

[Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar]

Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra to settle the dispute, but in the meantime the Government fell.

Five Members of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly belonging to the 'Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti' withdrew their indefinite fast undertaken in Bombay in August last on the assurance of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra that he would meet the Chief Minister of Karnataka and discuss the same. No effective steps have been taken so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take expeditious steps to settle the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute pending for about 25 years, so that a source of tension between the two States is ended and people from the border areas are encouraged to join the nation's mainstream of political life.

(v) SUPPLY OF DIESEL AND KEROSENE OIL TO FARMERS OF EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) :  
पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर और देवरिया आदि जिलों में रबी की फसल की सिंचाई के लिए कृषि यंत्रों में प्रयोग हेतु डीजल का भीषण अभाव हो गया है। डीजल पम्पों पर किसान कई दिनों तक डीजल के लिए लाइन लगा कर पड़े रहते हैं। डीजल के अतिरिक्त मिट्टी के तेल की भी बहुत कमी हो गई है। ग्रामीण जनता को डीजल और मिट्टी का तेल दोनों ही नहीं मिल पा रहा है जिससे आम जनता और किसान दोनों ही अत्यधिक परेशान हैं। इसलिए सरकार से मैं मांग करता हूँ कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में डीजल और मिट्टी के तेल के अभाव को दूर करने के लिए तत्काल कार्यवाही करें ताकि जनता को उसकी आवश्यकता के अनुसार ये वस्तुएं उपलब्ध हो सकें।

(vi) PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, a very dangerous situation is developing in the newspaper industry with the proposed introduction of electronic computer technology. This advanced technological system has been introduced, in varying degrees, in some newspapers and the industry as a whole is going to adopt this technology in a big way very soon.

This new development is bound to lead to unprecedented industrial confrontation between the employees and the management in an industry which is having more or less cordial relations.

The Hindu has already introduced it fully. Some newspapers like the Times of India, Bombay, the Ananda Bazar Patrika and the Amrit Bazar Patrika of Calcutta and the Indian Express of Bombay have introduced the new technology in varying degrees. Attempts are afoot to introduce this new technology in the Statesman and other newspapers also.

Several other newspapers including the Indian Express, Delhi, and the Patriot, Delhi, have served notices to their employees about their intention to introduce the new technology within a few months.

As a result of these developments, there is a direct threat of mass retrenchment and restriction of job potentialities in the industry.

The import of such machinery is at present allowed under the Open General Licence and the newspaper managements are rushing to put in orders for them. Realising the dangerous consequences which would flow from this development in a country where the employment situation is already too bad, the Government should put a blanket ban on the import of such machinery till this matter is thoroughly discussed among

the representatives of the Government, employers and employees.

I also request the Government to ask the newspaper managements to desist from installing such machinery as also from issuing threatening letters and notices to their staff in this connection pending the finalisation of an agreement or an accord on this issue.

(vii) INQUIRY INTO THE LAST WEEK'S EXPLOSION IN A FIRE-WORKS FACTORY AT GWALIOR.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR (Gwalior): With the permission of the Speaker I want to inform the House that last week's explosion in the fire-works factory at Gwalior has taken as many as 21 lives up till now and more than a dozen are still in precarious condition in the hospital. Amongst the victims are mostly ladies and children; more than half the number is that of the children. Location of the factory is very near—adjacent to a labour locality known as Nimbaji-ki-Kho. No boundary or fencing was there around the factory. No steps were taken to assure security of life. No fire extinguishers or even sand buckets were in the factory and with utter negligence and the connivance of the Explosives authorities, the factory was busy in all such illegal activities. This took a toll of such a large number of precious lives. Some families are completely ruined. One has lost all its four children and the other all of its bread-earners. This accident could be avoided if necessary precautions were taken in due time. I demand an impartial inquiry and punishment to the defaulters. I also demand that proper compensation be paid to the affected families.

(viii) NEED FOR IMPORTING 'BAY 5072-70%', A CHEMICAL TO SAVE CARDAMOM CROP FROM THE *Azhukal* DISEASE, IN KERALA

SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Periyakulam): Cardamom is growth

2860 LS—19.

in 1,17,174 acres of Land in Kerala State and some 80,000 workers are engaged in plantation. Cardamom is the queen of spices and India Supplies cardamom all over the world. Indian cardamom fetches the highest price. In fact cardamom export fetches annually substantial sums of foreign exchange in crores.

Cardamom Board is rendering all assistance to the planters in the matter of fetching remunerative prices in the international market. The Cardamom Planters' Association of Bodinayakanur having more than 1000 members is supplying pesticides insecticides and fertilisers at controlled prices to the planters

Now, besides the natural calamity of heavy rains, the planter is facing the most dangerous threat of *Azhukal* or rot disease, which has spread nearly to 68,000 acres of plantation area. Besides losing valuable foreign exchange, the workers numbering about 80,000 will lose their jobs and livelihood if this disease is not exterminated. There is also the other irremediable consequence of this virus disease spreading to all the 1,17,174 acres of land. It is not difficult to imagine that India would be deprived of this queen of spices, cardamom, for ever this disease is allowed to spread and then the land becomes immune to cardamom growth. During the past ten years the State Government and the Central Government have not taken any steps to control this disease.

The only way to exterminate this disease was to get the Bordeaux mixture at the initial stages of the disease. But now *Azhukal* disease has not only become virulent but also has become violent, during the past ten years. Now 'Bay 5072-70%' W.P. would control this disease. Bayer Company used to manufacture this product, but the basic chemical required for preparing this mixture is not allowed to be imported from Germany. While Bordeaux mixture was