

great hue and cry over bonded labour in the brick industry but it is not true. The former Union Labour Minister has issued the statement that there was no bonded labour in the brick industry. But it is surprising, however, that now suddenly bonded labour has been discovered in brick kilns in the States and the bonded labour Act has been applied to this industry. Not only this but Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act¹, Employees Provident Fund Act, Factory Act, Bonus Act and the Fall-back Wages Act have also been extended to brick industry. The protection of the Mangoes Groves Act has also been in force in U.P. In this background, the brick kiln owners decided to close down the brick kilns all over the country. The Federation has time and again brought this issue to the notice of the Central Government, but nothing has been done so far. In view of the above, I want to draw the attention of the Government to reconsider the whole issue and withdraw the above laws which are heading this industry to complete closure.

(iv) Shortage of Cement in Kerala

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU (Cannanore): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the problem arising out of the shortage of cement in Kerala. Since 28th February, 1982 when partial decontrol of cement was introduced, the quarterly quota of cement to Kerala has been reduced. The quarterly allotment from the second quarter of 1983 was fixed at 67800 MT. This left a wide gap between the demand and supply. Unfortunately, even the allotted quantity is not being despatched which has further aggravated the shortage.

The Government of Kerala is not in a position to meet even a fraction of the demand of cement. Construction activities in Kerala have increased manifold over the years as a result of the regular flow of money from gulf-countries. Apart from that, Government's own construction activities have to be

carried on. All this requires a larger allocation of cement to Kerala. It should also be ensured that the allotted cement is despatched in time.

Therefore, I would request the Government to immediately release more cement to Kerala and ensure that adequate quantity of cement is supplied regularly so as to meet the State's requirement substantially.

(v) Setting up of two Sugar mills in Private Sector in Coimbatore.

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): The Chittur Sugar Ltd. is one of the three sugar mills working in Kerala. This mill is getting sugar cane mainly from the Coimbatore district of Tamilnadu. The Tamilnadu Government authorities have recently taken a decision to set up two sugar mills in the Private Sector in Coimbatore District. This decision is likely to affect the easy availability of Sugar Cane for the Chittur Sugar Mills, which in the Co-operative Sector.

Under the guidelines of the Central Government, permission to set up new mills should be given only after carefully scrutinising the requirements of existing statutory zones. A good number of members of the Chittur Sugar Factory are Cane Growers of Tamilnadu. The Tamilnadu authorities have been permitting this Factory to procure sugar cane from 1000 acres permanently and 2000 acres temporarily from Coimbatore district.

I would require 12000 to 15000 acres of Sugar Cane to meet the full requirement of this mill. In Palghat district, Sugar cane is cultivated only in 5000 to 6000 acres. The remaining quantity has to come from Coimbatore.

98% of the requirement of Sugar Cane during the special season between June and September has to come from Coimbatore only.

*The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.