

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 intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund
Act, 1946."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: Sir, I intro-
duce the Bill.

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

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

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) 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 Agricul-
tural 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 PIRCOM
(Project for Intensified Regional Re-
search on Cotton Seeds, Oil and Mil-
lets). After the abolition of the com-
modity 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 Cen-
tral 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 agricul-
turists of the Southern States, particu-
larly those engaged in cotton culti-
vation. 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 con-
tribution to the development of cotton
has been very outstanding. The extra
long staple high spinning Egyptian
type of cottons 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 Co-
ordinated 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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way in achieving for the first time self-sufficient in all types of cotton required by the industry. It has won national recognition, both by the Government of India and the industry through no less than four awards won by them.

In spite of the very good work already done, the Regional Station at Coimbatore, employing over 250 people, and the cotton project itself are handicapped by lack of proper independent status. Administrative delays and lack of appreciation of the work at Nagpur have hampered the progress of the project, in addition to causing frustration to the scientific and technical personnel of the Regional Station.

I understand that a proposal has already been submitted for the creation of an independent project Directorate of Cotton, on the lines of similar Directorates for Rice, Pulses and Oilseeds in the country. The proposal is also under the consideration of the ICAR and it has been referred to the Planning Commission for its decision. The financial outlay for the entire project for the Sixth Plan period has been estimated around Rs. 3 crores. Therefore, the raising of the cotton project, along with the Regional Station to the status of a Project Directorate, does not involve any additional financial commitments.

In view of what has been stated above, I request your goodself to sanction the creation of the Project Directorate for Cotton at Coimbatore.

(ii) Reported death of two Workers of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam due to suffocation in a gas Chamber.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Two workers of the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, died on 18th March, 1980, while they were on duty, due to suffocation in a gas chamber. These deaths have taken place due to the non provision of proper safety

appliances. The negligence agitated the other workers who demanded peacefully that adequate safety appliances should be provided by the management. They had every right to express their protest against the negligent attitude of the management which caused death to two of their colleagues. But the management tried to crush their protest voice by inducing police resulting in serious skull injuries to many workers. The workers were attacked while performing their duty. I am giving below the full text of the telegram which I have received from the Hindustan Shipyard Labour Union, Hindustan Shipyard Staff Union, Visakhapatnam:

....Civilian workers of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, inhumanly lathicharged on twentieth morning at workspot by State police resulting in grievous skull injuries and bone fracture to several innocent workmen...consequent upon death of two workmen on eighteenth while on duty due to non-provision of safety appliances...Naval Dockyard management tried to camouflage situation by calling State police who resorted to unprovoked lathi charge on workmen while on duty...request institute judicial inquiry and to reprimand inhuman attitude of state police...

Hindustan Shipyard Labour Union,
Hindustan Shipyard Staff Union.

This is a very serious matter and I request the Minister concerned to make a statement thereon.

(iii) Piling up of Steel ingots in public Sector steel Plants.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I beg to raise the following matter under Rule 377:

"When imports are unable to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of steel, more than 5.5 lakh tonnes of ingots have piled up at the public sector steel plants as the power shortage has affected the working of rolling mills.