into an uncared for jungle with bushes and shrubs all over. This not only presents an ugly look to the Railway Station and the nearby areas of the Town, but also, provides a kind of shelter to decoits and anti-social elements for their unlawful activities. It also serves as a hide-out for robbers and facilitates their operations in the hours of darkness.

Sir, the Municipal Committee of Moga is willing to develop this area into parks and establish Community Welfare Centres etc. provided they are given possession of the land. Several representations and proposals have been made to the Government in the past for a purposeful development of this land but the Government has not responded favourably so far.

I urge upon the Government to give serious thought to this problem. The Ministry of Railways should either

develop the waste-land and put it to proper use, or lease it to the Municipal Committee for proper development. In this way, the environment around Moga will also present a pleasant appearance.

(x) ADVERSE EFFECT OF RECENT IMPORT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT ON FARMERS IN KERALA PRODUCING CERTAIN COMMERCIAL CROPS.

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): I wish to draw the attention of the House to a matter which will effect adversely the economy of Kerala. The recent import policy Statement made by the hon. Minister for Commerce has created a situation which will result in steep decline in the prices of the commercial crops like cocoa and rubber and the spices like cinnamon, cloves, etc. I do not really understand on what basis the decision to import cocoa, for example, has been taken. The Central Government itself had admitted that Kerala is producing more than enough of cocoa. Not only that, the Government of Kerala, the representatives of the cocoa growers and the Members of Parliament had urged upon the Government that cocoa should not be imported. Similarly, it was also brought to the attention of the Central Government that the import of copra, rubber, and cocount oil should not be resorted to as it would inflict a heavy blow on Kerala's economy. But, all the requests and pleadings have turned out to be a cry in the wilderness. Now, the Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation has stopped procuring cocoa. The reason is said to be that the Federation has incurred a loss of Rs. 75 lakhs. When the Federation has withdrawn from the field there is virtually none to purchase the cocoa in Kerala. If the Cadbury's which was purchasing it previously do not enter the field again,

*The original speech was made in Malayalam.