

Central Government employees' organisations before faking any step affecting their employment.

(iv) FALL IN PRICE OF COCOA BEANS CAUSING GRAVE CONCERN TO FARMERS OF KERALA.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, the alarming fall in price of Cocoa beans is causing grave concern and distress to more than five lakhs of farmers cultivating cocoa especially in Kerala.

The Cocoa cultivation has picked up very well during the past decade due to the hectic efforts and the encouragement from Government of India especially the campaign of Government of Kerala. Cocoa used to be imported from foreign countries incurring vast expenditure in foreign exchange. But of late, due to the hard work of the farmers in Kerala and Karanataka this inter crop was flourishing well and used to be remunerative and attractive. During the past one decade more than 5 lakhs of farmers have gone in for this hard task of Cocoa cultivation. But when their efforts are bearing fruits the sudden fall in prices have put down their untold difficulties. The Government of India and the Ministry of Agriculture has to come in a big way to save the situation. The prevailing price is not only unremunerative to force the farmers to distress sale, but also in the long run to leave this cultivation. The country will be forced to import Cocoa incurring loss to the national exchequer and depletion of foreign exchange resources. May I request the Agriculture minister to make a statement in this House about the steps that he is urgently taking to redeem the situation and help more than five lakhs farmers in Kerala and Karnataka and all over the country.

(v) REPORTED PHOTOGRAPHING BY INTELLIGENCE BUREAU STAFF OF VISITORS WHO CAME TO THE RESIDENCE OF SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE IN DELHI.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, on 31st January, 1980

about 1 p.m. three (3) persons were taking photographs of those going and coming at 4, Ashok Road, the residence of Shri Samar Mukherjee, Leader of CPI(M) group in Parliament, and also the office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). When they photographed two of visitors, who came to 4, Ashok Road, the visitors tried to catch hold of these three persons to hand over to police. But two men ran away with camera and the third man who photographed was caught hold by the visitors and the passersby and handed over to police. Mr. A. J. S. Sahi, police official of the control room took that person to Parliament Street Police Station. But it seems no case has been recorded in the police station against the man who was caught red-handed and attempts are going on to hush up the whole matter. This is a very serious matter which causes grave concern to the functioning of Members of Parliament as well as Opposition parties and hence I would like to request the Minister for Home Affairs to make a statement thereon.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is a serious matter.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): It is far too serious a matter to be brought under Rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be brought to the notice of the Minister.

11.30 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL, 1980

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI):
Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation to certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1979-80

for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1979-80, for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: We now take up Clause-by-clause consideration.

Now the question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I speak on the Appropriation Bill. The liquid-fuel position in the world and in this country in particular is very very acute. If the hon. Minister would take some little pains to go the Bangalore Institute of Transport, he will find that for movement by rail the requirement of the prime moving energy is very little compared to the road transport. It is certainly the lowest in the world. But it is a neglected area. Only when the position comes to a grinding halt then and then only this Government will wake up, not otherwise. Today what is happening? 30,000 trucks are lying idle in one State alone for lack of diesel. Diesel oil is being sold at Rs. 8 a litre. (An hon. Member: Who is res-

ponsible?) The Central Government is responsible. (Interruption) I have been telling the hon. Minister time and again on the floor of the house about this. It has also been properly reflected in the Public Accounts Committee reports which said that the Railways must expand as much as possible, but, I am very sorry to say this, Sir. In the Railway Board there is a cell which deals with new railway lines. There have been very powerful and vigorous and active people working for the road transport lobby and as a result, the growth of railways in this country is perhaps next to nothing. This is the position, Sir, I now come to my second point and it is this. I had a long discussion with the RDS Lucknow. The most important this is to reduce the gap between pay-load and tare ratio. The railway economy is going to rack and ruin. The tare-pay load ratio is an important thing. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that no serious research has been done in this regard. We have been told that double decker coaches are coming all over the country. But what is it that is actually happening? Excepting a few specimens nothing more have come out. There is deep involvement of the road transport lobby who want to sell components, oil and so on. They don't want railways to expand. You cannot rise up and tell them: You go back to your homes. Regarding double-decker coaches, the tare-pay load ratio and so many things are there. We have been recommending the aluminium coaches. They are the only answer to reduce consumption of the prime moving fuel. You have suddenly switched over at a cost of Rs. 500 crores from coal to diesel. What is the benefit? If you see the cost, the increase is hardly two per cent in respect of tonne-kilometer movement achieved. This is the position. Mr. Minister, you are not there just as a decorative piece. We would expect that you function and try to understand all these things, and consult people irrespective of party affiliations who can do good to the railways and to the country. I come to my next point. The Budget

Namkhana railway line was surveyed before the emergency. It was thought to be a viable line. During our detention an over-energetic General Manager of the Eastern Railway scotched the whole project. As a result of it, the Great Sunderbans where 22 lakhs of people live in dire poverty are made to suffer. This railway line has suddenly become 'non-viable' from 'viable'. Sir, in 1977 Prof. Madhu Dandavate was the Railway Minister. He understood the seriousness of this thing and the prospects of that railway line and that in 1977-78 budget, they had allotted an amount of Rs. 3.85 lakhs for a final location of the site. I addressed the hon. Minister to take up this matter and this matter should not be viewed on party consideration but for the sake of the country's economic growth because railway transport account a lot in the country's economic growth and G.N.P. increase.

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो एप्रोप्रीएशन बिल है यह सप्लीमेंटरी डिमान्ड का है। माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत सी बातें जैसे ही उठा दीं। जब रेल बजट पेश होगा उस वक़्त यह बातें कही जायें तो उसका उत्तर दिया जायगा। मरी प्रार्थना है कि एप्रोप्रीएशन बिल को सदन पास करे ताकि सप्लीमेंटरी डिमान्ड जो है उसके अनुसार कार्यवाही की जाये।

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

11.36 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION AND PREVENTION OF BLACK-MARKETING AND MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES BILL—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up the discussion on Items 11 and 12 of the List of Business. They were taken together. Now, we are only left with an hour or so. Mr. Maganbhai Barot to continue.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT (Ahmedabad): Sir, yesterday, while discussing the point about the competence of this House, a question was raised that the Supreme Court in Menaka's case had laid down a law that "you cannot take away the freedom of any citizen of India". I think it is better to refer to the Supreme Court's judgement in Menaka's case. The Chief Justice while delivering his judgement was pleased to observe the following points. This House will be happy to know about the competence of this House. I will read out the relevant portion from the Supreme Court's Report of August 1978 (page 624):

"The tests of reason and justice cannot be abstract. They cannot be divorced from the needs of the nation. The tests have to be pragmatic otherwise they would cease to be reasonable. The discretion left to the authority to impound a passport in public interest cannot invalidate the law itself. We cannot, out of fear, that such power will be misused, refuse to permit Parliament to entrust even such power to executive authorities as may be absolutely necessary to carry out the purposes of validly exercisable power. In matters such as grant, suspension, impounding or cancellation of passports, the possible dealing of an individual with nationals and authorities of other States have to be considered....."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, you have already given a ruling.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: I am reading from the judgement of the Supreme Court for those who say that we cannot pass such a law. Further, it reads:

"There may be questions of national safety and welfare which transcend the importance of the individual's inherent right to go where he or she pleases to go."

The Supreme Court has said that this House is competent to pass such a law.