

[Sh. Brahma Dutt]

Aside from the disruption in production of Benzene and Toulene, preliminary estimates of loss are put at approximately around Rs 150 lakhs.

On receipt of information, Government deputed the Chief of the Safety Directorate under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to BPCL to assist the refinery authorities in putting out the fire. Government have also constituted a high powered committee of experts, headed by the Chief of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate to enquire into the cause of fire and suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of the same.

The refinery has brought back into operation its catalytic cracking unit on 11-11-88. The Crude distillation column is expected to be operated on 16-11-88. Steps have been taken to ensure that there is no disruption in essential supplies.

12.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Demand for a uniform education policy throughout the country.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very important issue. Due to double education policy in the country, the brilliant students belonging to ordinary families are unable to get good education because Public schools and English medium educational institutions are charging 5 to 10 thousand rupees as donation for the admission per student. It is a matter of great regret that even after 40 years of independence importance is being given to English language at the cost of Hindi and other Indian languages. If a country is to develop, its national language, literature and the culture must be enriched. The basic foundation of our country is becoming feeble. This is the

reason that the condition of the educational institutions in the rural areas is deteriorating day by day because the children of high officials, and the capitalists are not there in these institutions. The result is that the children of the poor farmers and workers find themselves unable to get the high posts in the country.

I would urge the Government to adopt a uniform education policy in order to protect the interests of the country and the society so that the nation may emerge prosperous, powerful and integrated.

[English]

- (ii) Demand for enquiry into reasons for delay in recovering the amounts overcharged by the drug manufacturing companies.

SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh): Crores of rupees have been overcharged from the poor consumers by the drug manufacturing companies. According to para 7(2) of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979, money overcharged has to be refunded. For the last two years, the process of recovery is on, in accordance with the law, but authorities responsible for the recovery are not taking any interest to recover the amount from the drug manufacturing companies. In fact, in certain cases, the details of the amount to be recovered have not yet been calculated. In certain cases where the amount has been calculated, neither the companies have been reminded to deposit the amount nor reference has been made to the Collector of Revenue for the recovery. Despite raising the matter on the floor of the House, no responsibility has so far been fixed for inaction in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to enquire into the matter and fix responsibility for delay in recovering the amounts overcharged by the drug manufacturing companies.