

12:52 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

#### (i) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PARAFFIN WAX

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE** (Jadavpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present policy of the West Bengal State Government is to strengthen the Public distribution system with a view to ensure equitable distribution of essential materials including scarce raw materials for the benefit of the community at large. Paraffin wax is one such critical raw material, the distribution of which calls for proper regulation, for elimination of malpractices and misutilisation. But supply, distribution and price of paraffin wax are presently controlled by the Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation, Order, 1972 issued by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. According to Clause 8 of this Order, a licence once granted to a dealer shall remain valid for a period of three years and it may be renewed for a like period of an application being made therefor. This position has been upheld by the Calcutta High Court recently. As a result, the efforts of the State Government to take over the entire distribution of Paraffin wax through the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Ltd., a State Government Undertaking, on the expiry of the licences of private dealers issued for a temporary period of three months, have been frustrated.

The Competent Authority needs to be given powers under Clause 9 of the Order for cancellation, suspension or termination of any licence issued or renewed under provisions of Clause 8 of the Order if any State Government decides to take over distribution of paraffin wax through their agency like a Public Sector Undertaking or any other appropriate agency as may be determined by the State Government concerned. With a view to obviate the possibility of non-utilisation of the

allotted quantity of scarce raw material for manufacture of candles and to forestall racketeering with the same, it is intended to take through the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation, the responsibility of procuring the entire quantity of candles manufactured with the allotted quantity of paraffin wax and of marketing the same directly by the Corporation or through duly appointed agencies.

An amendment of Clause 5 of the Order should be made so as to authorise the Competent Authority to direct the allottees while making an allotment order to sell the products manufactured out of the raw materials allotted to such agency as the Competent Authority may prescribe.

#### (ii) REPORTED SHORTAGE OF CEMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT** (Rajgarh): Sir, in Madhya Pradesh, there is acute shortage of cement and consequently rampant blackmarketing is affecting Government Works building activity, repairs and seasonal agricultural operations. This is most unfortunate since Madhya Pradesh has a lot of potential to produce cement due to availability of raw material.

The performance of the Cement Corporation of India has been very poor in Madhya Pradesh. With the formation of the Cement Corporation of India in 1965, it was felt that the Government would enter the field of consumer industries in a major way, particularly, in Cement.

The inordinate delay is there in preparing project reports of the Cement Factory at Mandher near Raipur, the blocking of investment of over Rs. 5 crores results in the lack of reaching the expected production capacity even in 1980.

Similarly, it is the case with the cement factory at Nayagaon, foundation-stone of which, was laid in 1976.