

versions) of the Twelfth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on Industrial Growth: Trends and Problems.

13.11 ½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to continue the Haj Pilgrimage by Ship

[Translation]

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): 'Haj' pilgrimage is one of the five duties mandatory for the followers of Islam. The decision of the Central Government to stop allowing 'Haj' pilgrimage by ship has affected adversely the dream of many aspirant pilgrims. The present view of the Central Government is that 'Haj' pilgrimage should be allowed by air only. This will in effect, deprive the middle-class people of their chances to go on 'Haj' pilgrimage. The obvious reason is that the air fare is above Rs. 12,000, whereas the ship fare is around Rs. 4,000 only. Generally, those who prefer to go by air are people who do not wish to spend much time there. But those who go by ship will get enough time for performing 'Haj' and other rites. Therefore, I request the Government to reconsider the decision to stop ship way 'Haj' pilgrimage.

(ii) Need to take immediate measures for ameliorating the lot of village health guides

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): I would like to draw attention of the Union Government to the Village Health Guides who are enriching medical facilities in rural areas since October 1977. They are conducting immunisations, polio camps, and working towards motivation for family planning for population control, eradication of malaria and other diseases, collection of birth and death reports. Though they are playing a vital role in health care in all rural areas in our country, but it is quite unfortunate that the allowance given to them is a partly sum of Rs. 50/- per month. This amount does not commensurate with the task/responsibility performed by them. Even the payment of meagre allowance has been irregular since 23 months till now.

In view of the responsibilities assigned to village Health Guides, the allowance of Rs. 50/- per month should be enhanced to Rs. 750/- per month which is the minimum wage to a daily labourer per month. Secondly, their services should be regularised immediately. The medicines being supplied by Government of India should be continued.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps to redress the grievances of the village Health Guides.

(iii) Need to take immediate steps to repair the National Highway No. 47 between Kanyakumari and Thiruvananthapuram

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Tamil Nadu Section of the Kanyakumari Thiruvananthapur National Highway

47 is not in proper condition and is full of pits, pot holes and cracks. The recent monsoon rains have worsened the condition. Maintenance work on this very busy road is not up to the mark. There is no adequate provision for side drains. So, during rainy seasons, the road is inundated. The heavy traffic, the hilly terrain and the presence of rains throughout the year necessitate special attention to prevent deterioration of riding surface and to keep the road in a traffic-worthy condition.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to carry out the improvement works on this road which is in bad shape due to inadequate and sub-standard quality work.

(iv) Need to provide more telephone facilities at Ferozabad, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): My constituency, Ferozabad is famous for glass items not only in our country but in foreign countries also. The glass items are supplied from here to various parts of our country and abroad. Foreign exchange is earned by export of glass items, but due to the negligible communication facilities here, both the businessmen and the common man have to face many problems. Telephone facility at Ferozabad is made available under Agra Division (Tele.), which seems to be the sole reason of this disorder.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to set up a T.D.M. office at Ferozabad itself and it may be disconnected from Agra so as to provide better telephone facilities to the residents of Ferozabad.

(v) Need to re-open and increase the capacity of Farenda (Anand Nagar) Sugar Mill in Maharajganj District, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY (Maharajganj): The crushing of sugarcane in various parts of the country has started. Uttar Pradesh is a leading sugarcane producing State and sugarcane in very large quantity is produced here. The farmers here, have to suffer a lot of inconvenience every year as there is no proper sugarcane crushing facility. Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh is not left unaffected by it. The farmers there, could not get the price of sugarcane. Farenda (Anand Nagar) Sugar Mill in Maharajganj district has been lying closed. The Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent their recommendations to the Central Government on 30th March, 1993 for reopening this Mill and enhancing its capacity upto 2500 T.C.C. but no action has been taken thereon so far and the sugar cane growers are likely to suffer heavy losses as a result of it. Farenda (Anand Nagar) Sugar Mill is one among those four mills which are under the administrative control of the Textile Ministry. The economic condition of this mill is so bad that not only crores of rupees of sugarcane growers are outstanding against the mill but it is on the verge of closure. Thousands of workers of this Mill will be rendered jobless. The attention of the Ministry has been drawn towards it so many times but no action has been taken till date.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to take