

[Shri S. A. Muruganatham]

factory. That is why they have virtually stopped the supply of potassium chlorate to these small units numbering more than 300.

These small units have got export orders to the value of Rs. 3 crores. While the indigenous production of potassium chlorate is in itself inadequate to meet the requirement, only less than 25 per cent of the requirement of these 300 and odd small units is being supplied now. To tide over the present crisis in this cottage industry, the Government may have to take immediate steps for importing at least 750 tonnes of potassium chlorate. Besides, the Government of India must issue a directive to these three major producers of potassium chlorate that they must restore the supply of potassium chlorate to these 300 and odd small factories manufacturing matches to the level of supply they were making before last May otherwise it will be impossible to retrieve the worsening crisis in this cottage industry.

12.36 hrs.

RE. STRIKE BY DOCTORS IN BOMBAY

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed only one item under rule 377 and that is already over. Now, Mr. Mody wanted to say something.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a most terrible, shocking thing has been happening in Bombay regarding the 2,600 doctors who have been on strike for the last 11 days—

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Dandavate met me this morning and I wanted to satisfy myself as to how it is a matter coming within the jurisdiction of Parliament.

SHRI PILOO MODY: As you know, Mr. Khadilkar himself has gone down to Bombay to meet them, to discuss with them and arrive at a decision—*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister's going does not make it a Central subject.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The entire socio-economic values of this country at stake when you say it is not a Central subject. You realise the condition of the doctors, the way they are paid. I have got here items in which they have reached a labour settlement with private companies, in which peons are given Rs. 500 to Rs. 650 and clerks from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,000. But here are medical people who work for 90 hours a week which is almost double of what every body else works, and get half the pay.

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise it in Parliament?

SHRI PILOO MODY: If the whole of India does not take note of something as serious as that, then the entire—*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Parliament cannot take note of State subjects.

SHRI PILOO MODY: This is too important a problem for the Parliament of India to disregard. It is likely to spread all over the country; it is going to spread here before long. We read about engineers and doctors getting together. The whole country is being paralysed in this way. You say that the Parliament of India should not take charge of it. Why did the Central Minister go there if it was not such an important problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I am trying to raise the central

problem in what Mr. Mody has said. The doctors who are in the employ of the Central Government have taken a decision to go on strike in sympathy. The All India Medical Association has taken a decision on stage an all-India strike.

In addition to that, our Constitution guarantees that the sanctuary of the judiciary will be upheld. In spite of the fact that the court had told the Government not to throw away the resident doctors, at 5 O'clock in the early morning, the resident doctors were thrown out violating the sanctity of the judiciary guaranteed by the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: I can only admire you—your ingenuity to put this matter.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The only answer that the Government has given to the doctors is....

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting you. Why are you interrupting the proceedings. Mr. Mody had a long training in his family; they did not do like this.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Those were different times. In those days we had a just Government; we had even honest Ministers. . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): This is an important matter. When it came before you, you said that it was a State matter which concerned a State. Then again we tabled a call attention motion when the Delhi doctors decided to go on a stay-in strike and they struck work for two hours in Delhi. Today we have given a call attention notice. The Union Minister went to see the Doctors' association in Bombay; he wanted to intervene in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed one Member; I am not going to allow a debate on it now.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The second point was about hoarding of foodgrains in Delhi. The Government is supporting the hoarders. A thousand volunteers went there and they found not a few bags of grain but thousands of maunds. Why not the hon. Food Minister make a statement on that?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: (Serampore): We raised the doctors' issue several times; we tabled call attention notice. I do not know why it is not agitating you. It is not a matter of an ordinary worker.

MR. SPEAKER: You please, sit in this Chair and decide. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The ESI is affected; the whole health will be in jeopardy if you do not take some steps.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall examine if it is a Central matter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I had given notice under rule 377 on an important matter about the fraud in dal prices. They are fixing the prices under DIR which are higher than the prevailing market prices. It is a mockery of DIR.

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it. (*Interruptions*). Why not have a rule that there should be some procedure by which the Speaker should be rendered defunct and anybody who wants to say anything may go on saying it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is this not an important matter? Please tell me how this matter can be raised in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I will let you know. All the 50 calling attention notices are important, but we can fix only one on one day.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let the ministers read the newspapers in the morning and then make statements in the House on important matters. (Interruptions).

12.42 hrs.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION BILL—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up discussion on the Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill. Time already taken is 1 hour 35 minutes. Balance time for general discussion is 2 hours 25 minutes. Time for clauses 1 hour, and time for third reading 1 hour. Shri Jaganatha Rao to continue his speech. He is not here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): We have given notices of some amendments this morning. Will you kindly direct them to be circulated?

MR. SPEAKER: It is too late now. If there are one or two amendments, I can allow. But there are so many, I do not want to introduce this practice. Why do you trespass the rules every day, nullify everything we have been following and introduced new practices? Shri Mahajan.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Buldana): Sir, I raise to support the Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill as amended by the Joint Committee. Exchange control was first adopted in India on the outbreak of the second World War under emergency powers derived from the Defence of India Rules. First it was confined to countries of the non-sterling area, particularly the US dollar. It was put on a permanent basis in 1947 and later extended to countries belonging to the sterling area also. The Act has been administered by the Reserve Bank in accordance with the general policy laid down by the Government in consultation with it. Exchange control in India

supplements trade control also as administered by the Ministry of Commerce under the Import and Export Control Act, 1947. In spite of this vigorous control there has been widespread leakage of foreign exchange through underinvoicing of exports and overinvoicing of imports. The extent of the loss thus suffered has been estimated by the Kaul Committee at Rs. 240 crores per annum. That Committee went into this matter at great length and came to this conclusion. It is really difficult to make a correct assessment of the loss suffered through the illegal and nefarious activities of the importers and exporters. Some knowledgeable persons have put it at a much higher level. If we take into account the loss suffered through smuggling of gold, the total assumes a stupendous amount.

It is to plug the loopholes in the original Act and to amend and consolidate it that this present Bill has been brought forward by the Finance Minister. It seeks to conserve the scarce foreign exchange resources of the country and ensure its proper utilisation for the economic development of the country by regulating all payments, dealings or transactions in foreign exchange and securities and also the import and export of currency and bullion.

To start with, the Bill centralises all foreign exchange transactions in the hands of the Reserve Bank of India. Therefore it says that no person other than an authorised dealer can purchase or otherwise acquire, or borrow or sell or otherwise transfer or lend to any other person any foreign exchange without the general or special permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

Sub-section (4) of that section has been amended with a view to make it impossible to under-invoice exports or over-invoice imports. If a person sends or brings any goods of a kind, quality or quantity different from that specified by him at the time of acqui-