

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

13 hrs.

[SHRI N. V. SHEJWALKAR in the Chair]

By about September, 1978, some applicants received Customs Clearance Permits for import of such machines. At the same time, other 18 applications submitted as per the same policy were approved by the Capital Goods Committee but have been kept pending under the pretext that the Policy is being reviewed. This has raised suspicion that some indigenous vested interests have created a lobby to mislead the Government by giving wrong facts and figures.

Without any fault on the part of the applicants, who have made certain commitments with foreign suppliers, this sudden action of the Government has caused a lot of resentment, suspicion, and misgiving about our policy in the minds of the Indian settled abroad desirous of coming back to India with their foreign exchange savings.

In view of the above, the Steering Committee of non-resident Indians have made representations to Government with a request to consider pending applications on the same basis as the Customs Clearance permits already granted to others so as to avoid unjust discrimination.

This sudden change in implementation of the Policy in force in the middle of the year has led these applicants and other prospective non-resident Indians to doubt Government's intentions, besides damaging the Country's image abroad.

I, therefore, earnestly request the Government to dispose of all pending applications and reassure prospective non-resident Indian investors about the continuity of the Policy as declared. This scheme was calculated to facilitate Indians abroad to come back to India and invest their foreign exchange savings by bringing capital goods to develop the Indian economy and save foreign exchange for the

country and to avail of this opportunity of importing technology suitable to India.

I call upon the Government to take immediate decision in the above matter before announcement of the new Import Policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call Mr. Kamath I would request the Hon. Members to keep to their respective seats. Noise is going on and the speeches are not audible. Shri Kamath.

(ii) REPORTED NON-AVAILABILITY OF WAGONS ON JABALPUR-ITARSI SECTION OF CENTRAL RAILWAY FOR MOVEMENT OF GRAINS AND PULSES

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): By your leave, I proceed, under Rule 377, to make the following statement on a matter of urgent public importance.

Complaints are mounting day by day that, on the Jabalpur-Itarsi section of Central Railway, wagons are not being supplied at any of the stations of that Section for the movement of grains and pulses. There are big grain markets (Mandis) at all stations on that Section, particularly at Itarsi, Piparia, Gadarwara, Kareli and Narsinghpur. The kisans and traders of the region are experiencing acute hardship owing to non-availability of wagons. Representations by letters and telegrams have been made to the Railway Administration, but with no tangible or appreciable effect so far. Serious allegations of corrupt practices, apart from apathy and negligence, on the part of the local Railway Officers have been made by responsible persons of the locality.

The situation is fast deteriorating and may even erupt into violence and I would, therefore, earnestly request the Railway Minister and the Railway Board to pay immediate attention to this matter and set matters right, lest worse befall;