

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED MOVE TO SHIFT THE HEAD OFFICE OF BROOKE BOND INDIA LTD. FROM CALCUTTA TO BANGALORE.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Matters under rule 377. Shri R. P. Das.

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar): Sir, Brooke Bond India is engaged in tea trade with its headquarters at Calcutta since six decades. The present total turn over of the company is of Rs. 198 crores. Recently, the firm is engaged in diversifying their activities like export of buffalo meat, spices, sale of blades, etc. But the profit of the firm mainly comes from tea trade which is well over 85 per cent of the total. Domestic sale of tea is also concentrated in North and Central India. Recently, the firm has decided to shift their headquarters from Calcutta to Bangalore which only deals with diversified activities of the firm which in turn give the firm only 15 per cent of the profit. This move of the firm has created a very serious situation, because the decision is based on motives. One of the motives is to systematically shift its stress from tea business to other new projects by utilising funds earned from tea business. Another motive is to prove "tea industry" as a sick industry within a reasonable time. To achieve this end, the firm is starving its workmen through short supply of tea to be packed and consequently the salesmen do not have sufficient packets to sell. In other words, the firm is out to create scarcity of tea in the country. Several representations from different quarters are pending with the Government in this regard but nothing seems to be moving.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate action

and intervene in the matter and stop the shifting of Head Office of Brooke Bond of India from Calcutta to Bangalore. I also demand that the concerned Minister make a statement on this issue in the House, tea being one of the main foreign exchange earning item of the country.

(ii) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEET DROUGHT SITUATION IN MADHYA PRADESH

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Since the last 2½ years, Madhya Pradesh has been undergoing unprecedented drought conditions, season after season. In September, 1979, the M.P. State Government submitted a Memorandum to the Central Government for assistance of Rs. 91 crores to cover the period October, 1979, to March, 1980. In anticipation of getting assistance for scarcity works and as recommended by the Seventh Finance Commission and instructions from Union Government, the State made a provision in a supplementary Budget Rs. 71 crores for drought situation and another Rs. 22 crores for relief works like drinking water, fodder, medicines, seed supply etc. The Central Government team visited the affected areas in October, 1979, and permitted utilisation of advance plan assistance up to Rs. 21.25 crores.

Again in April, 1980, the State Government submitted a second Memorandum for Central assistance of Rs. 165.17 crores against which the Central team recommended an assistance of Rs. 43.64 crores only for scarcity and on-going relief projects up to September, 1980. Due to the severity of the drought, a third Memorandum was given to the Central Government in November, 1980, showing expenditure incurred on relief and scarcity works, the extent of the seriousness of the situation and probable assistance required till 1981.

Thus, against the total expenditure of Rs. 178.40 crores incurred, the advance Plan assistance so far received by the State Government is only Rs. 64.61 crores. This has adversely affected the finances due to which the