

[Shri H. M. Patel]

the application of the provisions of the Protocol to such contracts shall be a matter of agreement between the contracting parties.

It has also been agreed that while the Protocol does not imply that in future all credits and commercial transactions will necessarily be designated only in Roubles, there is no intention to alter the present framework of payments arrangements between India and the USSR under which settlement of commercial transactions and repayments of credits are made in Indian Rupees through export of Indian goods.

The Government of India consider that the provisions of the Protocol are equitable and represent a fair compromise between the two sides. The new exchange rate is a reasonable readjustment between the two currencies considering the adjustments made between the Rupee and other major currencies. The Protocol also contains an agreed built-in mechanism for future adjustment in the exchange rate so as to avoid recurrence of disputes in this matter. The interest-free 45-year deferred payment facility to be provided by the Government of the USSR has a grant element of about 85 per cent. This facility will cover about two-thirds of the additional liabilities arising from the application of the new exchange rate to future repayments of existing Soviet credits. Another noteworthy feature of the agreed Protocol is that repayments already effected by us against past Soviet credits at the old rate of exchange of 1 Rouble-Rs. 8.333 will be considered final and no extra liability will arise on this account.

The Government of India hope that the Protocol will smoothen the flow of trade and further strengthen eco-

nomie cooperation between the two countries.

12.40 hrs.

SUGAR UNDERTAKINGS (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the temporary taking over, in the public interest, of the management of certain sugar undertakings in certain circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER: There are two objections; but Mr. Saugata Roy is not here. Mr. Eduardo Faleiro.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): I must oppose the introduction of this Bill; and the reason is that this Bill is now going to provide for take-over by the Government for a period not exceeding 3 years. During this period, Government is going to pump in crores of rupees to make the sick mills healthy. And these mills belong to the sugar barons who form a lobby with this Government. What is going to happen? People who have failed in their social obligations, who are the owners of sick mills, will get after 3 years healthy mills which will appreciate in the interim period while the Government is pumping in money to make their mills healthy. Government is also giving them money as compensation. I submit that...

MR. SPEAKER: You can bring in an amendment.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: There is an only alternative to this. It is nationalization of the sugar industry. So, either you nationalize the sugar industry, or hand it over entirely to cooperatives. This measure is not necessary; it is bad; it is in the interests only of the sugar barons; and I oppose it.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 2 dated 27-11-1978.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the temporary taking over, in the public interest, of the management of certain sugar undertakings in certain circumstances."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, I introduce the Bill. And with your permission, I want to bring it to the notice of the House that sub-clause (2) of clause 8 of the Sugar Undertakings (Taking-over of Management) Bill, 1978, which involves expenditure has not been printed in thick type or in italics as required by the said sub-rule (2) although the Financial Memorandum contains a reference to the said sub-clause (2) of clause 3. The other relevant provisions in the Bill which involve expenditure, have been printed in thick type or in italics.

STATEMENT RE. SUGAR UNDERTAKINGS (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) ORDINANCE, 1978

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Ordinance, 1978.

12. 44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED LOW PRICE FIXED BY GOVERNMENT FOR PADDY

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The farmers are put to a great loss due to the low price fixed for paddy by the Government. The Government has not accepted the recommendations

of State Governments to increase the paddy price at over and above Rs. 100 per quintal and fixed only Rs. 85 per quintal. The FCI stopped purchasing paddy in the States of Punjab and Haryana and opening of new centres of purchase in Andhra Pradesh. This is causing much hardship and a great financial loss to the paddy producers. I, therefore, request the Government to purchase all surplus paddy in these States.

(i) REPORTED ENCROACHMENT BY BANGLADESH NATIONALS ON RESERVED LAND IN BARPETA SUB-DIVISION OF ASSAM

SHRI ISMAIL HOSSAIN KHAN (Barpeta): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

I draw the attention of the hon'ble Home Minister to the news item in the local 'Dainik Assam', the highest circulated Assamese daily, dated 12-11-78 from Barpeta correspondent dated 11-11-78 that "Bangladesh nationals are induced to encroach" reserve land in Gobindapur under Barpeta sub-division of Assam State by a Congress leader. It is also stated that thousands of infiltrators have encroached into Konora, Chasara and Silosi reserves of Barpeta sub-division claiming themselves as river-eroded people. To the best of my information and knowledge, as I have recently visited the said area, thousands of native people are rendered homeless every year due to erosion of the mighty river Brahmaputra. 90 per cent of them belong to minority community. It is a fact that since several years Government totally failed to settle the problem of river-eroded people in Assam, particularly in this area. As a result, of which thousands of people took shelter on the PWD roads, embankments and Government reserves. All of them are *bona fide* Indian citizens. Assam is a State where there is peaceful co-existence and communal harmony among all classes of people. This news item has created a grave concern in the mind of river-eroded minority community people because