

[Secretary-General]

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 20th August, 1986, agreed without any amendment to the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1986 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 31st July, 1986."

11.19 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Twelfth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Oil and Natural Gas Commission—Head Office, Survey and Exploration and Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee relating thereto.

11.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Demand for measures to save tea industry in Kerala and export tea from Cochin market.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Under Rule 377, I am making a statement. The tea industry in Kerala is facing a serious crisis mainly due to the low prices. The average price of tea in Kerala is between Rs. 14 and Rs. 15 whereas the cost of production works out to between Rs. 19 and Rs. 20. Thus heavy losses are being incurred by the industry. The net result will be that the plantations owners will close down the plantations and thousands of workers and their families will starve.

The decision taken earlier by the Government to impose control on the export of C.T.S. brand tea has virtually stopped the export of Kerala tea which is of inferior quality compared to Assam tea. Although the restrictions were lifted later many importing countries withdraw from the Cochin market.

In this situation the intervention of the Govt. to save the tea industry in Kerala is very essential. If one lakh tonnes of tea is exported on an average per week from Cochin, this crisis could be got over. In order to make it possible agreements should be made with the importing countries who have withdrawn from the Cochin market.

Since it is a question having a vital bearing on the economy of Kerala and the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of workers and their families I would request you to take immediate steps in this regard and save the tea industry in Kerala.

- (ii) Need for making necessary legal provision in regard to donation of kidneys after death

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The report in the Statesman of August 13, 1986 that there is severe shortage of kidney donors and that it is time that transfer of kidneys from cadavers should be encouraged deserves the attention of the Government. Almost everyday newspapers contain advertisement making pathetic appeals to people to donate kidneys. Hundreds of these appeals go unresponded. In a country where most people are in poor health, it is not un-natural for donors to hesitate to give their kidney and in the process undergo surgical operation. This has also led to other problems like touts arranging kidney donation on payment despite the fact that medical ethics prevent acceptance of kidneys from unrelated donors. But the much needed kidneys would be available if people are encouraged to donate their kidneys after death; relatives could allow doctors to remove kidneys of their deceased near ones. Government should make necessary legal provisions for this. It would mean all the difference between life and death for thousands of sufferers.