

bution of those sums among those States in accordance with the principles recommended by the Finance Commission in its report dated the 28th day of October, 1978.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment out of the Consolidated Fund of India of sums equivalent to a part of the net proceeds of certain Union duties of excise to the States to which the law imposing the duty extends and for the distribution of those sums among those States in accordance with the principles recommended by the Finance Commission in its report dated the 28th day of October, 1978."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH: I introduce the Bill.

14.41 hrs.

ESTATE DUTY (DISTRIBUTION)  
AMENDMENT BILL\*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Estate Duty (Distribution) Act, 1962.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Estate Duty (Distribution) Act, 1962."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH: I introduce the Bill.

14.42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF CERTAIN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF INDIAN NAVY WORKING IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): With your permission, Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377:—

I have received information from my constituency, Andaman and Nicobar Islands that the Flag Officers, Eastern Command, has issued orders to terminate 125 casual/temporary civilian employees in different categories having services from 6 years to 6 months working in Indian Navy in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I also understand that no reduction or winding up of any Naval units occurred to cause such large retrenchment. If the said order is implemented, it will result in throwing 125 civilian employees and their families to open street.

In view of the above report-I would like to appeal through this august House to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Defence) of India Babu Jagjivan Ram, to kindly consider sympathetically the cases of these unfortunate civilian employees of Indian Navy working in Andamans and to kindly intervene to refrain from such retrenchment immediately.

- (ii) ENQUIRY INTO THE AVERTED TRAIN ACCIDENT AT BHARTHANA STATION ON APRIL 10, 1979.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Mathurapur): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:—

On 10-4-79 I was travelling by the Rajdhani Express from Howrah to Delhi and the train was full carrying over 400 passengers.

Before the train could reach Tundla, few miles ahead of it, near Bharthana

\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 12-4-79.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President

[Shri Mukunda Mandal] station, at about 6.00 A.M. in the morning, we were all awakened by a very severe jolt and we were about to be thrown out of our seats. We discovered that the train had a very narrow escape from a serious accident. On the same track on which the Rajdhani was running, there was a stationary train waiting at Bharthana station and the collision was almost inescapable. But for the presence of mind and the pluck of the driver of the Rajdhani train, the train was brought to a halt just 20 to 25 yards behind the stationary train waiting at the Bharthana station thus, hundreds of lives were saved.

In this connection, I request the Railway Minister through your good offices to (a) institute a thorough enquiry immediately and fix responsibility, (b) formally and officially appreciate and reward the driver and engine crew of the train and (c) a statement giving factual details may please be made available on the Table of the House.

श्री श्री० जी० गवई (बलडाना) : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है इसी सम्बन्ध में। 377 के अधीन जो मामले उठाए जाते हैं वे बड़े महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं। जो जिस मंत्रालय के संबंध में वे मामले उठाए जाते हैं उस के मंत्री को यहाँ हाजिर रहना चाहिए ताकि वह सुन सके कि उस के विभाग के बारे में किस तरीके का मामला उठाया गया। प्रश्नी इन्होंने जो मामला उठाया है, उसमें ही सम्बन्धित मंत्री यहाँ पर नहीं हैं। जिस मंत्रालय से संबंधित मामला उठाया जाए उस के मंत्री को यहाँ रहना चाहिए। 377 के अन्तर्गत जो मामला उठाया जाता है उसको सुनने के लिए मंत्री जी को यहाँ हाजिर रहना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary. The report will go to the Minister concerned. Please take your seat.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi.

(iii) REPORTED CRISES IN COIR INDUSTRY IN KERALA.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I stand to raise an important matter of public importance under rule 377.

Coir industry in India is a small scale cottage industry. Labour intensive

nature of this industry, which employs over half-a-million people, invests this industry with special significance, particularly in Kerala, where the industry is mainly concentrated. Even though the internal consumption and marketing arrangement in India have improved considerably over the last few years this industry still continues to depend heavily on export. The growth and survival of their industry is inextricably bound with its export potential and performance. The export of coir and coir goods brings us a foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 24 crores a year.

But the export of the coir products is suffering a set-back due to the shortage of raw-material in Kerala, due to some important factors, this needs the immediate attention of the Government.

Kerala produces 3443 million husks out of 5837 million of the total production in the country. Yet, Kerala suffers the shortage of husks for the coir industry, which needs only 1600 million husks.

The total production of the coir yarn is 1,26,800 tonnes and the coir products are 29,300 tonnes. The demand for the coir products are very high and the industry is unable to meet the demand even though higher price is being offered by the foreign countries.

The inability of the coir industry in India and the failure of the Coir Board to meet the demand of the foreign buyers is creating a threat to the Indian markets abroad. Some other coir producing countries are enthusiastically jumping into the market to fill the gap which ultimately harm the interests of our country. It affects half-a-million people employed in the rural areas.

The immediate problem is the acute scarcity of the raw-material of fibre and the coir for the coir product. The availability of the fibre can be ensured only through the availability