

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 Gomateshwara 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 Gomateshwara 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.