

14.27 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377**(i) MEASURE TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF COCOA GROWERS**

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara):
 Sir, the Cocoa growers in the country are in a very bad predicament as there is no proper agency in the country to buy their products. The Governments of Kerala and Karnataka were encouraging cocoa cultivation in the country and consequently lakhs of farmers have gone in for cocoa cultivation. As a result, the production of cocoa beans in the country has gone up and it is not less than 3,000 tons this year. When considering the total extent of land brought under this cultivation, we can easily see that within a period of three years, the total production in the country will exceed 20,000 tonnes.

Now a serious problem has cropped up in that. The Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation which was buying cocoa beans as a distress relief measures, has stopped purchasing. The federation, it is understood, has purchased nearly 500 tonnes of dry beans within a period of 3 months and have exhausted their funds. Unless this stock is disposed of they cannot enter the market again and the result is that there is no agency to buy cocoa beans.

I, therefore, request that (i) urgent steps may be taken to find a foreign market for the procured cocoa beans and steps taken to export the same at the earliest; (ii) Subsidy may be provided so that the procured beans are exported on a no-loss no-profit basis; (iii) Long term policy may be evolved in consultation with the State Government, Representatives of Growers Federation and all other concern so that a permanent machinery is set up to process the total quantity procured and processing units may be established so that the finished products are exported instead of raw beans.

(ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF A TITANIUM FACTORY AT KANYAKUMARI, TAMIL NADU.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil):
 Establishment of a Titanium factory for the manufacture of Titanium Dioxide is viable in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu with the local infrastructure available. Kanyakumari district occupies an important place in the mineral map of this world by the unique possession of rare earth mineral sands. The Indian rare earths factory at Manavalakurichy, a government of India undertaking is separating black ilmenite from beach sand. Annually about 75,000 tonnes of ilmenite are separated. The entire quantity is exported to foreign countries where it is converted into costly titanium dioxide. Quality Titanium dioxide can be processed out of ilmenite sand now processed at the Indian Rare Earth Factory at Manavalakurichy. Black ilmenite is available in plenty in the coastal belts of Manavalakurichy, Midalam, Keezhmidalam and other coastal villages of Kanyakumari district. This district is gifted with other basic amenities for the establishment of a Titanium factory. So, Government may be pleased to take early steps for the establishment of a Titanium factory in this backward southernmost district of this nation.

(iii) SHORTAGE OF DIESEL IN GORAKHPUR AND VARANASI DISTRICT OF U.P.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) :
 पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर और वाराणसी मंडलों में डीजल का गहरा संकट व्याप्त हो गया है। डीजल के न मिलने के कारण किसान, अत्यन्त परेशानी का अनुभव कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि रबी की फसलों की सिंचाई के लिए पंपिंग सैट चलाने हेतु डीजल की अत्यधिक आवश्यकता है तथा कृषि से संबंधित अन्य यंत्रों के चलाये जाने के लिए भी, डीजल अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। चोर बाजारी के कारण डीजल का संकट और अधिक गहरा हो गया है। अतः सरकार को चाहिये कि वह तत्काल डीजल