

Lastly, I want to remind the hon. Minister of the assurance he gave to the House that whenever a sick unit is taken over by the Government, the other sick units of the Company would be simultaneously taken over so that the company can be run properly. With this submission, I oppose the introduction of the Bill. I hope, the hon. Minister will assure the House that the interest of the Kanpur jute unit workers would also be equally protected and safeguarded.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The hon. Member has made a point about the Kanpur jute unit of this particular company. We are also concerned with this question; we have been in touch with the State Government about the problem that the jute unit in Kanpur is facing and between my Ministry and the Uttar Pradesh State Government, we are hoping to find a solution to this problem. We are aware of the size of the problem and we are doing all that is necessary to sort that out. The State Government of Rajasthan has made a point; they would like the unit to be handed over to them, but the Bill, as it has been cleared by the Government, provides for the Cement Corporation of India taking this over. The State Government have a certain point of view. There is another problem which the State Government have raised and that is currently under the consideration of the Central Government and it relates to payment of some of their dues from this company. Large amount of money are due to various people and the Bill provides for payment within a certain schedule.

The hon. Member made a point about the taking over of all the units of a company. There has not been any such policy on the part of the Government to take over all the units of a company. In the case of Swadeshi Mills, we took a certain decision.

In so far as this company is concerned, we are, at the moment, concerned with the unit at Sawai Madhopur.

I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chitta Basu, I suppose you are not pressing.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have explained my position, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for, in the public interest, the acquisition and transfer of the right, title and interest of the Jaipur

Udyog Limited in relation to its cement undertakings, for the purpose of ensuring continuity of production of cement which is essential to the needs of the community, the industries and other developmental projects in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now matters under rule 377.

11:42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) REPORTED EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN HANDMADE MATCH INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU.

SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM (Shahjahanpur): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter. It is about the exploitation of child labour in the hand-made match industry in the districts of Tiruchelvi and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.

In the very first month of the International Year of the Child, viz. January 1979, a gruesome bus tragedy took place near Sivakasi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu which brought to light the cruel exploitation of children employed in the hand-made match industry in the districts of Tiruchelvi and Ramanathapuram in the State of Tamil Nadu. A bus carrying 60 children between the age group of 10-14 was washed away by floods when the bus was crossing a bridge. The bus accident resulted in the death of 37 children being taken to work in one of the match factories.

It is common knowledge that there is a large scale exploitation of child labour of the type not found in any other industry, or in any other part of the country. About 50% of the labour employed in the hand-made match industry are children between the age group of 5 and 15. These children are paid wages, earning from 50 paise to Rs. 2/- and are required to work 12 hours or more a day. The work carried out by them is of a hazardous nature. Besides, they are brought to the factories from as far away as 10 to 20 kms. in buses, vans and

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

tasks. They are pushed up from their villages between 3 and 4 a.m. to reach the factories by 6 a.m. and dropped back after 7 p.m. They do not get any statutory benefits like provident fund, ESI etc.

In the year 1976, a former Member of the Board of Revenue studied the problem of child labour employed in the match industry in detail and submitted his report to the P. N. Naidu Government. However, his report has not so far been published. The newspapers have quoted the following extracts from the Report:

- (a) Child labour constitutes 40 to 45% of the total labour employed in the match industry, girls outnumbering boys by 3 to 1;
- (b) the minimum age is 5 to 6 years and some times even lower;
- (c) The wages vary from 50 paise to Rs. 2/-.
- (d) The children are woken up from their houses even as early as 3 a.m. to get ready to be taken to the factory and brought back home by 7 p.m.
- (e) Several accidents take place in the industry, but these are invariably hushed up.
- (f) Few amenities are provided to the child workers, in spite of law making specific provisions.
- (g) Safety standards are very poor.¹

It is absolutely essential that in this International Year of the Child, the Government should make a thorough enquiry into the nature and extent of exploitation of child labour in the hand made match industry and take such effective steps as are necessary, to do away with such exploitation.

(ii) REPORTED HUNGER STRIKE BY WORKERS OF TANNERY AND FOOTWEAR CORPORATION OF INDIA, KANPUR.

श्री मनोहर लाल (कानपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की अनुमति से नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित अधिलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान दिखाना चाहता हूँ :

कानपुर स्थित भारत सरकार के टैन्नी एंड फुट-वियर कारपोरेशन, ईपको के लगभग 3500 कर्मचारी 70 दिनों से अपनी पुरानी ग्रेडिंग की मांग को लेकर कृषिक धनशन कर रहे हैं। माननीय उद्योग मंत्री जी ने लोक सभा में धारावाचन दिया था कि 31 जनवरी 79 तक ग्रेडिंग हो जायगी। मगर एतदी तक की रिपोर्ट पाने के बावजूद भी

अभी तक ग्रेडिंग के आदेश पारित नहीं हुए हैं। कर्मचारियों में बड़ा असन्तोष है। जन्म व प्रवेशन भी निकाल रहे हैं। स्टाफ के लोगों की ग्रेडिंग कई साल पहले हो चुकी है। अतः टैपका के कर्मचारियों के शीघ्र ग्रेडिंग के आदेश पारित किये जाय और यदि विलम्ब हो तो अनुत्तरिम ग्रेडिंग तुरन्त दो जाय।

MR. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Mani Ram Bagri. He is not here. Shri T. Balakrishniah.

(iii) LACK OF MARKETING AGENCIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH (Tirupathi): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The State of Andhra Pradesh got a quota of 30,000 tonnes of rice for export for the year 1979-80. But so far, it is alleged that not a single tonne of rice has been exported from Andhra Pradesh. The farmers in Andhra Pradesh are envious of Punjab which is better placed with respect to export and marketing, though this State took to paddy cultivation quite recently.

Confronted thus with an economy of surpluses in agricultural production with no market for crops such as paddy, sugarcane and tobacco, the farmer in Andhra Pradesh is undergoing hardship to market his agricultural produce. There is frustration among the farmers for lack of market. The marketing agencies of the State Government, such as Civil Supplies Corporation and MARKFED are unable to solve the farmers' problem, in any significant way. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has no plans to strengthen the existing marketing agencies. The farmer sold paddy at Rs. 70 per quintal last season, which would correspond to a rice price of Rs. 1.05 per kg. The price of rice in the retail market is more than Rs. 2.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to come forward with some proposals to buy the paddy, jaggery and tobacco from the farmers directly in Andhra Pradesh where there is hardship for marketing.

(iv) INCIDENTS AT JANPATH, NEW DELHI, ON THE 1ST MAY, 1979.

SHRI N. KUDANTHAI RAMALINGAM (Mayuram): Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement under rule 377:—

On the decision of the Youth Congress, myself and my colleague took a peaceful procession of the Youth Congress people on May day in order to demand withdrawal of the Black Law of the Special Courts