

[Shrimati Sangogita Rana]

uneconomic operations. Thousands of workers have been rendered jobless these units because of the closure of these units. The mass closure is the result of introduction of a Central Government scheme of total excise exemption to small scale dyestuff units having turnover upto Rs 5 lakhs. The total excise exemption for small scale sector was raised upto a turnover of Rs 7.5 lakhs in the 1981-82 Budget with the result that many dyestuff units sprang up to take advantage of the excise exemption by limiting their production and sales below 7.5 lakhs. These units have captured a lion's share of the market by selling their products 40 to 50 per cent cheaper than the organised sector. The growth of dyestuff units has hit the large scale sector hard and the progressive units whose turnover is more than Rs. 15 lakhs. There is a steady decrease in the capacity utilisation of large scale sector which is bound to affect their prospects.

I urge the Government to rationalise the excise concessions by providing excise exemption to all small-scale units upto a turnover of Rs. 7.5 lakhs and levying 50% excise duty to units whose turnover exceeds that limit in order to save this industry from the present crisis. That would protect the large scale manufacturing units.

(v) ALLEGED SHIFTING OF MATERIAL MEANT FOR CONVERSION OF MANNED MUDKHED RAILWAY LINE

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Sir, I read the following statement under Rule 377:

Some years back, it was assured by Government that the conversion of Manmad-Mudkhed section will be taken up. Accordingly, this section was surveyed and the work was also started some years back. But due to meagre provision

in the Budget, the work could not be completed soon. This was also raised on the floor of both the Houses on several occasions but the Government did not take any action to complete this conversion work from metre gauge to broad gauge.

Now, it is reliably learnt that the offices which were looking after the conversion work are shifted and the material that was to be utilised for this purpose has also been shifted to other places. All these actions of the Railway Board have irritated the people of Marathwada region. Now they are thinking of having an agitation from 16th of this month which may turn violent as this area feels neglected in every walk of life. The promise of Government has also not been fulfilled by the Railway Board which has upset all the sections of the people.

The Government is requested to stay the shifting of offices and material meant for conversion of this railway line immediately and start the work in full swing so that the work may be completed early and proposed agitation in Marathwada region be averted.

(vi) DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ORDERS REGARDING COLLECTION OF SECURITY DEPOSITS TOWARDS TELEPHONE BILL ARREARS IN RATNAGIRI DISTT.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR (Ratnagiri): Under Rule 377, I would like to mention the following:

The telecommunication wing of the Communication Ministry has issued notices to many customers owning telephones to deposit Rs. 500 as security deposit towards the telephone bills. These notices *inter-alia* mention that if the paying habit of the customer is improved, the deposit amount will be refunded after three years or on

closure of phone whichever is earlier. This deposit amount carries no interest. Crores of rupees will be collected this way and used by Government for years without any interest.

The charges of local calls, trunk calls and other deposits have been considerably increased. Moreover, the Department is unable to give satisfactory service to customers. Many a times, telephone connections are cut for not having paid the arrears. To add to all this, the Department is now informing the customers to pay security deposits towards arrears, in order to improve the paying habit of the customers. Such notices are also issued to those who are regularly paying the arrears. This is most insulting and annoying.

In Chiplun town in Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra such notices are issued to more than 50% of the phone subscribers.

I, therefore, request and urge upon the Minister of Communications to reconsider the matter and direct the authorities concerned to withdraw the orders and stop collecting security deposits towards arrears and not to harass telephone subscribers.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Bharatpur): Before I bring my urgent matter for your consideration, I would like to bring to your notice that on all these matters of urgent nature which the Members of Parliament have brought to the notice of the Government, the action taken by the Government is very very late.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): I am supporting his view. Rule 377 has become a mockery.

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : यह बिल्कुल सही कह रहे हैं।

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: When we cannot bring it under any other Rule, we bring the matter under Rule 377. I want to bring something for your consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You kindly read out the statement

(Interruptions)

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : यह बहुत महत्व की बात है। आवास मंत्री सामने बैठे हैं, ये संसदीय कार्य मंत्री हैं, इनको निदेश दिया जाए कि यह हर बात का जवाब दिलवायें। मैंने अब तक 14, 15 नोटिस दिए हैं और अभी तक एक पर भी कार्यवाही नहीं हुई।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this an occasion to mention all this ?

(vii) NEED TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF RESERVATION OF SERVICE QUOTA FIXED FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Bharatpur) : Sir, I would like to bring the following matter under Rule 377:

It has been stated time and again that concession in the form of reservation in Central Government and State Government services, the percentage of reservation fixed for ex-servicemen has not been fully materialised although as per the Government policy, the public sector is also supposed to have reserve quota for Ex-servicemen. After touring most of the States and meeting the Ex-servicemen all over the country I wish to bring to the notice of the concerned State authorities through the Central Government that monitoring of this procedure needs to be done immediately and also smoothen the system in all parts of the country by nominating President of District Soldier Board. All State Governments may please be requested to call for figures