

of a duty of excise on jute manufactures for the purpose of carrying out measures for the development of production of jute manufactures and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of excise on jute manufactures for the purpose of carrying out measures for the development of production of jute manufactures and for matters connected therewith.”

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सेस लगाने का विरोध करने के लिए खड़ा नहीं हुआ हूँ। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह मानते हैं कि सेस लगाने मात्र से जूट उद्योग की सारी समस्याएं हल नहीं हो जाएंगी। आज इस उद्योग को किस तरह की प्रतियोगिता का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। प्रतियोगिता के मुकाबले में उद्योग टिक नहीं पा रहा है। इसके लिए केवल सेस लगाना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है। क्या कोई ऐसे ठोस कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं जिससे उद्योग की उन्नति हो। अगर ऐसे कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं तो सेस लगाने का भी हम समर्थन करते हैं।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : मान्यवर, यह बात सही है कि केवल सेस लगाने से समस्या हल नहीं होगी। समस्या के परिपेक्ष में सेस लगाया जा रहा है। जो सिंथेटिक्स का कंपीटीशन जूट में हो रहा है, कटथ्रोटा कंपीटीशन अन्य देशों से हो रहा है, उसके लिए आवश्यक है कि अपनी मिलों की प्रोडक्टिविटी को बढ़ाने के लिए और व्यय करें। उस व्यय को अर्जित करने के लिए सेस को

आधार बनाया गया है, जिससे हम प्रतियोगिता में आ सकें।

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of excise on jute manufactures for the purpose of carrying out measures for the development of production of jute manufactures and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I introduce* the Bill.

12.10 hrs.

JUTE MANUFACTURES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council for the development of production of jute manufacturers by increasing the efficiency and productivity in the jute industry, the financing of activities for such development and for matters connected therewith.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Sir, this Bill is just an answer to my hon. friend, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of the Bill.

Jute is such an industry which has so far given nothing to the growers, to the workers or to the States in which the industry is situated. They have made extra super profits, they have lost the synthetic market because when synthetic fibre was selling in America at

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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75 cents for the linear yard they sold carpet backing at the rate of 85 cents for the linear yard. That is how they lost the market. This enormous windfall profit was distributed between the Government and those profiteers and they also indulge in under-invoicing in this important business and Sir, they talk about productivity and efficiency. Their efficiency has gone off since 1979. They have ignored all the tripartite agreements legally binding, for which this Commerce Ministry has not raised their little finger against them. They are in league and collusion with the profiteers. Not only that. They have increased their productivity also to the highest extent. Though 80 per cent of the workers for more than one-and-a-half years were out of employment—and I charge that it was done with the connivance of the Government—yet, the production did not suffer, the tonnage did not suffer. That is how they have gone on increasing the workload of the workers against all agreements, tripartite agreements, that were signed and they have connived with them. They are not setting up, with their super profits, any industries in the State in which the jute industry is concentrated or situated. With these windfall profits they are setting up chemical, engineering industries and cement industries in other States. This is what they are doing. So, it is a Bill for the employer, it is not a Bill for the State or the workers, nor is it a Bill in the country's interests. So, I oppose it.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, first, I want to categorically and stoutly deny that the Government has any share with any profiteering or anything of this nature. At the same time, about this charge that this is a Bill for the employers, certainly this is also firmly denied. In fact, the point is, it is not a question of price rise or what we can get by raising the price of our commodity. Unless and until the productivity is increased, we will not be able to maintain our competitiveness and this we can do in respect of jute, particularly by research on the problems. That I will not repeat,

as I have mentioned just now. And it is for the intensification of this research for increasing productivity that this Council is being formed. The limited purpose of the Bill is of the formation of the Council. So far as the larger question of the entire flow of finances from one industry to another is concerned, this is not within the purview of the Bill. It is for the formation of the Council for research and productivity activities. I think he should have no objection on this.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is : "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council for the development of production of jute manufacture by increasing the efficiency and productivity in the jute industry, the financing of activities for such development and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

12 15 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Guitre disease prevailing in Tarai areas of Uttar Pradesh

श्री रणवीर सिंह (कैसरगंज) : मान्यवर, उत्तर प्रदेश के तराई के जिले मुख्य रूप से बहराइच एवं बाराबंकी भयंकर रूप से "गाइटर" बीमारी की चपेट में हैं। यह बीमारी "गाइटर" की कमी के कारण और भयंकर होती जा रही है। बाप से बेटा इसे उत्तराधिकार में पा रहा है। एक बड़ी जनसंख्या इससे पीड़ित है। इस क्षेत्र में पेयजल की सुविधाओं का नितान्त अभाव भी इस रोग के प्रसार में सहायक हो रहा है।