

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN:

(An hon. Member: Why can't the Minister be suspended?) We always adhere to the specifications laid down by the Manufacturers in all respects regarding safety and otherwise...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Regarding seat-belt certain restrictions are there.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: They are not used for three persons and all that. And, on this particular day, fortunately we had 40 Japanese small people who came there and they were all accommodated; it was possible for us to accommodate them.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **DISCONTENTMENT AMONGST TRIBALS IN HILLY TRACKS OF MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT OF ORISSA.**

SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the growing discontentment arising among the thousands of tribals inhabited in the hilly tracks of Mayurbhanj District of Orissa. The removal of dead tree-trunks and branches from the Similipal Hill Forests of Mayurbhanj District by the Similipal Forest Development Corporation has reduced the availability of wild mushrooms eaten extensively by the Tribals.

The simple Tribals living in remote hamlets situated in the foothills of Similipal have, other the years, acquired the habit of consuming "wild mushrooms" growing on dead tree-trunks and branches. They collect these mushrooms from the Hill Forests, they crush them into powder and preserve them for their future use. These poor Adivasis thereby get the most nourishing Protein Food from such mushrooms growing in the forest. They eat the mushrooms along with rice,—especially during the rains,—when no other vegetable is available.

In the Similipal Hill Forests, some important strains of wild mushrooms grow

abundantly. 'Marchella' is one of them and it is known for its fine taste and flavour. The dry 'Marchella' has got a big demand in the international market and it is sold for as much as Rs. 500/- a K.G. India exports this variety of mushrooms, worth about Rs. 28 lakhs a year. They play an important role in the forest eco-system and act as a medium in the conversion of fresh leaf and litter, into palatable and nutritive mushrooms locally known as 'Nada-Chhatu' or 'Parab Chhatu'.

With the removal of all dead, decaying and fallen tree-trunks and branches by the Similipal Forest Development Corporation, the Forests will be deprived of the natural fungus beds which help in the growth of many rare and priceless wild mushrooms. The dead and decaying tree-trunks and branches do not endanger the forest in any way. On the other hand, they serve as the base material for the natural growth of the Protein and Vitamin-rich food for the local Tribals.

The removal of these base materials from the forest will also affect the genetic pool, on which so much research is being carried out. Apart from affecting the forest eco-system, the utilisation of the base material, as firewood, will also eliminate some rare species of wild mushrooms, which have immense medical proportions. In view of this, I demand that that immediate steps should be taken to stop the removal of dead tree-trunk and branches from the Similipal Hill forest of Orissa by the Similipal Forest Development Corporation.

(ii) **CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM MANKHURD TO BELAPUR AND ADDITIONAL SUBURBAN LINES BETWEEN BANDRA AND ANDHERI.**

SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHOUDHARI (Amravati): The metropolis of Bombay with an expanding population is faced with a serious mass transportation problem. To alleviate the situation, proposals were made to the Minister of Railways, as a beginning, to construct an additional pair of suburban railway lines between Bandra and Andheri and the