(iv) NEED FOR RAISING PROCUREMENT PRICE OF PADDY IN TAMIL NADU.

SHRI C .N. VISVANATHAN (Tiruppattur): With your permission, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377:

The low price offered for paddy has caused acute distress to growers The Tamil Nadu State Government has requested Centre to raise price of paddy to Rs. 130 per quintal, from the present Rs. 85 per quintal. Though cost of production of paddy is more than that of wheat, procurement price is far less. The Food Corporation of India is not at all buying paddy in South Zone especially Tamil Nadu. Paddy growers are suffering. Middlemen exploit and get richer day by day. Moreover shortage of electricity forces paddy growers to use diesel and kerosene which increase cost. The Minister of Agriculture, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, has given an assurance that paddy prices will be increased soon. So far, there is no action. Members from South have repeatedly urged for increasing procurement price of paddy during their discussions during the Budget Session and in the Consultative Committee's meetings. The Minister of Agriculture who recently visited Tamil Nadu said that Government of India is watching carefully the demands for Tamil Nadu paddy growers. Because of the mounting discontent and distress of paddy growers, it is imperative that the Food Corporation of India should purchase paddy direct from the growers for export to foreign countries; and Government of India should immediately raise the procurement price of paddy to Rs. 135 per quintal. Any delay will hit the growers very hard Moreover, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala said in the statement in Parliament recently, "The States are free to buy paddy at any price they liked", but in the *Hindu*, the hon. Minister of Food of Tamil Nadu said, "No communication has been received so far and the latest communication on the subject was received on 29th September, last year prohibiting any payment over and above the procurement price fixed by the Centre."

(v) REPORTED CUT IN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN MAHARASHTRA AFFECTING INDUSTRIAL UNITS.

श्रीमती चन्द्रावती (बम्बई उत्तर) : 8 मई 1979 को महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने बिजली की 15 प्रतिशत ज्यादा कटौती की घोषणा की, जब कि 20 प्रतिशत पहले से ही चल रही थी ।

यह बार बार कहा गया है कि महाराष्ट्र के थरमल पावर स्टेशन पर कोयले की स्थिति दिन व दिन बिगड़ती जा रही है । दिनांक 7-5-79 को ग्राउंड स्टाक की स्थिति निम्न है :—

क्रम सं० विद्युत् घर	रेलों द्वारा	सड़क द्वारा	रोपवे द्वारा	कुल	ग्राउंड स्टाक	कितने दिनों के के लिए
1. कोराड़ी .	1375	4204	—	5579	—	—
2. नासिक	2192	—	—	2192	289	—
3. पारस	—	598	—	598	1683	—
4. खापरखेड़ा	672	112	—	784	—	—
5. भुसावल	1485	—	—	1485	1010	1
6. बलारशाह .	—	358	—	358	63	—
7. परली .	—	—	—	—	3375	4

मैं इस स्थिति में कोराडी विद्युत् घर का 120 मेगावाट क्षमता का यूनिट नं0 1 बन्द पड़ा है । बलारशाह के 6 मेगावाट क्षमता का यूनिट बन्द पड़ा है और कोराडी का दूसरा 120 मेगावाट क्षमता का यूनिट बन्द पड़ने की आशंका है ।

महाराष्ट्र के दो मंत्री पिछले पांच दिन से दिल्ली में इस काम के लिए बैठे हुए हैं । बताया जाता है कि जहां वैगन उपलब्ध है वहां के कोयला खान मे कोयला नही है और जहा कोयला है वहां कोयला लादने की सुविधा नही है । सिंगरौली-मध्य प्रदेश में कोयला है लेकिन सिंगरेनी-आंध्र प्रदेश जहां से महाराष्ट्र को हर महीना 70 से 80 हजार टन कोयला आता था, वहां कोयला नहीं है ।

26 अप्रैल से 9 मई तक जहां कि कोयले की हर दिन की जरूरत 15 हजार टन है, वहां मात्र 14 दिनों में औसत दैनिक 12,252 टन कोयला ही मिल पाया ।

10 मई, 1979 से जो संशोधित कटौती की गई है वह निम्न है :—

	उपभोक्ताओं की कुल मांग मे कटौती		उपभोक्ताओं की बिजली की दरों में कटौती	
	बम्बई पूना क्षेत्र	महाराष्ट्र मे अन्य क्षेत्र	बम्बई पूना क्षेत्र	महाराष्ट्र में अन्य क्षेत्र
1. सामान्य उद्योग	25	25	20	20
2. निरन्तर प्रक्रिया उद्योग	35	20	35	20
3. कपड़ा	15	15	15	15
4. आवश्यक	10	10	10	10
5. कर्मशियल	—	—	15	15
6. सर्विस इंडस्ट्रीज	—	—	10	10

सब प्रयत्नों के बावजूद परिस्थिति खराब होती जा रही है और महाराष्ट्र सरकार को ज्यादा कटौती करने पर विवश होना पड़ा है । आशंका है कि यह बम्बई तथा शेष महाराष्ट्र की औद्योगिक इकाइयों पर विपरीत प्रभाव डालेगी । उत्पादन में क्षति होगी और औद्योगिक अशांति भी होगी ।

मैं प्रधान मंत्री से अनुरोध करती हूं कि इस मामले में स्वयं हस्तक्षेप करें और इस गम्भीर परिस्थिति से महाराष्ट्र को बचायें ।

(vi) CONDITION OF HARIJAN REFUGEES IN MARICHJHAPI IN WEST BENGAL.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: This is a statement on Marichjhapi.

Many Members of Lok Sabha and myself received the following telegram:

> "West Bengal Government suddenly surrounded Marichjhapi since Sunday night. Two thousand Police landed in island with tear gas forcibly entering huts. Tube-wells destroyed, Police barricade stopped entry of food, drinking water. Island resident who came out for food cannot return. Refugees being forced by Police under bayonet, lathi, molestation of women. Please intervene, save life and property of Scheduled Caste refugees."

This telegram is signed by Shri Kayal, Secretary-General, All India Scheduled Castes/Tribes Co-ordination Council, Calcutta.

The news about the police blockade of the island has been reported widely in the West Bengal press as well.

Atrocities committed on the Harijan refugees in the Marichjhapi area of West Bengal received the attention of the House several times before and the press also gave wide publicity to the harrowing tale of blockade of the Harijan refugees, destruction of their improvised huts, tube-wells and fisheries and killing of many refugees due to police firings and injuries of many more as a result of tear-gassing and lathi charges by the police and incidents of criminal assault on Harijan women etc. in a brutal effort to terrorise them to leave the Marichjhapi area.

These inhuman measures taken by the West Bengal Police evoked such indignation all over the country that