

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
UNDERTAKINGS

FIRST REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I beg to present the following Report and Minutes of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

- (1) First Report on Extravagant and Infructuous Expenditure on Entertainment by public Undertakings.
- (2) Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating to the above Report.

13 19 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED ACCUMULATION OF HUGE STOCK OF TEA IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS AT CALCUTTA.

श्री एस० के० शारदा (म्रजमेर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वाणिज्य मंत्री जी को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि कलकत्ता के सरकारी चाय के गोदामों में पिछले तीन महीने से 10 लाख किलोग्राम चाय बन्द पड़ी है जिस की कीमत 15 करोड़ रुपया है । एक तरफ तो वाणिज्य मंत्री जी यह ऐलान करते हैं कि हम चाय सस्ती करने जा रहे हैं और जनता को सस्ती चाय उपलब्ध करायेंगे और दूसरी तरफ पिछले तीन महीनों से सरकारी गोदामों में 10 लाख किलोग्राम चाय बन्द कर के रखी हुई है और उस के वितरण की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है । इसकी व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की जा रही है, इसकी जानकारी मैं चाहता हूँ । यह चाय जनता को किस वक्त उपलब्ध होगी, कब मिलेगी यह भी मंत्री जी बतायें । यह चाय किन लोगों की वजह से कलकत्ता के गोदामों में रुकी पड़ी है ? क्या उन लोगों को दण्डित किया गया ? यदि नहीं किया गया, तो क्यों नहीं किया गया ? यह जानकारी मुझे दी जाए ।

- (ii) REPORTED SHORTAGE OF WAGONS IN GUJARAT FOR TRANSPORT OF SALT.

PROF. R. K. AMIN (Surendranagar): Under Rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the Ministers of Railways and Industries to the following urgent matter of importance.

Small manufacturers as well as cooperative manufactures in Kharaguda, Patri and Jhinjuwada have increased the production of salt due to the call given by the Government of India. Several regions in the country felt the shortage of salt during last year and, as a result of it, export of salt was banned. The real difficulty was not the shortage in production but there was shortage of wagon supply to Gujarat for transportation of salt. The manufacturers then expressed their willingness to increase their production to 5 lakh tons, which they have done this year. If the Railways give facilities and the ban on exports is lifted—the production, in fact, has been increased, but transport facilities are not being given. Even whatever facilities were given in the month of December 1977 and January and February 1978 have been taken away in March. These facilities have been taken away exactly when they were needed most. Thirty thousand bags of each category of salt are lying at Patri station. A huge stock of 'C' category is lying about 30 kilometres away from Kharaguda and if the facilities are not provided, the salt will be wasted when rains come, probably at the end of May. It is urgently required that about 60 wagons per day for 'C' category and ten wagons per day for 'E' category are provided in the months of April-May. The Ministers are requested to instruct the Railway Board to act immediately. Even wagon-boxes carrying coal to Ahmedabad can, on their return journey, carry salt from Patri and Kharaguda and this should be arranged immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakkappa.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI (Anantnag): Sir, what about the riot issue Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not listed for today.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: This is a very important issue Sir. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: You have to repeat it....(Interruptions).

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: This incident is a very serious issue.