

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.<sup>1</sup>

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 धनदान कर रहे हैं। माननीय उद्योग मंत्री जी ने लोक सभा में धारावाचन दिया था कि 31 जनवरी 79 तक ग्रेडिंग हो जायगी। मगर एन पी सी की रिपोर्ट आने 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 भी ग्रेडिंग के आदेश पारित किये जाय और यदि विलम्ब हो तो अनुत्तरित 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