

[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

the jobs elsewhere or make necessary arrangements for their financial assistance till the restarting of the mill. The Government of India have taken immediate steps in such a case—one Bombay mill. Financial aid is a must in this case also. It is also very essential to go into the causes of the fire and to decide on the further line of action to avert such accidents.

We are anxious to know about the total loss involved.

(iii) **LIKELY LOCK-OUT IN COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILL AND DISTILLERY OF PANIPAT**

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur): It is an urgent matter of interest to the poor people which I intend to raise under Rule 377.

The Cooperative Sugar Mill and Distillery of Panipat in Haryana is in danger of being locked out for want of finance to purchase sugar cane from the growers. For nearly two weeks now the growers are not being paid a single paisa for the cane they have supplied for want of funds. The society asked for Rs. 75 lakhs from the bank on the guarantee of the State Government, which is not forthcoming. There are nearly 1,500 employees who are also the shareholders of the society which owns the mill. At the same time there are 15,000 cane growers who are also members of the Society and who have purchased shares. They are in villages around Panipat and supply all the materials required for the working of the Mills from their own produce. It is not expected of them to continue to supply sugarcane without payment at the Government agreed rate of Rs. 13.50 per quintal. (Government had also agreed to this price). They are now compelled to sell their sugarcane to private owned Khandsari Sugar Mills at Rs. 8 per quintal which is much below the expected price to the growers. At the same time, it is also much below the cost of production.

Unless the Central Government, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Cooperation, together with the Agriculture Ministry, come forward with the additional working capital of

Rs. 75 lakhs, together with a change in the Management of the Society, the mills will be closed at any moment throwing 1500 workers and their families into distress and compelling sugarcane growers, who number about 15,000, to give up cultivation of this crop altogether.

It is stated that a Haryana Civil Service Officer, a junior in rank, is placed in charge of the Sugar Mill and he is dancing to the tune of the State Ministers of Finance, Labour and Co-operation who are unable to provide the necessary additional funds. Unless some assistance comes from the Government of India, along with technical know-how, the sugar mills will be closed at any moment. I, therefore, demand from the Government of India that they should appoint not only a sugar technologist but also an Administrator, and they should provide additional funds to the tune of Rs. 75 lakhs, for which the mills had asked the Government long ago.

(iv) **REPORTED CLOSURE OF MAHARANA CLOTH MILL OF PORBANDAR (GUJARAT)**

श्री धर्मसिंह भाई पटेल (पोरबन्दर) :

ग्राम्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात के सौराष्ट्र प्रदेश के पोरबन्दर शहर की महाराणा कपडा मिल स्टीम कोल के अभाव से 11 मार्च 1978 से बन्द हो गई है। यह मिल 46 वर्ष पुरानी मिल है। इस मिल को प्रति मास नौ सौ टन स्टीम कोल मध्य प्रदेश की बिलासपुर की खदानों से आता था। छः महीने से कोयले की कमी इस मिल को अनुभव होनी रही थी। कोयले के अभाव में मिल बन्द हो जाने से 2300 मिल मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं और प्रति दिन पचास हजार मीटर कपडा तैयार होता था वह भी बन्द हो गया है।

इस मिल के बन्द होने से मजदूरों को, मिल को और सरकार को आम्बनी में नुक्सान होता जा रहा है। पोरबन्दर की महाराणा कपडा मिल को तुरन्त कोयला मिल सके इसके लिए शीघ्र प्रबन्ध किया जाए ताकि मिल तुरन्त चालू हो सके। मिल मैनेजमेंट, मजदूर यूनियन की ओर से भी केन्द्रीय