

ing matter of urgent public importance for the attention of the House:—

Sir, heavy losses of apples due to hailstorms in the rich apple-belt of Himachal Pradesh caused havoc and frustration among the lakhs of apple-growers of Himachal Pradesh.

As against a projected production of 3,50,000 apple boxes this year, the production would be merely 1,88,000 boxes or less than that. It will create a big apple scarcity in the country. The apple-growers sustained a heavy loss since they have spent some crores of rupees for apple production.

The Department of Horticulture in the State, with its meagre financial capacity, cannot meet the loss sustained by the poor apple-growers.

So, Sir, the Union Government may come to their rescue with the financial assistance, so that the poor apple-grower may not leave the cultivation of apple in future, out of frustration and disappointment.

(v) REPORTED PARALYSING OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN KERALA DUE TO COCHIN PART WORKERS' STRIKE.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): **Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I wish to bring the following matter of urgent public importance for the attention of the House:—

The commercial life in Kerala is paralysed due to the strike by the Port Workers in the Cochin Port. About Rs. 50 Crores worth of goods have piled up at the Port and thousands of people have been rendered unemployed.

Almost half of the marine products in the country are exported from the Cochin Port. Goods bound for Soviet Union and Egypt are lying in the Port. These include Tea and Cosmetics, contracted by the Soviet Union for the requirements in connection with Olympics. Similarly, out of the 4,200 tonnes of raw cashew-nuts, imported for distribution among the cashew factories

in Kerala, as much as 2,000 tonnes are lying unloaded. If raw-nuts are not made available in time, the factories will have to be closed down and this will lead to unemployment among thousands of workers. The cold storages are filled with marine products that have piled up at the Port. There are no refrigerated vehicles or other arrangements for carrying out these goods to other ports so that these could be exported. The Port workers have gone on strike demanding holidays on Sunday. The Port authorities have declared the strike illegal and they stick to that position. The Port has already suffered a loss of Rs. 1 crore. Therefore I request the Central Government to intervene and bring about a settlement of the issue.

13.08 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1980-81
GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the General Budget for 1980-81. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta to continue his speech.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I was making some suggestions on the other day, in connection with the General Budget for the year 1980-81, presented by the hon. Finance Minister, I would like to say one thing, that in a growth-oriented budget, we must keep one important aspect in our mind—that is relating to the working class and the wage-earner. Because in every respect, whatever plan we may make, whatever policy we may adopt, whatever direction we may give in the budget, until and unless our machinery is fit-enough to cope with these and to implement them properly, we will not be able to achieve anything at all. Because, what we have seen is that there is lot of growing in efficiency in the administration and there is low

**The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.