

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have given the dates in each case in respect of Air India as also Indian Oil Corporation people. Now it is for the hon. Member to draw his own conclusions.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, this is lunch hour now. Lunch hour was dispensed with this morning only. The Speaker declared this morning only that the Lunch Hour will be dispensed with. That is why they are not present

13.39 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1982."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1982."

The motion was adopted.

13.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kamal Nath ... Not present. These hon. Members who give notice for making a special mention under Rule 377 should see to it that they are present in the House for this. It is not a good practice that after pressing for making a statement they are not present.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): The difficulty is that they do not know the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is no excuse. They should know the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Hon. Member takes the trouble of seeing the papers, it was notified in today's papers that we will be sitting during lunch. Therefore, I am just bringing to the notice of the Members that this kind of lapse should not occur in future. If the Member is absent, then he should write to the Office of the Speaker so that it is known that he is not present.

(i) RECOVERY OF BLOOD PACKS IN GARBAGE DUMP BEHIND THE RED CROSS BHAWAN, NEW DELHI.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): There have been recent reports in the Press about the location in a garbage dump of some human blood packs behind the Indian Red Cross Bhawan, New Delhi.

Blood is donated by people for saving the lives of accident victims and for serious cases where blood transfusion is necessary. It is strange that blood donated to the Blood Bank of the Indian Red Cross should find its way in the form of plastic bags into the garbage.

It appears that for want of adequate storage facilities the blood donated could not be preserved for more than 21 days by the Red Cross organisation and a portion of it had, therefore, been disposed of.

According to the reports red fluid inside the packs found in the garbage contained only red corpuscles with the Plasma removed and that the Red corpuscles could not be utilised as the blood was more than 21 days old.

The point that arises is that if the Indian Red Cross organisation could not utilise the blood donated to it within 21 days, why was it not trans-

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

ferred to other blood banks where it is badly needed or where there are proper storage facilities. In a large city like Delhi, there is acute shortage of blood and surely it is a case of utter negligence to throw away blood packs in garbage instead of sending them to the other blood banks or hospitals where it could be preserved. Even if, there is no demand for blood of certain groups, it is the duty of the authorities concerned to preserve the donated blood for use in future emergencies, in cases where the blood of such groups might be needed.

. It is reported to have been argued that some blood packs were thrown away because it was suspected that the donors were suffering from Jaundice. In such cases the blood should not have been accepted from such donors.

As per the press reports one blood pack containing the rarest blood group was also found in the garbage, and it looked like blood including the Plasma. There could not be any explanation for this sheer negligence on the part of the persons in charge of the Blood Bank.

Blood from which the Plasma is removed should also not be thrown out because such blood is used for transfusion into children suffering from certain diseases.

Certain irregularities were noticed earlier also in the functioning of the Blood Bank of the Red Cross in New Delhi.

The whole matter, therefore, needs urgent investigation. Precious blood donated by volunteers should not be thrown away.

(ii) NATIONALISATION OF JUTE MILLS IN WEST BENGAL IN THE CONTEXT OF ALLEGED LOCK-OUT BY JUTE MILL OWNERS

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
(Panskura): 47,000 Jute workers in

West Bengal have been thrown out of job by lock-out in West Bengal Jute industry. Already 13 jute mills such as Ludlow, Northbrooke, Dalhousie, Hoogly, Empira, Bally No. 1, Bally No. 2, Ganges, Sriram, Gaurishankar, Kelvin, Prabartak, Naskarpara Jute mills have declared lock out. The process is continuing. Out of these 13, five have been locked out in January and February of this year, which is supposed to be the year of productivity. A number of workers died of starvation due to these lock-outs and family members of 47,000 workers are in dire distress. The jute mill owners, it will be remembered, were given nearly Rs. 80 crores by the Central Government for raw jute purchase from jute growers last year. Very little part of that money was utilised for that purpose and the jute growers were terribly hit due to the very low price of their produce.

Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has recently given an open statement asking the Government for declaring jute as sick industry. Obviously they will go on for further lock-outs unless checked by the Government.

Experience of the jute growers, jute workers and the people in general is that the private jute mill owners were only looting the industry, putting both the growers and the workers in distress. The years in which the profit was fabulous they did not act differently and now taking advantage of glut in international market they are moving for getting the jute industry declared sick so that they can get more money from the Government.

But all jute mills workers organisations, including the Federation of Chalkal Majdoor Union (affiliated to AITUC) have urgently demanded immediate nationalisation of jute industry. I urge upon the Government, the Ministry of Commerce to take immediate steps in that regard.