

The indigenous production of cashew nuts will hardly meet 1/4th of the total requirements of the industry. Hence the industry had to depend on heavy import of raw nuts from African countries. Since 1970, a well thought out and sensible plan was adopted by the Centre by which the import was channelised through the Cashew Corporation of India. This plan was adopted to save the industry from the ruinous and cut-throat competition in which the cashew processors were involved resulting in closure of a number of factories and large-scale unemployment among the workers.

But the trouble again started when the Kerala Government enforced minimum wages and extended other legal benefits to the workers. The bigger processors then deliberately kept some of their units idle rendering thousands of workers unemployed and clandestinely started the processing in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka using the cheap labour available there. To save the industry and the workers, Kerala Government set up the Cashew Development Corporation which took over some of the closed factories. The Corporation has now 35 factories employing more than 35,000 workers.

Government of India now seems to have brought about some changes in the import of cashew nuts. Though they have not amended the basic policy on canalisation of import, they have permitted private cashew processors to import cashew nuts from non-traditional sources subject to the condition that 50 per cent of the import be handed over to the Cashew Corporation of India. This import will harm the interests of the cashew industry in Kerala. The privately imported nuts did not come to Kerala. They were processed outside the State even though the importers are the same cashew manufacturers of Kerala doing the import under different names. At the same time, the request of the Kerala Government to permit the Cashew Development Corporation import of nuts for its own use was rejected by the Centre.

The Cashew Corporation of India is not making all out efforts to increase the import. Last year, the import was almost negligible. Hence I would request the Central Government to take up the issue of import of cashew nuts at the highest level with the concerned African countries and import maximum quantity of raw cashew nuts through the Cashew Corporation of India and make the imported nuts available to the factories. Under no circumstances private processors be allowed to import cashew nuts.

At the same time, I would request the Centre to persuade the southern States to agree to uniform wage rates in the cashew industry so that the cheap labour available in one State will not be allowed to be used to the detriment of the industry in the other States.

(iv) FUNDS FOR DROUGHT AND DRINKING WATER SCARCITY IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI S. A. DORAI SEBASTIAN (Karur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, most of the districts in Tamil Nadu are very badly affected by the drought due to failure of monsoon during the year 1980-81. It is understood that the Central Government would be sending a Fact-finding Team to assess the situation and demand of the worst drought-hit area of Tamil Nadu and the team will submit its report very shortly.

After the 1977 cyclone and heavy flood, the rain completely failed and until now there has been no rainfall in Tamil Nadu State with the result that the drinking water scarcity is prevailing everywhere. The farm labourers, small and marginal farmers, agricultural coolies and wage-earners are on the verge of vacating their villages and even cattles are not able to survive.

Bulls, calves, cows and buffalos numbering more than 1,500 have died in some places of Tiruchirapalli district due to epidemic 'Foot and Mouth' disease. It also appears that the disease is now spreading like wild-fire all over the district. Veterinary Hospitals are

[Shri S. A. Dorai Sebastian]

not having sufficient stock of medicines, vaccines to cure this disease and there is a fear that this disease will capture all the cattles of Tamil Nadu very soon. The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals should study this situation and effective medicines should be sent immediately to save further perishing of cattles.

The Fact-finding team of the Central Government should visit Tamil Nadu immediately and all the relief measures should be rushed-up. More Central-allocation of food, medicine and funds should be made available at once to avoid further destruction of cattles and mankind in Tamil Nadu. 'Food for work programme' and 'National Rural Employment Programme' should be implemented on a war-footing scale to save the village people from starvation.

More funds should be allotted for deepening the dried wells, for sinking new wells and drilling borewells for drinking water purposes, as people are searching for water for miles together. The plight of the village people is unimaginable and pathetic.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to allot interim relief urgently at least up to the tune of Rs. 30 crores as the first instalment before the proposed fact finding team submits its report to the Government.

(v) CLEARANCE OF LEASE PAPERS FOR ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO MEMBERS OF HOUSING SOCIETY IN DELHI

श्री रामबिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ :

भारत सरकार ने दिल्ली में प्रवास हेतु बहुत सी योजनाएँ बनाई थीं। इस नीति के अनुसार पिछले 20 वर्षों में बहुत सी भूप हाउसिंग योजनाएँ स्वीकृत हुई हैं। इन समितियों को जमीन भी पिछले 15-20

वर्षों से दे दी गई है। तब से बहुत सी ऐसी समितियों ने अपना विकास कार्य भी कर लिया है और गाड़ी कमाई के लाखों रुपए जनता ने, जिनमें सरकारी कर्मचारी भी शामिल हैं, इनमें खर्च किए हैं। इनमें से कुछ समितियाँ जो कि वर्ष 1961 में बनी थीं, अभी तक अपने सदस्यों को जमीन नहीं दे पाई हैं। एक ऐसा ही उदाहरण जी मेरे ध्यान में है वह है योजना आयोग एवं सांख्यिकी विभाग के सैकड़ों कर्मचारियों की समिति। इस समिति के सदस्य भी अन्य समितियों के सदस्यों की तरह से शीघ्र जमीन मिल जाने के इच्छुक है, जमीन विकास कार्य भी एक साल से अधिक हुए पूरा हो गया है। उनके मकान बनने की कार्यवाही तुरन्त शुरू हो सकती है अगर सरकारी महकमे कागजात कार्यवाही पूरी कर दें। यह बड़ी ही हास्यास्पद बात है कि देश की योजना बनाने वाले खुद अपने लिए योजना नहीं बना पाए हैं।

ऐसा समझा जाता है कि यह समस्या, आवास मंत्रालय द्वारा लीज पेपर्स क्लियर करने की वजह से है। प्रत्येक सदस्य का रजिस्ट्रेशन भी सहकारी समितियों के रजिस्ट्रार को करना है।

मैं इस विषय में योजना एवं आवास मंत्री से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे स्वयं इस मामले में गौर करें एवं योजना आयोग की समिति के सदस्यों को शीघ्र जमीन एलाट करवायें।

(vi) ELECTIONS TO DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपयी (नई दिल्ली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित विषय आज सदन में उठाना चाहता हूँ :

दिल्ली मेट्रोपोलिटन कौंसिल, दिल्ली को 20 मार्च, 1980 को भंग किया गया था। कानून के अनुसार कौंसिल के चुनाव