

'loans' from those with stocks till their own supplies are made good by MMTC, the sole importer. The fear among the fertiliser manufacturers is that there may be a shortage of phosphatic fertilisers when the farmers do want them and the consequent rigging of prices.

The shortages created by circumstances beyond the control of MMTC have been compounded by a development which is of MMTC's own making. For the past four months or so, over 40,000 tonnes of sulphur were lying in stream off Bombay docks because of berthing difficulties and the MMTC, it is alleged, was unwilling to lighter the cargo and give it to the users only because it was not sure who would bear the lighterage charges. In this 'waiting game', MMTC would rather pay demurrages in foreign exchange than pay lighterage in rupees and pass them on to the Indian users. The users say the extra costs have to be willy-nilly borne by them as now it is not the cost of the raw material which bothers them, but keeping their production going. In fact this is what one or two users have done in claiming about 20,000 tonnes of this cargo on stream by bearing the lighterage charges. The situation now is that even when the other users are prepared to repeat the process, the decision is yet to be taken by MMTC.

Even if a decision is taken to obtain sulphur from somewhere now it may take over six weeks for the steamers to reach Indian shores and as usual 60 to 100 days to find berths for them in Bombay. Are the industries from fertilisers to textiles to dyestuffs and other chemicals to wait so long and bring their production to a halt?

The Minister is requested to take urgent measures so that the stipulated requirements of sulphur are obtained and supplied to the different sulphur-based industries, particularly fertilisers. All the three Ministers have to reply and I want an immediate reply.

(ii) REPORTED STEEP FALL IN THE PRICES OF POTATOES THEREBY CAUSING HARDSHIP TO POTATO GROWERS

SHRI BHAGAT RAM (Phillaur):
Sir, under Rule 377 I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance. The potato grower peasants are facing a grave crisis due to steep fall in the prices of the potatoes. The potato growers are not getting even the cost price. These are being purchased even below Rs. 30 per quintal. The NAFED failed to guarantee even the support price of Rs. 50 per quintal. The small and marginal peasants are complaining against the partisan attitude of the NAFED officials. The peasantry is being ruined as it has been denied fair price of sugarcane, cotton and now of potatoes. There is prevailing great resentment among the peasantry against this gross injustice. They are agitating to get justice. Hundreds of them courted arrest themselves at Jullundur.

I request the Minister to make a statement to assure the potato growers a support price of Rs. 50 of their whole marketable produce.

(iii) KERALA STATE CASHEW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur):
Sir, under Rule 377 I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance. Cashew Industry is one of the traditional industries of Kerala, export oriented, providing employment to more than two lakhs of workers mostly women.

This Industry was always depending on the imports of raw cashew nuts from the East African countries, as the local raw units were sufficient only to meet 1/3rd of the total requirement. During the past few years the import from these countries have dwindled down as they are processing their own nuts.

In view of this the Kerala Government is making concerted efforts for

self-sufficiency by various schemes for cashew cultivation.

Last year there was steep fall in the kernel price in the international market. Hence the private cashew processors refused to lift the raw-nuts allotted to them. Then the State sponsored the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation so as to takeover temporarily the 90 private processing factories.

Now because of the slump in the international market huge stocks of kernel is lying with the State Corporation. The Corporation is facing a financial crisis. As the Government of India is not agreeable for a export subsidy, the Government of Kerala had requested for an additional loan of Rs. 5 crores as an interest free loan and also to waive the interest for the earlier loan sanctioned.

I request the Government of India to heed to the request of the Government of Kerala.

(iv) DISSATISFACTION AMONG TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

PROF. DILIP CHAKARVARTY (Calcutta South): Under Rule 377, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that education, teachers and students are given only low priority. The teachers and students in our academic institutions are restive in different parts of the country. In Tamil Nadu, more than 800 teachers have courted arrest upto February 27 in different parts of the State. The teachers only demands were security of service and direct payment of their salary. In the course of the movement in Tamil Nadu, more than 25 women teachers were also arrested. A new dimension has been added when more than 150 students also courted arrest in support of the demands of the teachers.

In Kerala, a 20-year old Ayurveda student, P. K. Rajan, was murdered in his class-room.

In Patna, 2 teachers of the Patna University had been murdered.

I would urge the Union Education Minister to come forward with a statement and to do the needful to arrest this rot in the academic world by taking appropriate steps at the Central level as also by persuading his counter-parts at the State level to do the needful for education in general and the teachers and students in particular.

(v) TREATMENT METED OUT TO KIBAN SATYAGRAHIS RELEASED FROM TIHAR JAIL

श्री राजनारायण (राय बरेली) : श्रीमन्, मैं, जोक सभा कार्य प्रथिया संचालन विषयक नियम के नियम 377 के अधीन निम्न महत्वपूर्ण विषय को सदन में उठाना चाहता हूँ :-

“बिनांक 28-2-79 को तिहाड़ जेल से 490 किसान सत्याग्रहियों को बिना टिकट रात्रि 8 बजे रिहा किया गया, किसी भी सत्याग्रही को भोजन एवं मार्ग व्यय की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई, जेल के कर्मचारियों व अधिकारियों द्वारा किसान सत्याग्रहियों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया गया। 13 फरवरी को जब इनकी गिफ्तारी हुई तो पालियामेट स्ट्रीट के सब इन्स्पेक्टर और उनके सहयोगियों द्वारा किसानों पर बुरी तरह लाठी चार्ज किया गया। जेल के अन्दर इनकी सफाई, दवाई और खाने की उचित व्यवस्था नहीं थी।”

श्रीमन् ये करीब 8 बजे बंदी जेल से छूट कर भाये। हम ने सर्वप्रथम घर मंत्री को फोन किया लेकिन हमें बताया गया कि वे बायकम में हैं। इसके बाद हमने प्रधान मंत्री को फोन किया और उन्हें सारी बातें बता दीं। अगर श्रीमन्, मंत्री लोग एक-एक घण्टा बायकम में रहें तो देश का कल्याण कैसे हो सकता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : राज नारायण जी, यह आपके लिखे हुए नोटिस में नहीं है।

श्री राज नारायण : अगर श्रीमन्, एक घण्टा घर मंत्री बायकम में है तो यह देश कैसे चल सकता है। सरकार नियम की अवहेलना कर रही है। जिनके पास जेल से बाहर जाने पर कपड़ा नहीं होता है उन्हें कम्बल मिलता है, जिनके पास टिकट का पैसा नहीं होता है, उन्हें सरकार की ओर से टिकट दिया जाता है। सरकार की ओर से यह अमानवीय कुकर्म हुआ है, मैं चाहूँगा कि इसकी जांच हो।