

12.24 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT CESS BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of customs on the export of certain agricultural and processed food products for the development and promotion of their export and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection by way of cess, of a duty of customs on the export of certain agricultural and processed food products for the development and promotion of their export and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I introduced the Bill.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : On behalf of Shri Arjun Singh I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority for the development and promotion of exports of certain agricultural and processed food products and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority for the development and promotion of exports of certain agricultural and processed food products and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Now we go to next item—Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to declare Mannarked and Chittoor Taluks of Palghat districts of Kerala as drought affected areas

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the severe drought situation prevailing in Mannarked and Chittoor taluks of Palghat districts in Kerala. When there were floods in the rest of Kerala, these two Taluks, particularly, the places like Kozhinjampara and Attapaddi came in the grip of severe drought due to failure of monsoon. The South West Monsoon did not reach this region which is known as the "rain shadow area" of the Western Ghats. Normally, these areas get rain from the North West Monsoon. This year that too has failed. Thus as many as ten villages like Kozhinjampara, Eruthempati, Kozhipati etc. in the Chittoor taluk and seven villages like Palakkayam, Kallamala, Padavayal, Sholayar etc. in Mannarghat Taluk are facing the worst drought condition.

In Attapadi, Harijans and Girijans constitute 39.5 percent of the population. This place was visited by the Prime Minister in the month of September this year. The people are facing miseries due to the destruction of cattle and damage to crops as

*The Speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.