

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

According to the reliable sources, the indigenous production of heavy water is still inadequate and certainly not enough to meet the huge initial requirements for commissioning a new unit. It may be difficult to procure heavy water from foreign sources but then the Government will have to decide in favour of placing the Madras Unit under international safeguards.

The heavy water production programme has been affected badly, it is learnt, because of lack of proper planning and also because of the difficulties of self-reliant development. The heavy water plants at Tuticorin and Baroda operated during 1981-82 but both are ridden with technical problems. The heavy water plant at Telcher was to have started production in 1981-82. This did not happen due to power failure, unsteady supply of synthesis gas from the Fertilizer Corporation of India and other technical problems.

In view of the urgent needs for commissioning 100-crore project at Madras and to meet the requirements of other projects in the country, I urge upon the Government to see that proper remedial measures and planning is done in advance to see that the heavy water plants keep running and to meet the indigenous requirements.

(iv) REPORTED PASSING OF A BILL BY J&K ASSEMBLY RE CITIZENSHIP TO PERSONS WHO MIGRATED FROM PAKISTAN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sir, recently, a Bill introduced by a private member belonging to the ruling National Conference party has been passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature, empowering the State Government to grant resettlement permits to former citizens of Jammu and Kashmir State who migrated to Pakistan at the time of partition. This is a measure fraught

with grave implications, constitutional, political and administrative, which it is my duty to place before the House.

Constitutionally, citizenship is a matter which is in the sphere of the Central Government alone, and only Parliament is competent to pass legislation thereon. In effect, this Bill gives the power to grant Indian citizenship to a State Legislature which is against the very structure of the Constitution and *prima facie* involves an inroad into the sovereign right of Parliament to legislate in this matter. A thorough study at the highest level is needed and I would suggest that the opinion of the Supreme Court should be obtained by the President under article 143 of the Constitution.

Apart from the Constitutional aspect involved, this Bill has grave political implications. During partition, there was a substantial movement of population over the borders of the State, and over the last thirty-five years thousands of people who had been driven out of Pakistan-occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir have been allotted lands in the Jammu region. Most of these people belong to the weaker sections of society, and the passage of this Bill has created a deep sense of insecurity among them as it holds out the threat of dislocation and destabilisation at any time at the sweet mercy of the State Government. It is indeed astounding that while the present Government has adamantly refused to grant resident right to thousands of Hindu and Sikh families who came across the border during partition, and who have been living in the State for 35 years as second class citizens, it has now passed a Bill whereby people who have for the same period adopted Pakistani citizenship can return to resettle and reclaim their old properties simply at the discretion of the Government.

Apart from constitution and political aspects, grave security implications are involved. If there are any

genuine cases of repatriation on compassionate grounds, these could be considered by the appropriate Central Government authorities from time to time as indeed has been done for over three decades. The Bill that has now been passed, however, gives unrestricted powers to the ruling party in the State to grant citizenship, and could result in the ingress of persons whose presence in the country would not be desirable. The whole context of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be forgotten, particularly in view of the insistence of Pakistan in raking up the so-called 'Kashmir issue' in international forums, and their recent acquisition of sophisticated offensive weapons. Keeping all these factors in view, I strongly urge that the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir should not give his assent to the Bill, and that the whole matter should be carefully considered at the highest level to ensure that nothing is done that may weaken the nation. It would be appropriate if the Prime Minister were to make a statement in the House clarifying Government's view in this matter so that the widespread concern and apprehension generated by the passage of the Bill can be set at rest.

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala): This is a very important matter. More than 1 lakh Harijans will be uprooted in Jammu and Kashmir.

(v) NEED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ACCELERATE SUPPLY OF DIESEL TO TAMIL NADU

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Tamil Nadu the industrial economy is in shambles. There is so much power cut in Tamil Nadu that the industries are working only to 20 per cent capacity. This has affected agricultural operations. The power pumps are not being energised. Some power is being supplied during nights, when agricultural operations cannot be conducted freely.

Now, the misery has been enhanced by acute scarcity of diesel throughout Tamil Nadu. This has worsened the industrial operations in Coimbatore where hundreds of engineering foundries being operated with the help of generators have come to a grinding halt, for want of diesel. The movement of essential commodities and vegetables throughout the State has also been affected. The prices are soaring as is normal in such circumstances. While the public are suffering, the diesel is being sold at exorbitant prices in black market. In many places, there are mile-long queues of lorries, tourist buses, transport buses, etc.

The State Government's handling of the matter has further aggravated the situation. There is no agency to regulate the supply of diesel which is in short supply.

The I.O.C. is supplying only 50 per cent diesel of the total demand. The closure of Cochin Refinery for maintenance has adversely affected the supply of diesel. If the Government of India does not take immediate steps to accelerate the supply of diesel to Tamil Nadu, the whole of Tamil Nadu will erupt into unprecedented situation. Immediate action is called for from the Central Government to save Tamil Nadu from decimation.

(iv) SELECTION OF CRICKET TEAM TO TOUR ENGLAND

SHRI KAMALNATH (Chhindwara): Sir, I rise to mention under Rule 377 the manner in which the Cricket Team has been selected to tour England this summer. Personally I have great respect for cricket and cricketers; but being a patriotic Indian, I want the team to be truly representative Indian Team. The selection of an Indian Test Team for this series abroad involves the nation's prestige and as such, the selection should not only be impartial but should also appear to be impartial. But I am pained to say that the team