

year's budget Government have imposed excise duty at the rate of 30% advalorem on LDPE/ Laminated cotton fabrics as an anti-evasion measure merely on some apprehension of misuse of the exemption. This decision of the Government is based on some alleged unsubstantiated reports without going through its impact on the small scale units. This decision of the Government has entailed lot of hardship to the small scale units who are only manufacturing LDPE coated/laminated cotton fabrics and are not, in any way, connected with the manufacture of PVC coated rexin and artificial leather cloth like fabrics. This is a grave injustice to these small scale units. Government should have rather taken certain measures to identify these products. According to ICI technology there is a very simple test to differentiate these two plastic materials i.e. LDPE and PVC which are commonly used for coating purposes on cotton fabrics.

There are many other tests of differentiating these two plastics, which can be carried out without any extra cost and even at roadside.

Sir, there are about a hundred units in the country who have LDPE flat film extrusion lamination plants used for making LDPE coated or laminated cotton fabrics. PVC coating is impossible in these plants. There is yet no flat dye in the country to extrude PVC film for coating purposes. As such there is no chance whatsoever for the exemption on LDPE coated cotton fabrics being misused in these LDPE extrusion lamination units. As a result of the imposition of 30% duty these units are suffering for no fault of theirs.

LDPE flat film extrusion lamination units use LDPE in its natural colour. The LDPE coating or lamination of LDPE coated fabrics is neither coloured nor printed nor embossed. To check misuse, if thought advisable, the exemption be restricted to LDPE

coated cotton fabrics where LDPE coating or lamination is neither coloured nor printed nor embossed. This restriction coupled with 'burning' test will surely help in rooting out misuse.

I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to give his considered thought to this.

(II) Need to pay remunerative price to farmers for their produce

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): The cost of electricity and other infrastructure used by the agriculturists is going high and thus the farmers are facing financial crisis.

It is high time that Government should pay immediate attention to the problems of agriculturists.

They should be given remunerative prices for their produce.

(III) Need to lay a new Broad Gauge Railway Line from Lanka to Silchar in Cachar district

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI SUDARSAN DAS (Karimganj): The Hill-Section Railway track under N.F. Railway which operates between Badarpur Junction in Barak valley and Lumding Junction on Brahmaputra Valley main line is century old worn up rail-track and might collapse at any moment. This track consists of 37 tunnels and even Express trains take 12 hours for 165 kms. run in normal weather conditions but during rainy season travelling is a nightmare for the passengers and it is difficult for Goods trains that cater to Karbi Anglog, North Cachar Hill districts, Cachar,