

ture more of other drugs where they have got more margin of profit. This must also be the factor to some extent, responsible for shortage.

My hon. colleague has made it clear to the House with regard to allowing these drug manufacturing units to increase the prices keeping in view the cost of the inputs. This has already been worked out by the BICP. According to the recommendations of the BICP are going to take a decision very shortly. I feel that once we take a decision, then it will be possible for them to go in a very big way to manufacture more quantity of medicine and to that extent, more medicine would be available in the market.

There are certain life saving drugs like anti-cancer drugs, heart drugs, leprosy and blood pressure drugs. I want to assure the hon. Members that if we find that any manufacturing unit is not manufacturing these drugs and their equivalent is not available, we are prepared to import. We have been importing. Last year, we had imported medicine worth Rs. 81 crores. Year before last year also we had imported medicines worth Rs. 81 crores. Therefore, we do not hesitate because we do not want the people, and particularly the patients to suffer. So, if there is any such case where it is not available in the market, we are prepared to import it and we are prepared to airlift that medicine and make it available to the consumers. We are taking all steps, and I want to assure the hon. Member that there would not be any scarcity; there may be scarcity of medicine of certain brand names here and there. To that extent we will make all possible arrangements, and I want to once again assure the hon. Member that so far as the shortage is concerned, that will be fully met, we will take all possible steps to see that the shortage will not remain and it is made available in the market to the extent that is required for the consumer.

12.21 hrs.

PETITION RE. BAN ON EXPORT OF FROGS' FLESH

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thane): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Dutta Tamhane and others regarding ban on export of frogs' flesh.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up matters under Rule 377.

(i) SUBARNAREKHA FLOOD CONTROL AND IRRIGATION PROJECT

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

Balasore district in Orissa being a permanent victim to the prey of high floods of Subarnarekha, Jalka, Budhabalang and Baitarani rivers sustaining huge losses of kharif crops every year by which the financial backbone of lakhs of farmer families is breaking day by day. The inter-State Subarnarekha flood control-cum-irrigation project with the Central assistance is yet to come out. In considering the extraordinary delay of this Subarnarekha flood control and irrigation project, the expert opinion was to have some drainage schemes in the valley to render some protection to the kharif crops which is the only source of living of the 18 lakhs of people of this district. Specially the drainage projects of Bhogarai block which is the border of West Bengal and situated in the mouth of Subarnarekha river, where all the flood water of Subarnarekha from West Bengal accumulated causing heavy damages to kharif paddy crops every year. As per expert opinion some drainage along with sluice gates are to be provided to safeguard the crops from destruction, were investigated by the World Bank expert who

(Shri Chintamani Jena)

has to finance it but after a lapse of more than 4 years, no progress has yet been made on this issue for which lakhs of farmers are at a stage of frustration and are in a great concern. The drainage schemes which was sent to the Central Water Control Board is yet to be cleared up by them.

I would, therefore, draw the immediate attention of the hon. Minister for Irrigation to this problem for rendering the long pending problem to be solved, specially when the rainy season has started and high flood is expected at any moment.

(ii) RESUMPTION OF OIL EXPLORATION IN PILDHAT DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार (पीली-भीत): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की अनुमति से नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत एक लोक महत्व के प्रश्न को उठा रहा हूँ।

उत्तर प्रदेश के पीलीभीत जिले में तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग ने सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर तेल की खोज के लिए जिले में दो स्थान चुने। परन्तु पिछले वर्ष केवल एक स्थान पर ही आधी खुदाई करके कार्य बन्द कर दिया गया। दूसरे स्थान को छुआ तक नहीं गया। जहाँ खुदाई बन्द की गई उसका कारण कठोर चट्टान का आना बताया गया जबकि विभाग के पाम बहुमूल्य व उत्तम कोटि के ड्रिलिंग के उपकरण मौजूद हैं। यदि किसी कारण एक स्थान पर ड्रिलिंग बन्द किया गया तो दूसरे स्थान पर कार्य आरम्भ करना चाहिए था परन्तु ऐसा न करके व करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करने के पश्चात् व भ्रूणभं वज्ञानिकों की रिपोर्ट

के आधार पर दोनों स्थानों पर खुदाई न करके खुदाई के समस्त उपकरण दूसरे राज्यों में भेजे जा रहे हैं जबकि पीलीभीत के दोनों स्थानों पर तेल मिलने की पूर्ण सम्भावना है। माननीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री इन उपकरणों को कृपया दूसरे प्रदेशों में न भेज कर पीलीभीत के दोनों स्थानों पर तेल की खोज करावें।

(iii) REPORTED NON-SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIAL BY STC, SAIL AND INDIA PETROLEUM TO WEST BENGAL

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): A critical situation has arisen in West Bengal because of the non-performance of their respective obligations by three Central Government agencies, viz., The Indian Petroleum, the State Trading Corporation and the Steel Authority of India. The West Bengal Government deposited in advance with them an amount of Rs. 21.21 crores for the supply of raw materials, but they have neither supplied the materials ordered for nor are they refunding the money in spite of repeated demands. An apprehension has, therefore, gained ground that these units have invested the amount of Rs. 21.21 crores in other fields.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to kindly take remedial measures immediately in view of the fact that the economic development of West Bengal is being hampered to a great extent for want of materials.

(v) PURCHASE OF JUTE BY JUTE CORPORATION OF INDIA IN PURNEA AND SAHARSA DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

श्री तरेक सिंह (विक्रमगंज): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बिहार के पूर्णिया एवं सहरसा जिलों में जूट की खेती बड़े पैमाने पर होती है। फसल तैयार है। भारतीय जूट निगम द्वारा अभी तक सपोर्ट प्राइस पर जूट खरीदने की नीति निर्धारित नहीं हुई है। किसानों को बहुत कम दामों (डिस्ट्रेस प्राइस) पर प्राइवेट ट्रेड के यहां मजबूरी में अपनी