

होने चाहिए। इसलिए मेरी मांग है और बहुत से व्यवहारों में भी मांग की है कि उसकी ज़रूरतों को इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को स्टैटमेंट देना चाहिए कि उसका लीकेज कितना हुआ।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
The report has already been laid.

MR. SPEAKER: You wanted him to give a patient hearing, but you are not allowing him to speak.

श्री भक्त राव : इसके अलावा मैं एक चीज और बताना चाहता हूँ। मैंने यहाँ पर दो क्वेश्चन्स दिये थे जबकि सिमिलर क्वेश्चन्स एक्सेप्ट कर लिये गये थे। मेरे क्वेश्चन्स यह कह कर एक्सेप्ट नहीं किये गये थे कि ये इन्डिबिजुअल वेचर के हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: That is being considered. If you have already made a statement, then further statement is not necessary. It is under consideration. On each day, I am allowing only five persons, not more than five.

12.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) REPORTED DELAY IN PROVIDING BERTHING FACILITIES FOR VESSELS CARRYING CEMENT AT VARIOUS PORTS

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):
Under rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the inefficiency of the Government of India in tackling their economic programme about the cement cargo held up at ports. There is a report in *The Economic Times* dated 10th March, 1978, about it. I have also collected ample material to castigate the Government. This Government has failed in this respect and there are two or three Ministries involved. I would like to tell you about the loss incurred as a consequence of delay. The two or three Ministries involved are: the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the Ministry of Industry.

As you are aware, there is a shortage of cement in the country and the

Government of India is not in a position to meet the domestic requirements; they are importing cement and a substantial amount of foreign exchange is being incurred as losses due to delay in providing berthing facilities at various ports to vessels bringing the cement. As per the reports, the country has to pay demurrage of the order of Rs. 2 lakhs while the imports so far have been only 2 lakhs tonnes. Since about 6.5 lakhs tonnes more cement is expected to arrive, the demurrage charges are expected to mount unless corrective measures are taken urgently. The amount of foreign exchange expenditure is expected to increase further.

"Although berthing of cement cargo ships is to be accorded priority, there is still a delay of at least three to four days at various ports before the waiting vessels are given the green signal for berthing. The demurrage is 3500 pounds a day.

The Government decided to import about one million tonnes of cement to meet increased domestic demand. Although cement production in 1977-78 is estimated to be about 19.2 million tonnes the highest so far achieved, there is still likely to be a shortage of about two million tonnes." The Government of India has not done anything because they have no control over it. Even the distribution system has collapsed in this matter. When I put my question about it, the Industry Minister had stated that he had already failed in this respect and did not answer my question properly. There is a shortage of cement and the distribution system is not happy in this country. There is a large scale blackmarket and the cement is being sold by private manufacturers at a huge profit. He has even failed to take over the distribution system in this country. Certain quantities of cement are imported from countries like South Korea, Rumania and Poland to meet the shortage in indigenous production, and

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

this imported cement is lying idle. The Transport and Shipping Ministry is sleeping over the matter even after all these things have been brought to their notice. The shortage has developed on account of higher demand for consumption for public works as well as for agriculture, industry and housing. How can these Ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Transport and Shipping, run the country like this? If such a shortage remains, no developmental activities can take place in this country. The road works have been stopped, the construction work for giving housing facilities to the poor people has completely stopped in various States. In Karnataka the PWD is not functioning and no developmental activities are taking place there. In Andhra Pradesh where the cyclone caused so much of damage, no work is going on because of shortage of cement. And this shortage of cement has been due to the callousness, delay and inaction on the part of the Government of India. This has been reported time and again and we have brought it to the notice of the Government of India many times. Even then, the Government is not taking any action. There are four Ministries involved in this, and it is most unfortunate that none of these Ministers concerned with this subject is here, though this notice was given. Of course, to matters raised under rule 377, they are not expected to reply immediately. Considering the seriousness of the situation, I request you, Sir, to pull these four Ministers and see that....

MR. SPEAKER: How can I pull four persons at a time?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would request you, Sir, to pull them up and direct them to be responsible to the House, to the country, to the people of this country.

The State Trading Corporation has already contracted for the import of 8.4 lakh tonnes. The Commerce Ministry has failed here. How can the

State Trading Corporation function like this? The State Trading Corporation has already contracted for the import of 8.4 lakh tonnes from South Korea, Rumania and Poland; it is being imported through the ports of Bombay, Cochin, Madras and Visakhapatnam. As I have already pointed out, we have to pay so much of demurrage....

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Certain corrective measure should be taken by these Ministries. I draw the attention of the Prime Minister to this. Is there any cohesive and collective responsibility to this House in running this Government? There is such a shortage of cement that the developmental activities have come to a halt the economic programme has come to halt. The Finance Ministry has presented a Budget which is not at all inspiring. Therefore, there is a failure on the part of this Government, I charge this Government with inaction. I want them to take corrective measures and come forward with a statement on this. They do not even know what is the requirement of cement in the country, what is the international price structure and so on. All these things call for a deep study. All these factors have to be taken note of by the Government, and they should come forward with a clear statement on this.

(ii) FIRE IN NATIONAL TEXTILES CORPORATIONS MILL AT DHULE (MAHARASHTRA)

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thana): Sir, I hereby mention, under rule 377, an important matter of urgent public importance.

The National Textile Corporation Mill at Dhule in Maharashtra was heavily damaged in a huge fire that broke out on the 8th March, 1978. The carding, roving and spinning departments of the mill were completely gutted and destroyed. The Mill has 2200 workers on its pay-roll. The said port workers are presently thrown out of employment and it is the pertinent duty of the Government to provide