

railway lines and undertakings. It has been stated in this House itself that the all India average of railway line per 1 lakh population is 11.1 kilometres, while that in Kerala is only 4.3 kilometres. Out of the total railway line of 65,000 kilometres in the country, only 900 kilometres are in Kerala. There is no important railway establishment also in Kerala, not even a railway workshop. Kerala is the only state having not even a single railway undertaking.

Now the Railway Ministry is proposing to set up a Railway Coach Factory and a committee under the overall charge of the General Manager, Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, has been constituted for the purpose. Kerala is a state with most acute unemployment problem in the country. If the proposed Coach Factory is established in Kerala, this will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem to a certain extent. Further, electricity is available at cheap rates, skilled and unskilled labour and all other basic facilities and infrastructure required are available in plenty. The Chief Minister of Kerala has written to the Railway Minister in this regard.

Under the circumstances, I request the Railway Minister to consider sympathetically Kerala's claim and take decision to establish the proposed Coach Factory in Kerala.

(vi) DECANALISATION OF IMPORT OF RAW CASHEW NUTS.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN (Adoor) : I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the relentless working of a powerful lobby sponsored by an influential section of private cashew manufacturers of Kerala aimed at decanalisation of the import of raw cashew nuts. The Canalisation of import of cashewnuts through Cashew Corporation of India was introduced in 1970 on the basis of the recommendations made by an export committee appointed by Government of India. Prior to canalisation, fierce competition prevailed in the industry which had resulted in the ruination of a large number of units throwing out hundreds and thousands of employees out of employment. It was to save the industry from this cut-throat competition that canalisation of import and distribution of raw nuts on an equitable basis were introduced. Imported raw nuts were distributed to each factory on the basis of the number of workers employed. Payment of minimum wages and other statutory benefits to workers was also a pre-condition for eligibility of raw nuts allocation by C.G.I. These safeguards have been put into effect to ensure a measure of stability in the industry and to protect the legitimate interests of the workers.

The move to decanalise the import will cut at the very root of these controls and regulations and will revive the old ruinous competition with all its disastrous consequences. The Kerala Cashew Development Corporation which constitutes the largest single unit in the whole cashew processing industry in the country and which runs 34 factories with a complement of 36,000 workers has strongly opposed decanalisation.

Even though there has not been any basic change in the policy of the government, certain recent developments have created apprehension in the minds of the cashew workers and the people at large about the continuance of the policy of canalisation of import of cashew nuts. The sharp fall in the import of cashew nuts by CGI in the current year and at the same time certain private processors succeeding in importing nuts through special permission etc. have strengthened this apprehension. Therefore, I request the Government to reject the demand for decanalisation of import and instead strengthen and improve the activities of the Cashew Corporation with a view to ensure maximum amount of import of raw nuts.

(vii) INCLUSION OF SOME MORE CASTES UNDER THE CATEGORIES OF SCHEDULED CASTES/SCHEDULED TRIBES.

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala) : Under Rule 377, with your permission, I want to make mention of an urgent matter of public importance.

There is persistent demand from scheduled caste and scheduled tribes from all corners of the country that the provision of the Constitution pertaining to reservation in services and other economic and educational concessions are not being implemented in spirit. But there are numerous other unfortunates who inspite of being real member of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes families, are not recognised as such. As a result of which they cannot even put in their claims for such concessions.

The 'Dhobies' are not recognised as scheduled castes in several parts of the country inspite of their unclean occupation. Even the Balmikies of Andaman and 'Chirmars' of Kerala are not recognised as scheduled castes. More than 40 lakh scheduled tribes working in tea gardens of Assam alone are not included in the list of scheduled tribes. Similar is the position in other parts of the country.

On top of it there are some influential and affluent communities, who though never suffered from any social stigma or hatred and were never subjected to any