

Mizoram except through open markets at exorbitant prices.

Due to complete failure of harvest as a result of severe drought last year, I personally saw in course of my tours to the interior areas that several villages within the constituencies of Khawbung, Ngopa, N. Vanlaiphai, Sialsuk, Sangau, people practically live mainly on roots, fruits of the jungle trees. They were reduced to near starvations.

In the light of the deteriorating conditions brought about by famine like conditions in Mizoram, I asked the Hon'ble Minister to make comprehensive assessment of the situation, prevailing in Mizoram with regards to the position of essential commodities supply by sending out:—

(1) High level officials team of his Ministry to the present working of public distribution system in Mizoram.

(2) To bring to book all those officials and big businessmen involved who have been indulging in black-marketeerings, profiteering, hoarding, racketeerings and malpractices at the cost of the common people and strong deterrent action thereof.

(3) To effectively revitalise the working of public distribution systems throughout Mizoram and to strictly ensure distribution of such essential commodities to the general public at Government controlled rate.

(vi) NEED FOR PETRO-CHEMICALS
PROJECTS IN KERALA

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam): Sir, under Rule 377, I am making statement.

Kerala has the infrastructure for petro-chemical industry. We have been requesting for petro-chemical projects such as Caprolactum Aromatics and Phenol projects. If these projects are not sanctioned and imple-

mented, Kerala will be facing serious economic and social crisis. The caprolactum unit will cost less if it is granted to FACT and also the aromatic unit will cost much less if it is granted to Cochin Refinery. These units are highly economical and viable propositions, benefiting the entire nation. Many industries will bloom in the South. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to meet this demand of the public of Kerala State and grant Petro-Chemical Projects of FACT. Cochin Refineries and other units without further delay.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): The hon. Member has asked certain particulars about the projects. About the projects, I am in a position to give him certain information, if you permit me to make a statement.

The hon. Member Shri Xavier Arakal has dwelt upon the needs of setting up petro-chemical projects such as caprolactum projects, Aromatic project and Phenol project unit in Kerala. So far as the proposal for setting up of a Caprolactum units is concerned, I am glad to inform the House and also the Member that we have tentatively decided to permit the setting up of 30,000 tonnes per annum caprolactum plant* by FACT Udyog Mandal as diversification of the activities of the Company. The feasibility report for the project is being updated for obtaining investment, approval, etc. Government is also aware of the potentialities of putting up an Aromatics project in Kerala at Cochin. A site selection Committee is presently engaged in studying various aspects of such proposals and as soon as the study is completed, the Government will be able to take a final view of the matter. I may say that Government will give due consideration to the case of Kerala. I am also glad to inform the House that the Government have already accorded investment approval for setting up in Cochin (Kerala) a 40,000 tonnes per

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

annum project for the manufacture of Phenol. The Hindustan Organic Chemicals is implementing the project and they have already initiated action on the project.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: I would like to thank the hon. Minister on behalf of the people of Kerala.

(vii) REPORTED CRASH OF RAW JUTE PRICES /

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

A very serious situation has arisen in West Bengal due to total crash of raw jute prices at the very onset of harvesting season. Price per quintal of raw jute has crashed to Rs. 120 or even less. All the peasant organisations of West Bengal demanded that the minimum price of raw jute be fixed at Rs. 300 per quintal. The support price declared by the Government is Rs. 160 per quintal. Full harvest is yet to begin. Even then the price has gone below Rs. 120 i.e., even below the support price. Jute Corporation of India is neither making commercial purchase nor buying at support price. Reserve Bank of India is refusing to advance adequate money to JCI even for buying at support price. While RBI has advanced Rs. 200 crores to the Cotton Corporation of India neither the JCI nor the West Bengal Government is getting the necessary money from the RBI while Cotton Corporation of India goes for monopoly purchase of cotton, the JCI buys only a small fraction of the crop normally. The Government of West Bengal and most of the peasant organisations are demanding that the JCI must buy 20 lakh bales.

Unless immediately arrangement be made for JCI's large scale adequate advance for that several lakhs of jute growers will be completely ruined. Minister of Commerce has to act immediately to save the situation.

12.00 hrs.

(viii) FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE SPORTS IN INDIA

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Sir, under Rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The Olympic hockey gold medal which India lost 12 years ago at Mexico, returned to its original home yesterday. India managed to conquer Spain by four goals to three in the hockey final of the Moscow Games at the Dynamo Stadium in the capital of the USSR. This is a proud moment for the country. According to reports which have reached here, India played a faultless game and even the rival team acknowledged that the Indians fully deserved the victory. Let us all hope that this victory will start a renaissance in Indian hockey. One also hopes that much more encouragement and facilities will be given by Government to sportsmen and sports institutions throughout the country, so that our sportsmen may compete on equal footing with their counterparts from foreign countries.

I warmly congratulate the victorious and young team led by Bhaskaran which has brought much-coveted laurels to our country, and has definitely given a big morale booster to all our citizens interested in sports.

13.01 hrs.

FINANCE (No. 2) BILL, 1980—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri R. Venkataraman on the 24th July, 1980, namely:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1980-81, be taken into consideration."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE