

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): I would like to rise on a point of order, because this is something which is being repeatedly told to us by the Chair and once for all let us decide this matter. I would invite your attention to rule 377 which says:

"A member who wishes to bring to the notice of the House any matter which is not a point of order shall give notice to the Secretary General in writing stating briefly the point which he wishes to raise in the House together with reasons for wishing to raise it, and he shall be permitted to raise it only after the Speaker has given his consent."

So, what is to be given in writing is the point that is to be raised. Rule 377 does not restrict the right of the member and does not restrict the statement that is to be made.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The rules are very clear.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: The rules are very clear and there is no need of interpretation. We cannot say that the Member who has been permitted to raise the matter under 377, has to restrict himself the statement, a copy of which has already been furnished.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is given here that he shall be permitted to raise it only after the Speaker has given his consent. The Speaker has given his consent only to read this statement. You cannot raise any other point. That is not approved by the Speaker. Therefore, 377 is in order and your point of order is out of order. Therefore, please read what you have given.

(V) REPORTED ASSAULT ON A WOMAN AT POLICE STATION IN DURG DISTRICT MADHYA PRADESH.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): A pregnant woman labourer summoned to police station in Durg district in connection with a

petty offence was stripped naked in the lock up by the police. The woman was severely beaten up by the police. The woman was admitted in a hospital in a critical state and the doctors who attended on her feared an abortion. The Home Minister of M.P. has declared the act as barbarous. The more alarming fact is that the woman has complained that the police threatened to force her to sleep with her son, who too had been called up to the police station. This complaint has not been investigated nor this fact has been denied by the authorities.

The culprits have not been properly charge-sheeted. They are only prosecuted for offence under section 342 of IPC i.e. of wrongful confinement in which authorities would be acquitted as police had authority to detain for 24 hours under law. The action should have been taken for offence of grievous hurt and molestation, insult and indecent assault. I appeal to hon. Home Minister to look into the matter and take proper steps in the matter.

(vi) REPORTED SUSPENSION OF FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME IN WEST BENGAL BECAUSE OF NON-SUPPLY OF FOOD-GRAIN BY THE CENTRE.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Under rule 377 I wish to raise the following:

According to an urgent message from the West Bengal Government, Works under Food for Works Programme remain completely suspended due to non-supply of foodgrains by the Centre. Twenty thousand tonnes allotted to the State by the Centre has not been lifted by the FCI. The Government of West Bengal has also stated that it had received 149,597 tonnes of foodgrains from the Centre during 1979-80 for execution of three rural works projects. The State Government has already submitted detailed utilisation account of more than 92 per cent of foodgrains received from the Centre during 1979-80.

West Bengal is the only State which has maintained statutory rationing system in some parts of the State.

Everything will be in jeopardy unless foodgrains are made available to the State on a war footing.

This is a matter which is of urgent public importance warranting a statement by the Minister concerned.

14.25 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1980-81—contd.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE—contd.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before Independence, the Maharaja of Travancore wanted to declare independence for his State. We fought against him and we forced him to join the Indian Union. Now, people are very much disappointed. Delhi is treating Kerala as a colony. Now there is an economic blockade against Kerala. Whatever goods we are producing you are taxing heavily and you are imposing heavy duties. Whatever things we want, are very costly in Kerala. Cement, sugar, cloth, fertiliser and everything is very rare and dear in Kerala.

Our people are working in the Middle East and earning so much of foreign exchange and with that amount we are building big factories in the North. We do not mind it. But we are worried that the foreign exchange is utilised for importing rubber, coco etc. This is very painful to the poor cultivators of Kerala.

Sir, I am a rubber cultivator. If rubber is stocked for more than six months it will be spoiled. Now, the STC has imported rubber worth more than Rs. 10 crores and it is idling in the STC godowns, and it is in a deteriorating condition now. Unfortunately, the Government is again trying to import rubber against the interests of the cultivators. International and multinational companies like Cadbury and Dunlop have got more

influence in Delhi than the poor cultivators here. They can also manipulate things. First they will say that they want 2 lakhs tonnes of rubber for their consumption, but afterwards they will say that there is current cut in Calcutta, there is a lock-out in Bombay, and there is a 'go-slow' in Madras, and all the stock will be remaining idle in the godowns. Like this, they want to destroy the interests of the cultivators.

See the fate of coco. For the last 4 or 5 years the State Government and the Central Government asked us to plant more coco, but now actually there is nobody to purchase coco. I am not blaming this Government alone. Even when Mr. Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister, from 75 per cent import duty he has reduced to 45 per cent. Then, Mr. Charan Singh came. He is supposed to be the friend of the cultivators. But he exempted all the import duty and allowed free import, thereby caused heavy damage to the interests of the cultivators. The State Government is also guilty. They can purchase and fix a minimum price for coco and ginger. But they are not doing that. They are spending lot of money for the welfare of cashew and coir industries. After procuring these products, if they cannot sell it, they can throw it to the Arabian Sea.

Sir, for the unity of our country I am requesting Mr. Pranab Babu, to please show some leniency and mercy to the poor cultivators of Kerala. Our cultivations are long-term cultivations. The cultivations of rubber, coco, coconut will take 8 to 10 years for getting economical yield. We cannot immediately shift to another cultivation. So, after taking much risk, we are producing all these things. The Government is changing its policy frequently. That is hurting the poor cultivators. The Janata Government encouraged the cultivators to plant banana. But immediately they banned the export of bananas, vegetables and fruits. The poor people suffered on account of