

[श्री शोखा भाई]

है कि बहुत से यात्री अगर इस कष्ट के कार्यकर्तियों आदि से संबंधित नहीं हैं, तो उनको कम्बल, लंगर वगैरह का प्रबन्ध सुचारु रूप से नहीं हो रहा है और यात्रियों को आपार कष्ट का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

मेरा भारत सरकार से पुनः आग्रह है कि वो भारत की सांस्कृतिक धरोहरों के रख-रखाव व सुविधाजनक वातावरण के लिए कोई ठोस नीति बनाये। बहुत पहले बनाये गये कानूनों में परिवर्तन करें तत्सम्बन्धी प्रशासनिक ढांचे को ठोस बनाये। खेल मंत्रालय की तरह एक अलग से मंत्रालय तुरन्त इसके लिए बनाया जाय।

(ii) EXPLANATION OF LIGNITE RESOURCES IN KAPURDI AND MERTS AREAS OF RAJASTHAN

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Sir, I wish to make the following statement under Rule 377.

There is a huge store of Lignite in Rajasthan, especially in Kapurdi (Barmer District) and Merta Road (Nagaura District). The Rajasthan Government, through its Mines and Geology Directorate has completed the preliminary investigation of lignite deposits in these two selected blocks.

The results achieved so far are very encouraging and it is expected that detailed investigations will be carried out by the Mineral Exploration Corporation in an area of 9 sq. kms. in Merta and 6 sq. kms. in Kapurdi. It has been estimated that these investigations would provide about 30 to 35 million tonnes of reserves in each of these areas. The quality of Lignite available in these areas compares favourably with that of Neyveli. The Kapurdi area should be taken up first, as it is reported that it is more promising.

The Central Mineral Exploration Corporation is requested to take up the work of detailed exploration and the Coal Department of the Government of India requested to provide necessary

funds to the Mineral Exploration Corporation for this purpose.

As Lignite is to be used mainly for power generation, the Department of Economic Affairs and Energy are also requested to consider a long-term collaboration programme with the appropriate foreign organisations not only for the exploration but also for setting up "Thermal Plants" in the area.

The exploitation of the Lignite resources in the desert areas of Rajasthan will ultimately pave for the economic advancement of the State.

(iii) PAYMENT OF ADEQUATE PRICE TO COFFEE GROWERS IN KERALA

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA (Calicut): The backbone of Kerala's economy can be said to be its cash crops like rubber, copra, coffee, tea, spices etc. The Coffee growers in Kerala face a number of problems which can only be properly solved by the timely actions of the Central Government. Of the total coffee estates, Kerala has 51 per cent. The coffee growers are facing a number of problems which is to be solved without delay. They are: (1) Fixing of maximum reserve price (MRP). The principal behind the MRP is that at no given time, coffee should be sold at prices below the cost of production. The cost of production is determined by the Union Finance Ministry by random sampling method. A few estimates in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are taken as representative units and an average is taken. This is an erroneous method. It is a known fact that the cost of production of coffee in Kerala is more than in other States like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Therefore, when an average is taken the high cost of production in Kerala is not reflected. Therefore, following suggestions may please be looked into.

1. The power to fix the MRP should be given to Marketing Committee of Coffee Board. (2) The Marketing Committee of the Coffee Board should be empowered to periodically revise the MRP and the MRP of coffee should be determined in such a manner as keeping to

keep pace with the prices of other essential commodities.

The excise duty on coffee is really an impediment. The excise duty and the export duty should be abolished which will enable the growers to receive the remunerative price returns without prejudice.

Unfortunately the present Coffee Board is constituted with only one representative from Kerala. The robusta growers should be represented on the Board.

(iv) SETTING UP OF POLIO CENTRE IN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PANCHAKARMA AT CHERUTHURUTHY IN KERALA.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): There was a proposal to set up a polio Centre in the Indian Institute of Panchakarma at Cheruthuruthy, in Kerala. It was proposed to provide 50 beds for treating polio-stricken people and provide modern research facilities. The Institute of Panchakarma is under the administrative control of the Central Council for Ayurveda and Sidha. Last year a high ranking officer from this Council had held detailed discussions on this matter in the light of the discussions an estimate was prepared and sent to Delhi for approval. Now, it is learnt that the proposed polio centre will not be set up at Cheruthuruthy. This is an unfortunate decision.

The Institute of Panchakarma was established eleven years ago with the objective of conducting research mainly in paralysis. This is the first Ayurvedic Institute in South India doing research in this disease. There are adequate facilities available here for training in-door patients. The well-known ayurvedic treatment like oil massage, physio-therapy, are performed here. Medicines are manufactured in its own mechanised pharmacy.

In spite of these facilities being available here, it is rather strange that a decision should be taken not to set up the proposed polio centre in this institute. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Health Minister to reconsider it and set up the Centre at Cheruthuruthy.

(v) STEPS FOR BANNING QUARRYING AROUND GOMATESHWARA IN KARNATAKA.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: (Bangalore South): Sri Gomateshwara idol carved of monolithic stone has no parallel in the world. It is on a hillock 600 ft. high. The hillock and 57 ft. high Gomateshwara is one big rock spread over an area of one sq. mile. As per records available the Lord Bahubali (Gomateshara) statue was completed about 1000 years back. It may be remembered in 1980 the 1000th year of Gomateshwara was celebrated and with all devotion and pomp the Maha Mastabhisheka was completed. Nowhere in world there is such a massive figure as that of Sri Gomateswara is found. The idol is perfect and has life and everyone who sees the majestic divine figure will be charmed.

It is regretted that we are allowing damage to this historic divine and wonderful monument.

13.00 hrs.

A large scale quarrying at Gomateswara rock is going on and thousands uncivilised workers are cutting the rock for powerful devil of contractors. The contractors are helped by many vested politicians interested and powerful dynamos are used to break the rock (now they say they are only using gunpowder and stopped the use of dynamite). The vibration as per the opinion of experts will cause damage to Gomateshwara. The objection of the Jain Swamiji at Sravanbelagola is not heard. The complaint of the officers of Archaeological Department is thrown into the wastepaper basket. The protest of all sensible people through press is not heeded. This quarrying has destroyed invaluable ancient inscriptions and a Devi Temple.

The Parliament of our country has to protect and preserve such historical monument as per Act. I strongly urge the Government of India to take effective steps to stop this uncivilised act and save any damage to this world famous Gomateshwara. There is Government order banning quarrying around sacred Hill Vindhyagiri.