

the representatives of the Government, employers and employees.

I also request the Government to ask the newspaper managements to desist from installing such machinery as also from issuing threatening letters and notices to their staff in this connection pending the finalisation of an agreement or an accord on this issue.

(vii) INQUIRY INTO THE LAST WEEK'S EXPLOSION IN A FIRE-WORKS FACTORY AT GWALIOR.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR (Gwalior): With the permission of the Speaker I want to inform the House that last week's explosion in the fire-works factory at Gwalior has taken as many as 21 lives up till now and more than a dozen are still in precarious condition in the hospital. Amongst the victims are mostly ladies and children; more than half the number is that of the children. Location of the factory is very near—adjacent to a labour locality known as Nimbaji-ki-Kho. No boundary or fencing was there around the factory. No steps were taken to assure security of life. No fire extinguishers or even sand buckets were in the factory and with utter negligence and the connivance of the Explosives authorities, the factory was busy in all such illegal activities. This took a toll of such a large number of precious lives. Some families are completely ruined. One has lost all its four children and the other all of its bread-earners. This accident could be avoided if necessary precautions were taken in due time. I demand an impartial inquiry and punishment to the defaulters. I also demand that proper compensation be paid to the affected families.

(viii) NEED FOR IMPORTING 'BAY 5072-70%', A CHEMICAL TO SAVE CARDAMOM CROP FROM THE *Azhukal* DISEASE, IN KERALA

SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Periyakulam): Cardamom is growth

2860 LS—19.

in 1,17,174 acres of Land in Kerala State and some 80,000 workers are engaged in plantation. Cardamom is the queen of spices and India Supplies cardamom all over the world. Indian cardamom fetches the highest price. In fact cardamom export fetches annually substantial sums of foreign exchange in crores.

Cardamom Board is rendering all assistance to the planters in the matter of fetching remunerative prices in the international market. The Cardamom Planters' Association of Bodinayakanur having more than 1000 members is supplying pesticides insecticides and fertilisers at controlled prices to the planters

Now, besides the natural calamity of heavy rains, the planter is facing the most dangerous threat of *Azhukal* or rot disease, which has spread nearly to 68,000 acres of plantation area. Besides losing valuable foreign exchange, the workers numbering about 80,000 will lose their jobs and livelihood if this disease is not exterminated. There is also the other irremediable consequence of this virus disease spreading to all the 1,17,174 acres of land. It is not difficult to imagine that India would be deprived of this queen of spices, cardamom, for ever this disease is allowed to spread and then the land becomes immune to cardamom growth. During the past ten years the State Government and the Central Government have not taken any steps to control this disease.

The only way to exterminate this disease was to get the Bordeaux mixture at the initial stages of the disease. But now *Azhukal* disease has not only become virulent but also has become violent, during the past ten years. Now 'Bay 5072-70%' W.P. would control this disease. Bayer Company used to manufacture this product, but the basic chemical required for preparing this mixture is not allowed to be imported from Germany. While Bordeaux mixture was