

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

with Rules 4 and 5 of the Central Silk Board Rules 1955, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to be a member of the Central Silk Board vice Shri M. V. Chandrashekara Murthy resigned."

The motion was adopted.

12.46 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF A RUBBER BASED INDUSTRY IN KANYA KUMARI DISTRICT.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Under rule 377, I am making a statement.

Kanya Kumari District is the most suitable and appropriate place in the country for the establishment of Rubber based industries or a tyre factory. Per acre production of rubber here is the highest in our country and qualitatively also it occupies the highest place. It occupies the second place in the quantity of production of rubber. It is next only to Kerala. Though Kanya Kumari District is classified as an industrially backward district, not even a single industry either in the public sector or in the private sector is established here. Other basic amenities are also available there for the establishment of industries. The percentage of literacy in this district is high. There are large number of educated and uneducated unemployed people there. So, government may be pleased to consider the representation favourably by passing early orders for the establishment of rubber based industries or a tyre factory in Kanya Kumari District.

(ii) SUPPLY OF COAL TO ONGOLE IN ANDHRA PRADESH FOR TOBACCO CURING PROCESS.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

Tobacco curing season is from December to March. There are about 35,000 tobacco curing burns in Andhra Pradesh, majority of which are in Prakasam District.

More than three lakh tonnes are required for curing tobacco. Coal indents for the entire requirement of tobacco curing industry are placed with the Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., Hyderabad. This time the above collieries supplied only 75,000 tonnes of coal this year which is not even 1/4th of the requirement.

Though the collieries requested the Railway authorities, they are pleading their inability to supply coal to tobacco growers saying that due to the shortage of production in the coal mines, the railways are moving the entire production to power houses and railways only, on instructions from the Railway Board.

Tobacco curing is seasonal and if coal is not supplied before March this year the tobacco growers will suffer very much. The loss will cross, crores of rupees. That will not only hit the farmers but also affect the Government due to reduction of foreign exchange.

I, therefore, request the Railway Minister to see that at least one rake of coal is moved every day to Ongole to help the tobacco curing process.

I am glad to say that one rake of coal has arrived but many more are needed.

(ii) CRISIS IN CASHEW INDUSTRY IN KERALA

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir; the cashew industry in Kerala which employs 1.5 lakh workers is facing crisis due to acute shortage of imported raw nuts and the systematic attempts by private cashew processors to clandestinely shift the processing to the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka where they could exploit cheap labour.