

[Shri Surendra Bikram]

may be denatured so that it is not fit for human consumption. Instead of exporting at lower cost, it should supplement petrol consumption in the country.

(ii) REPORTED NOTICE BY EMPLOYEES OF BANKS TO GO ON STRIKE

श्री उपसेन (देवरिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन, देश के 5 लाख बैंक कर्मचारियों ने, जो निजी और राष्ट्रीयक बैंकों में काम करते हैं, अपने मालिकों को नोटिस दिया है कि वे प्रायामी 28 और 29 दिसम्बर को अपने देश में सम्पूर्ण हड़ताल करेंगे। उनकी मांग है कि वेतन सम्बन्धी सारे समस्याएँ लागू किये जायें और जो महंगाई बतों की दर है, उसको कायम रखा जाए। बीनस एक्ट 1975 उन पर लागू किया जाए चाहिए। उनकी मांगों के अलावा, बीनस एवं अन्य सुविधाओं के सम्बन्ध में उनके और सरकार के बीच कोई समझौता नहीं हो सका है। जबकि भारतीय संसदों ने मिलकर प्रयास भी किया है, मगर अभी तक कोई हल नहीं निकला है, मतः बिल मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरह आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I have given notice under 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: These have been selected and allowed.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I want my protest to go on record.

(iii) PROBLEMS OF TOBACCO GROWERS

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, I make the following statement under rule 377:

The tobacco growers in the country particularly in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka are passing through a period of severe depression this year. On a recent estimate, about 60 million Kgs. of tobacco is remaining unsold with the farmers. The problem has hit hard to the producers of bidi tobacco. This year, the agents have not purchased the commodity in order to compel the growers to sell at

throwaway prices. There is also another factor which shows high production and fall in demand. Due to high prices, in previous two years, a large number of growers diverted more land for production of tobacco from foodgrains. Further, the hybrid seed of tobacco have not given massive production. This has brought about a crisis for the farmers growing tobacco. The aggrieved tobacco growers have represented this case to the Government. In view of this, the Government has to review its policy regarding levy of excise duty to give remunerative prices to tobacco growers.

The prices of bidis have reached high and unless the excise duties are reduced, remunerative prices cannot be given to the tobacco growers. The holding capacity of tobacco growers being lower, a severe financial crisis has set in. The Government, therefore, is required to reconsider the entire situation urgently.

(iv) WORKING OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SHRI VIJYKUMAR N. PATIL (Dhulia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following urgent matter of public importance regarding the function of IARI.

There are reports in a section of news-papers today that two senior bio-chemists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute who have questioned the research claims of their seniors have been punished and provided with no research facilities. A PTI correspondent found these persons without even the basic equipment, like, chemical balance and "fume cupboards". Neither of them has staff, equipment, telephone, even stationery and the basic chemicals for research.

Reports also have appeared in the *Indian Express*, New Delhi dated 28th November, 1978 regarding the "Scientist Demands" for a judicial probe

into the unsatisfactory working of IARI due to abuse of authority and mal-practices by the authorities and serious discontentment among the lower staff. It is reported that nearly half of the farm areas in the Agricultural Institute has not been sown with any crop during the rabi season of 1977-78. The research students and the staff were denied minimal field facilities for their consideration. The matter is serious enough to call for a thorough probe into the working of the IARI.

The Minister of Agriculture may please do the needful.

(v) REPORTED SCARCITY OF COAL, KEROSENE AND FIREWOOD IN DELHI

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU** (Diamond Harbour): Sir, it is almost a regular feature during this part of the year in Delhi that acute shortage of poorman's fuel—coal, kerosene and firewood—is created by the influential traders, of course, in connivance with certain quarters in official hierarchy. Otherwise, there is no reason why this phenomenon should occur every year during winter season. Although officials are claiming that there is no shortage of kerosene in the city but long queues of consumers waiting from morning till late in the evening for a small quantity of kerosene would belie this claim. The supply of kerosene oil is very erratic.

The price of firewood and coke has gone up and is being sold in black market. This artificial scarcity is created only to make money by the interested traders. The Government has to come with a heavy hand upon such unsocial elements and ensure that commodities, like, fuel are made available to the people not only in Delhi but elsewhere too without any difficulty.

I would like the Minister to make a statement in this regard.

(vi) DISPOSAL OF ACCUMULATED STOCK OF SOLID WOOLLEN AND COTTON CLOTH AND READY MADE GARMENTS BY KHAND AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

**श्री कृष्ण देव नारायण बाबू (समुबरी)** : उप-व्यक्त महोदय, खादी प्रामोद्योग कमीशन द्वारा संचालित खादी प्रचलन, कमाट सर्फेस, में साबुओं सप का रेडी-मेड सूती और डनी कपड़ा सड़ कर बर्बाद हो रहा है। कपड़े के गोदाम में तैयार कपड़े में इतना कीड़ा लग गया है कि साबुओं सप के कपड़े बेकार हो रहे हैं। जहां हर साल इतनी बर्बादी हो रही है, वहां उन बेकार कपड़ों को समय पर बेचने की व्यवस्था नहीं की जाती है। खरीद करने की व्यवस्था में भी गड़बड़ी है। एक ही व्यक्ति को करोड़ों सप का माल खरीदने का अधिकार है। अगर बोड़ा बर्बाद कपड़ा समय पर बाज में समुचित कटौती कर के बेच दिया जावे, तो साबुओं सपों का लाभ हुआ और कम दाम में गरीबों को कपड़ा भी मिल जायेगा। बास लीर पर बेकार कपड़े को बिक्री के लिए एक काउंटर खोला जाए। सरकार अनुदान देती है, परन्तु उसका सदुपयोग नहीं हो पाता है। सारे देश में इसी तर्ह की दुर्ब्यवस्था है।

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI** (Chirayinkil): On a point of order regarding 377. Many Members from this side as well as from the other side may give notices under rule 377, maybe, on the same subject, and it is the Speaker who, in his wisdom, decides which is to be allowed. I do not know what procedure is adopted. I had given a notice under rule 377 regarding the bankmen's strike notice last week. The same subject has been allowed to be raised now by another Member. We do not receive any information. We would like to be enlightened by you or by the Speaker on this.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER**: I have heard what you said. You had given a notice last week. That is what you said. The procedure has been that we keep these things pending for the whole week and on Friday they lapse. If you give fresh notice, it will be taken up again. Perhaps you did not give fresh notice. That is what must have happened, and somebody else must have given notice on the same subject this week.