

by the Speaker to remain present today along with the Education Minister, I am here and I have tried my level best.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We go to the next item. Matters under Rule 377. Shri Chandra Pal Singh.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for improving power supply in Western Uttar Pradesh

श्री चन्द्रपाल सिंह (अमरोहा) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश, विशेषकर मुरादाबाद जनपद के आसपास के इलाके में किसानों को विद्युत आपूर्ति में अनेक प्रकार की कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इस सम्बन्ध में पहले भी मैंने सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट कराया था और ऊर्जा मन्त्री जी ने सदन को यह आश्वासन भी दिया था कि किसानों को कम से कम 8 घण्टे विद्युत आपूर्ति लगातार प्रति दिन की जा रही है और जिन क्षेत्रों में कमी है वहां पर्याप्त कार्यवाही की जा रही है। लेकिन अत्यन्त अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि विद्युत आपूर्ति की व्यवस्था खराब होने से करोड़ों किसानों की फसलें बर्बाद हो रही हैं। गन्ना बोवाई का समय आ गया है और थ्रैशर चलाने भी हैं, उन्हें समय पर बिजली की आपूर्ति नहीं की जा रही है। लेकिन बिजली का बिल समय से पहले अवश्य पहुंच जाता है। इस कारण बहुत से किसान बिजली कनेक्शन विच्छेद करने के इच्छुक हैं। इसमें सुधार के लिये यह आवश्यक है कि स्थानीय विद्युत सम्प्रदाय के कार्यध्यक्षों को सख्त हिदायत की जाये और बेकार संयंत्रों को नियमित रूप से देखभाल कर चालू करने की आवश्यकता है।

अतः इस सदन के माध्यम से ऊर्जा मन्त्री जी से निवेदन है कि विद्युत आपूर्ति की दयनीय दशा को सुधारने के लिये अविलम्ब अपेक्षित कदम उठाये जा सकें।

(ii) Facilities for the handloom industry in Kerala for its proper development.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat):** The handloom industry in Kerala is facing a serious crisis today. There are one lakh looms working in the cooperative sector. Most of the looms in Calicut and Cannanore were manufacturing crepe which had a very good market in foreign countries, particularly in U. S. A. and European countries. But, of late, we have almost lost these markets and this has seriously affected the industry. Thousands of weavers have lost their jobs and are on the verge of starvation. The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society, Kerala State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society and such other organisations have not been able to do anything to save this industry.

Another problem which is affecting this industry is the 30 per cent increase in the prices of types of yarns and 25 per cent increase in the prices of chemicals during the past one year.

In the circumstances, I request the Government to take the following steps to save the handloom industry in Kerala:—

1. Ensure supply of yarn and chemicals at controlled price.
2. Make an all-out effort to explore international market for handloom products.
3. Introduce measures for the welfare of handloom weavers.

(iii) Adequate Funds for Ernakulam-Alleppey Railway line and Alleppey-Kayamkulam Railway line

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Sir, under rule 377, I make the following statement:—

The coastal railway line connecting Ernakulam to Alleppey and Alleppey to Kayamkulam was a long-felt need of the people of Kerala. It was after much representations and agitations that the Government of India had

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sanctioned the above railway line. Last year Rs. 5 crores were provided for the Ernakulam-Alleppey line and Rs. 1.4. crores were provided for Alleppey-Kayamkulam line and the work was progressing. But it is very much disappointing that this year only Rs. 1.75 crores were sanctioned to Ernakulam-Alleppey sector and a nominal amount of Rs. 1. lakh only for Alleppey-Kayamkulam sector. At least an amount of Rs. 3 crores is immediately required for continuing the work which has already been tendered.

Sir, I agree that the Railways are in a crisis and adequate consideration should be given to renovation of the existing track and rolling stock. But it should also be remembered that Kerala has only 914 kms. of railway line out of a total of 61,000 kms (sixty-one thousand kilometres) which is less than 1.5 per cent of the total.

The coastal belt of Ernakulam, Alleppey, Kayamkulam, etc., is very backward and the economic and industrial development of these areas is solely dependant on this railway line. The Kerala Chief Minister and Home Minister had made special representation to the Government of India in this regard. The whole people of Kerala are behind this demand.

So, I urge upon the Railway Minister to give his personal attention to this issue and sanction at least Rs. 6 crores for Ernakulam-Alleppey line and Rs. 4 crores for Alleppey-Kayamkulam line.

(iv) Need for improving the working of the Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the fate of the nationalised unit, Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd and its 1,000 employees is at stake. After a prolonged and protracted struggle by the workers, Gresham and Craven of India Private Ltd was not only nationalised in August, 1977, but also declared as a separate unit maintaining its identity intact under the name of Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. This unit, manufacturing important components for the railways, was making very good progress towards, better productivity and viability due to the unstinted cooperation by employees, the workers and officials. The production rose from Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 50

lakhs and there was complete harmonious industrial relations in 1979-80. But in June, 1980 onwards, heavy administration, mismanagement and maladministration has led this unit to the verge of collapse. I urge upon the Government to foil the designs of vested interests to discredit this nationalised unit and to make a plea in future to hand over it to the private hands.

(v) Demand for CBI enquiring into the Violation of Rice Procurement (Levy) order, 1981 in Rajasthan

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (BHILWARA): During Kharif marketing season 1981-82 levy of rice on millers/wholesalers was imposed by Rajasthan Government vide Rajasthan Rice Procurement (Levy) Order, 1981. Food Corporation of India and Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation were notified as public agencies for collection of levy rice during that year.

Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Rajasthan Vide their communication dated 5th May, 1982 directed Food Corporation of India and State Warehousing Corporation not to insist on replacement of broken rice supplied by Millers as stipulated in Rajasthan Rice Procurement (Levy) Order, 1981. The two procurement agencies were also directed to return broken rice to Millers along with a 'rejection slip' and issue an 'exemption certificate' as will.

It is alleged that some millers in connivance with officials of FCI and the SWC took full advantage of relaxation and secured rejection certificate for a quantity more than was actually supplied as levy price. On the strength of rejection certificates, FCI and the SWC issued exemption certificate to millers authorising them to sell rice in open market.

As against levy price of Rs. 158/-per quintal, ruling price of coarse rice in open market at that time was Rs. 400/-per quintal and that of good quality rice between Rs. 650/-and Rs. 750/- a quintal 'Rejection' and 'Exemption slips for over 80,000 quintals were issued to Millers from May 5 to the end of September, 1982 when process was stopped by the Government.

Thus even if the entire quantity exempted is to be taken as that of coarse variety and premium earned placed on a conservative est-