13.48 hrs.

MICA MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI G. M. BANATWA!LA: I was congratulating the Minister by saying that his announcement about the PLO is most welcome to all of us.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAI, REDDY: When the whole House has applauded it, why this special mention?

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

 Independent Status to the Coimbatore Regional Station Cultural Institute for Cotton Research.

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore):
Sir, the Coimbatore Regional Station
of the Central Institute for Cotton
Research (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) was first established
in the year 1959. During its existence
of 20 years, it did not enjoy the good
fortune of serving under a single set
up, which can guide it, assess its per-

formance continuously, and encourage it on merit.

Between 1959—65, the Regional Station functioned under PIRRCOM (Project for Intensified Regional Research on Cotton Seeds, Oil and Millets). After the abolition of the commodity committees, it went under the control of IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi), and remained there for eleven years, 1965—76. Now it functions under the Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur.

13.51 hrs.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil in the Chair]

In spite of it. this Institute has made singal contribution in the last 20 years towards the prosperity of the agriculturists of the Southern States, particularly those engaged in cotton cultivation. In addition to developing the first hybrid Sorghum, CSH-1, which was a boon to cultivators all over India, the station has done pioneering work in introducing new crops like hybrid maize, sunflower, soya bean and high-yielding Mexican wheat in Tamil Nadu in the early 60s. Its contribution to the development of cotton has been very outstanding. The extra long staple high spinning Egyptian type of oottons Sujata and Suvin are its contribution, in addition to PRS 72. The variety Suvin, considered to be equivalent to the best Egyptian cotton, has immensely benefited the cotton cultivators in both Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and has helped the textile industry to save crores and crores of rupees of foreign exchange.

In view of its valuable contribution, the headquarters of the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP) was located in this station in 1967, with the onerous task of guiding cotton research in 30 centres of work, spread all over the country. The work of the cotton project in the Coimbatore Station has gone a long

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