

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Before you pass on to the next item, I would like to know one thing...

MR. SPEAKER: I am looking into the matter. He has written to me a letter. I have not been able to go into the matter. Mr. Banatwalla.

12.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) COMMUNAL SITUATION IN VILLAGE ROLE, DISTRICT NAGOUR (RAJASTHAN).

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to mention, under Rule 377, the following matter of urgent public importance.—

It is most unfortunate and a matter of serious concern that the communal situation in Village Role, District Nagaur of Rajasthan State, has precariously deteriorated. Violence has already flared up. One Muslim was murdered and several have been attacked and beaten. Serious sacrilegious acts have been committed with damage caused to Dargah and mosque. Damage has also been done to a graveyard.

A deplorable aspect of the ugly situation, which causes great anguish and anxiety, is that the police was allegedly a passive spectator and favourably disposed towards the rioters. This is fast becoming a general pattern as recently in Jamshedpur too the Bihar Military Police reportedly did not initially obey the order to fire at the unruly job. This reveals the collusion of the local police force and the consequent panic and growing feeling of insecurity among the minorities.

I urge upon the Government to move promptly and effectively in consultation with the State Government to avert any bigger calamity.

(ii) REPRESENTATION BY FARMERS OF RAMPUR DISTRICT (U.P.) REGARDING REMOVAL OF EXCISE DUTY AND PURCHASE TAX ON MENTHOL.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, under rule 377, I raise the following matter of urgent public importance:

The farmers growing menthol of District Rampur have represented to the U.P. Government as well as to the Centre that if the excise duty and purchase tax are not completely removed, there will be hit very badly. The small scale industries, who are the main buyers of menthol oil have been dictating terms to the farmers paying very low price compared to large scale industries. This year the large scale industries have to get out of purchasing oil from the farmers, due to the 15 per cent excise duty and 8 per cent purchase tax. The small scale industries will not have to pay any excise duty.

The small scale industries paid to the farmer Rs 30/- per kg. while the large scale industries were paying Rs. 50/- per kg. which supported the farmers. The farmer represented to the State authorities in U.P. regarding the unfair tactics of the small scale industries. The Collector of Rampur called a meeting of Industries, farmers, traders, etc., and warned all concerned to pay the highest price of Rs. 50/- per kg.; otherwise, they would be arrested. The small scale industries did not follow the Collector's advice and the Collector had to arrest some people. This low price for menthol oil has affected the next year's crop pattern. Farmers are aware of the excise duty evasion by the small scale industries. They do not insist on any bill and the small scale industries are having a very good time by avoiding all taxes and excise duty.