

[Shri Buta Singh]

take only the physically-fit and experienced drivers for the DTC. They are being given intensive training. We have our own training school in the Corporation in which training is being imparted to them. Also incentive is given to the driver who renders accident-free service. This is one of the important steps to prevent the recurrence of accidents. Also speed control is there and recently we have introduced the speed control system in the DTC buses and these buses are fitted with the governor so that the driver does not over-speed the vehicle. So, all these steps are taken to see that road safety is ensured and the aspect of prevention of accidents is taken due care of. The hon. Member has made very valuable suggestions and we will certainly fully consider the suggestions made by him. I say this because I am equally concerned about this matter. This House, if it considers better, should give its own views on the malady of this road transport accidents and we will in all sincerity see that whatever amendments are suggested, whatever modifications are suggested in the Motor Vehicles Act, are incorporated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You did not mention anything about the development of roads. Incidentally I have got a press clipping. A conference of experts in the field was held at Roorkee on the 27th October, 1980 and inaugurating the Conference, Dr. Jagdish Narayan, Vice Chancellor of Roorkee University said that the revenue from the road-transport industry has grown from Rs. 135 crores to Rs. 1238 crores annually in the last 15 years. But the expenditure in the same period on road development had been reduced from 65% to 27%. So, this is an important point to be taken note of.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, it is the overall situation, If you add up both the Central as well as the States expenditure, it will work out higher. Moreover, it is a national problem and we must do what best we can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the consideration of the hon. Minister.

14:47 hrs. →→→→→

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

### FIRST REPORT

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Kanpur) : Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of

the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Jute Corporation of India Limited—Shortcomings in the Functioning of JCI.

14:48 hrs.

## ANTI-APARTHEID (UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION) BILL\*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA-RAO): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.”

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I introduce the Bill.

14:50 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) FORESTS LYING NORTH-EAST OF PERUVENNA MUZHI, RESEVOIR OF KUTTAIDI IRRIGATION PROJECT IN KERALA

\*\*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): It is reported that some attempts are being made to clear a five kilometre stretch of very dense forest which lies north-east of the Peruvennamuzhi reservoir of Kuttaidi irrigation project in Kerala.

This forest of 500 hectares is lying in an area from where the Kakkazam dam gets surface water. It is understood that this forest is being cleared for planting rubber under the Kerala Plantation Corporation.

In one hectare of forest, as many as 250 trees with a height of over 30 metres, and a width of over 75 cms. are standing. If this forest is cleared it is estimated that the timber would fetch

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\*\*The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.

Rs. 2 crores. According to the Department of Forestry, some rare species of very hard trees such as *Vayanav*, *irumpakam*, *Churuli*, white pine, white teak, *Akil* etc. which are already disappearing from our forest, are found in this area.

In 1976 there was a move to transfer this forest to the plantation corporation for planting rubber. But, then it was given up as it was then thought that such a move would affect the Kuttiadi project and cause deforestation. Now, there are reports that fresh moves are afoot at the Government level to revive the issue. This forest protects the reservoir from 5 Kms south of Peruvannamuzhi to Kakkazan dam from serious soil erosion. The experts are of the view that if this forest is destroyed the Peruvannamuzhi dam will get choked up with silt. An area of one km. of this forest has already been cleared. This has resulted in silt accumulating in the Peruvannamuzhi dam. If the forest near the reservoir is cleared, then silting will be complete. The Kuttiadi project, with an amount of Rs. 36 crores already having been spent, has quite often failed in providing water to the farmers. Silting in the dam would affect the existence of this vital project. This highlights the seriousness of the problem.

The Peruvannamuzhi forest range originally extended over 8000 hectares. A very substantial area has been cleared for the purpose of cultivation and now it is the remaining 500 hectares that are sought to be cleared. Many rare species of wild animals have become extinct due to clearance of this forest. The remaining animals may also disappear.

Thousands of acres of forest are being cleared in the Vazanand sector which had been declared as a wild life sanctuary. A major part of it has already been converted into eucalyptus plantation. Efforts are being made to convert the rest of the forest also into eucalyptus plantation. Protection of wild life remains on paper and the board that is set up in the forest.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to pay urgent attention to this issue and take steps to stop further deforestation and ensure the safety of Kuttiadi project.

(ii) SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO VARIOUS CENTRAL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government schools are spread all over India.

Children of various religions, irrespective of caste and creed get together and gain knowledge. The books of these schools are printed in New Delhi and distributed to the various States which in turn give it to the Central schools located in various districts. Syllabus remains same all over India. The academic year for the schools is reaching the tail end and many of the students are going to complete their course within a couple of months. But it is a surprise that till date many of the Central schools of Tamil Nadu and other States have not got the prescribed books as it is reliably learnt that the books are not ready from the press. I like to point out that in Coimbatore, Central school students have not till date received some of the prescribed books. Headmasters of these schools return from Madras with a negative reply from the Central Education Authorities. This inordinate delay in getting the books has put the children to a lot of hardships. Many fear that they have to lose a year as they have to write the examination without going through the same. Like 'a stitch in time will save nine' a book in time will save many children from failing in the examination. This delay can be avoided by regionalising the printing in various States as many other States do have Central printing presses. There may not be any problem in implementing this as the syllabus is same all over India. There is a Central Government press in Madras and Periyanaikan Palayam of Coimbatore. The Government can give instructions to print the books in the above presses for Central schools so that unnecessary delay can be avoided and transport expenditure can be saved as economy is more vital at this juncture for our country.

(iii) NEED FOR A POST AND TELEGRAPH DIVISION AT BHAWANIPATNA IN ORISSA

\*\*SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi): The people of Kalahandi district of Orissa are facing many difficulties due to the lack of adequate telephonic connections. Ours is a backward district. The present telephone service to the district headquarter town Bhawanipatna is far from satisfactory. I regret to say that the telephone line of Bhawanipatna remains out of order most of the time. Even the telephone subscribers of this town are finding it extremely difficult to make distant calls.

As regards the other blocks of this district, the telephone connections have not been provided to Sinapali, Goamunda and