

(viii) NEED TO CONTINUE PURCHASE OF SUWEN COTTON BY COTTON CORPORATION OF INDIA IN ANDHRA PRADESH

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): The Cotton Corporation of India has stopped purchases of suwen cotton in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh and I have received intimation by phone from Kisan leaders, Mrs. K. Butchaaiah, ex-M.L.A., Vice-President of Andhra Pradesh, P.C.C. (I) and Shri Ramulu that as a result of this action of the Cotton Corporation of India, the Kisans who have invested heavily and produced this highly prized cotton are now being placed at the mercy of merchants and are obliged to sell their cotton at uneconomic prices and sustain heavy losses. The Cotton Corporation of India which made good enough purchases of other types of cotton (Varalakshmi etc.) in earlier fortnights and has thus raised the expectations of kisans to get reasonable prices for this later ripening variety of cotton are very much depressed, while the profiteering merchants are happy.

So, I appeal to Government to advise the Cotton Corporation of India to begin or continue purchases of this late ripening suwen cotton without any delay and protect the growers before it is too late.

(ix) REPORTED TERMINATION OF CAPITAL UNITS SCHEME BY UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): For the past four days newspapers have been reporting that the capital unit scheme of the Unit Trust of India is being discontinued from July, 1981.

This is a major policy decision and one would have expected the Finance Minister to tell the House why the scheme is being discontinued.

I am sorry to note that instead of doing so, we are being informed

through the newspapers that a scheme which was successful in mobilising savings is being discontinued.

I shall urge through you the Finance Minister to make an immediate statement on the subject before the House.

(x) DISCOVERY OF CARPET OF NODULES IN INDIAN SEA-BED

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Our brilliant Oceanographers and scientists of Gaveshani—a research ship of the National Institute of Oceanology, have located a huge 'carpet' of mineral rich nodules in Indian Ocean within the Indian economic zone and have thus opened up a new vista in the country's history of minerology. India is fast running out its stocks of minerals located on land and the situation has become so critical that today we have to depend wholly on foreign countries for the import of nickel, cobalt and 60 per cent of copper. The significance of the above discovery can well be understood by the fact that a million tonnes of nodules will produce 15,000 tonnes of nickel, 1200 tonnes of copper, 1500 tonnes of cobalt, 60,000 tonnes of managanese and an unlimited quantity of gold. The present research shows that oceans have such rich nodules which is in the vicinity of 200 billion tonnes.

There is no doubt therefore that if the vast rich mineral resources that have been found are exploited fully, it will turn a new leaf in the country's prosperity. Unfortunately, the discovery has already created a flutter among the big powers who today have the sole monopoly of the expensive equipments, expertise and resources for ocean mining and they would hardly be willing to part with them unless it is in their interest. We are probably yet not technologically ready for the commercial exploitation of the sea-bed minerals. While the odds are far too many, we have perhaps nothing to deter for the ocean

Science and Technological Agency which is responsible for exploration of minerals in sea bed is headed by our Prime Minister under whose dynamic Leadership and supreme brilliance the country can face any challenge and no doubt mining of ocean bed against all odds is a worthwhile challenge which she would like to accept and secure for posterity an era of prosperity.

In this connection, I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister:

(i) That the entire project of survey and exploration of ocean bed minerals should be placed under a Commission of experts on the lines of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to be headed by the Prime Minister herself.

(ii) Immediate steps be taken to acquire more ships necessary for conducting survey of more areas like Andamans and the coastal seas of the country;

(iii) In order to be self-reliant and speeding up search of ocean floor, we will be requiring winches, grabs, under water cameras and deep echo sounders. While immediate needs may be met through purchase from foreign countries, the engineering talents of our country may be addressed to accept the challenge and provide to the nation these equipments during the next three years.

(iv) Young engineers to trained so that they would be able to undertake full responsibility and cut out foreign dependence in this matter before long and finally.

(v) The Parliament must find ways and means to provide enough funds to undertake this big venture which is so very essential for the country's prosperity and calls for cooperation from all corners of this House.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Sir, I gave a notice in the morning and the Speaker has told me that he has admitted that in matters to be raised under 377. But my name has not been called out unfortunately. Kindly find out from the records, Mayathevar is my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am informed that it was not admitted for today.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Is it going to be never admitted or today it is not possible to admit it? What does it mean?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would advise you to have a talk with the Speaker.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Under 376 I rise on a point of order regarding the working of the Rule 377.

Sir, it is true that when we make any statement under 377, there is no obligation on the part of the Minister concerned to make a statement, but whenever the Minister gets up and assures the House that shortly he would make a statement on the issue that has been raised, it is obligatory that he must make a statement. I want to bring to your notice that on 12-3-1981 I had raised the question of import of high-powered locomotives and the World Bank advised that we should do it. I raised that issue under 377 and from the Lok Sabha records you will find a reference by the Minister concerned, that is the Railway Minister, that he would shortly make a statement on the subject. Sir, so far the Statement has not been made. Therefore, I request you to direct the Railway Minister to make the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think there is no time limit.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When the Minister gives an assurance