

position of the HEC is also not very good at present. This particular order would have gone a long way to help the public sector unit. The blast furnace to be imported is second hand and no body knows its date of manufacture.

I therefore, request the Minister concerned to cancel the deal and buy the blast furnace from H.E.C

**(vii) Need to construct bridges to connect Vypeen, Vallarpadam and Mulavucaidu Islands with the main land**

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukindapuram) : The plan to construct a chain of bridges to connect three densely-populated islands namely Vypeen, Vallarpadam and Mulavucadu in the Ernakulam backwaters with the mainland is being shelved. These three islands are cut off from the mainland and the people are depending mainly on ferry boats to come here. These boats are so overcrowded that many accidents take place resulting in heavy toll of lives. The proposal to construct bridges has been hanging fire for the past 40 years. These islanders are engaged in fishing activities and coir manufacturing etc. and are contributing Rs. 100 crores a year as foreign exchange. It will be unfortunate if this proposal is not accepted and bridges are not constructed soon. I would, therefore, request that immediate steps be taken by the Union Government to construct the bridges.

**(viii) Need to set up units for processing Cashew apples in Cannanore, Kasargod and Calicut districts of Kerala**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) Kerala is one of the States that makes considerable contribution to the Cashew export of the country. However, tons of Cashew apple is going waste in the State for want of proper facilities for processing.

It is understood that the Agricultural university, Trichur has in the course of research identified several products that can be profitable produced from cashew apple.

Malabar area in Kerala and especially the Cannanore, Kasargod and Calicut districts produce a lot of cashew every year and it is therefore my earnest request that the hon. Minister for Food Processing may be pleased to set up units under the Central sector for processing cashew apple in Cannanore and neighbouring districts.

This will not only benefit the farmers but also afford employment opportunity to hundreds in these otherwise backward districts.

12.20 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. Shri Chavan.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move:

" That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to amend clause (2) of Article 276 of the Constitution to increase the ceiling of profession tax from Rs 250 per person per annum to Rs 250 per person per annum.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Clause (2) of article 276 of the Constitution provides that the Legislature of a State may levy a tax in respect of professions, trades, callings, or employments but the total amount payable in respect of any one person by way of such tax shall not exceed Rs 250 per annum.