

cluded and it is wrong to say that Mr. Venugopal, Chairman of the ONGC and Mr. Woodward, Member (on share) are opposed to collaboration with C.F.P. Both of them and the O.N.G.C. as such have felt that collaboration with C.F.P., which is not a new company, where the collaboration already exists till April 6, is necessary.

As regards what share of the oil is to be given to them, this has not yet been finally decided. The C.F.P. team is visiting India on 12th and, therefore, it is premature to say that we have entered into any contract with them. I would like to correct the hon. Members by saying that no such agreement has been reached. I would also like to remind the hon. Member, Shri Biswas, that while he has objected to the collaboration which we are trying to have with the foreign companies with regard to oil exploration, it is strange that when China entered into such agreement with the foreign companies hon. Members did not oppose it. They are only trying to say that the officers.... (Interruptions).

As far as these collaborations are concerned, these are still to be negotiated. It is wrong to say that we are bartering away 25 to 30 per cent of oil to them. It is in the best interest of the country that we are deliberately taking a conscious decision to enter into collaboration with these companies. This is because we know that the oil consumption is going to be very high. By 1984-85, it is going to be 45 million tonnes; by the year 1989-90, it is going to be about 65 million tonnes. At present, we are producing only 14 million tonnes, and, therefore, we are draining foreign exchange through our nose at the rate of Rs. 5800 crores per annum at the present rate of OPEC prices. Therefore, it would be in the overall interest of the country to produce as much oil as we can. I can assure the hon. Members that we are also conscious of the national interest much more so than what they are, and much more than what the officers are. Officers and ourselves are working in absolutely fair terms with each other and in consultation with ONGC. And

keeping their interest in view, we shall take a decision. It is too premature to say that we have entered into such an agreement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I introduce the Bill.

14.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REFUSAL TO IMPLEMENT PALKAR AWARD BY SAKAL PAPERS PRIVATE LIMITED (MAHARASHTRA)

SHRI V. N. GADGIL (Pune): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Sakal Papers Private Ltd., which publishes the daily Sakal from Poona, Mumbai Sakal from Bombay and Kolhapur Sakal from Kolhapur has declared a lockout which has affected a large number of working journalists.

The management has refused to implement the recommendations of Justice Palkar according to which Sakal falls in II Group since its gross revenue is between two crores and four crores. The management is trying to force recommendations relating to III Group on the ground that Sakal published from Poona, Bombay and Kolhapur are three independent units. All three of them have a common Board of Directors, their balance sheets are consolidated and their staff is transferable. The Kolhapur Sakal has five employees including the resident editor on the pay roll of the Poona Sakal.

The stand taken by the management is contrary to the test laid down by the Tribunal on page 57:

"In spite of the paper's production from more than one centre, it is one newspaper establishment because it has several features which proclaim its functional integrity."

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

The Government, therefore, should immediately intervene in the matter and ensure that the recommendations of the Justice Palekar Tribunal are implemented by the management.

(ii) PROBLEMS OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KERALA

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The handloom sector plays a very significant role in creating employment opportunities and easing foreign exchange in the face of very stiff competition from many areas and in different ways in the de-centralized sector. This sector have given employment to two lakhs of people in Kerala alone.

The handloom industry in Kerala is facing a crisis to-day. Apart from the rise in prices and shortage of yarn and chemicals, accumulation of unsold stock of handloom cloth has really crippled this sector.

Rs. 7 crore-worth of handloom products are lying unsold, in Kerala alone. Incentive schemes like rebate etc., cannot help in selling the huge stock that has accumulated. Even the Handloom Development Corporation does not have the financial capacity to procure the entire stock. Thus there is very acute unemployment prevailing in this sector. What is urgently needed is the setting up of a National Handloom Development Corporation which can play a very important role in different aspects of this industry, such as production, marketing, distribution of raw materials etc. At the same time, the production of controlled cloth should be entrusted to the handloom sector, and market should be explored for the sale of the handloom production. The most important factor in regard to protection of handloom is reservation in production. That is not being done fully. The State Governments which have the responsibility to ensure that reservation is implemented, do not show enough interest.

Another urgent step that should be taken is to bring down the price of yarn and remove its shortage. Kerala has to depend on other States for yarn. Therefore, making use of the additional looms that will be sanctioned during the 6th Plan, one spinning mill should be set up in Kerala. Since there is no control over the price or distribution of yarn, there is sudden fluctuation in the prices. Therefore, as a temporary measure, at least the price of yarn should be fixed by the Government. I request the Government that necessary steps may be taken to save this industry, which is a source of livelihood for lakhs of people.

(iii) STEPS FOR IMPROVING POWER SUPPLY IN RAJASTHAN

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The Atomic Power Project (Rawatbhatta), Kota, Rajasthan has got two units. The first was commissioned in the year 1973 and it is to generate 200 MW electricity. The second of the project has been commissioned in November, 1980, and its capacity to generate electricity is 200 MW. Unfortunately, these two units are not generating to their maximum capacity. Not only this, both the units have got a chequered career of shutting down because of frequent faults in their working. The days of the shutting down of these units outnumber the days of working. The shutting down of atomic power units has caused substantial loss to the crops of the farmers from the irrigation point of view, because of non-supply of electricity.

The Kota Atomic Power Plant, Unit 1 has to be shut down for maintenance work during this month, as reported in newspapers to-day.

Rajasthan has got a share in Gandhi Sagar Dam Hydel Project, Bhakra Nangal Hydel project and Vyas Hydel Project in Himachal Pradesh, but the State is not being given its proper