

advised to re-fix the wholesale and retail prices of vanaspati and give wide publicity for the benefit of consumers. The voluntary price-restraint announced by the industry, which has already come into force, is to continue till the end of the current oil-year i.e. 31st October, 1981. The representatives of the two associations have also assured to maintain production of vanaspati at the desired level so as to ensure its easy availability at all times. Imported oils would continue to be supplied to the industry so as to maintain adequate production of vanaspati.

3. Government are keeping a constant watch on the situation and would take such further steps as are considered necessary from time to time. The State Governments are being suitable advised accordingly.

12.50 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Matters under rule 377.

(i) ALLEGED DISFIGURING OF DR. AMBEDKAR'S STATUE.

श्री मनोराम बागडी (हिसार) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, नियम 377 के अधीन
मैं निम्नलिखित सूचना देना चाहता हूँ —

“डा० अम्बेदकर स्टेडियम, दिल्ली में कल जब हम को गिरफ्तार कर के पुलिस ले गई तब वहाँ पर मैंने देखा कि बाबा साहेब की मूर्ति खण्डित की गई है, उन का चश्मा उतार लिया गया है और हाथ भी हटा दिये हैं और उनकी एक मूर्ति बिल्कुल हटा दी गई है जिस से हरिजन, शोषित और दलित वर्ग के लोगों को मानसिक कष्ट पहुँचा है। सरकार पर्चा बर्ज कर के कसूरदारों को सजा दिलाए और मूर्ति की मरम्मत की जाये और दूसरी मूर्ति की स्थापना की जाये।

(ii) NEED TO SET UP A FERTILIZER GAS BASED UNIT IN BANDA DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH.

SHRI RAMNATH DUBEY (Banda):
The Central Government has decided to set up about four Fertilizer Gas-based plants in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The district of Banda in Uttar Pradesh is economically a backward area. It has large area of land and the poor Harijan labour is in abundance. The people of the area are demanding for setting up of some big industry to solve the unemployment problem to some extent. Setting up of Fertilizer plant at Banda would help in solving the unemployment problem of poor labour and their economic condition is likely to improve to a very great extent.

The Central Team of Experts should visit this area immediately to survey the possibility of setting up of the plant. The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals should take steps for installation of Fertilizer Plant in this area.

(iii) DISTRIBUTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF DELHI.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN (Chandni Chowk): Soda ash is a basic heavy chemical and raw material which is required by Dhobies, Launderers and also by Medium and large-scale industries manufacturing sodium silicate, glass, bichromates, detergents, handloom/textiles etc. During 1978, there was a marginal shortage of Soda Ash and the Government resorted to imports to meet the gap between demand and supply. In fact, the item, Soda ash was placed under OGL for the last 2 years because of which lot of imports have taken place, both by actual users and export houses. Because of these measures, the availability of Soda Ash in the country, today, is much better compared to what it was 2 years back.

In spite of the above easy position, Government have kept this item under

[Shri Bhiku Ram Jain]

OGI even in the current policy, which is valid up to 31st March, 1982. Precious foreign exchange, which is being spent on these imports could well be diverted for import of various other critical items which are in short-supply in the country today. In spite of these programmes of import and other measures taken by the Government, the small consumers viz. house-wives, petty dhobie and small consumers in the small-scale sector are still finding it difficult to obtain supplies because, of restrictions imposed in the distribution of this chemical in certain pockets in the country. For instance, Delhi Administration clamped distribution Order on 30th June, 1979, regulating the stocking, sale and distribution of Soda Ash within the Delhi territory. As per this Control Order, nobody except manufacturers of their distributors or co-operative stores can buy, stock and sell and that too only to the industrial consumers. Co-operative stores are asked to supply Soda ash to Laundries and Dhobie in small packets. For the last one year, the industrial consumers are not taking goods from the manufacturers or from their distributors in Delhi, because they have either imported the goods all by themselves or they are being offered imported material at a cheaper rate compared to the indigenous price of the said material. When the availability of Soda ash has become so easy, there is no justification for continuing imports of this commodity by spending precious foreign exchange.

Again the restrictions imposed by the Delhi Administration have also become meaningless in the present context. In spite of these regulations, a petty consumer like dhobi or a housewife is still finding it difficult to get 1 Kg or 2 Kgs of Soda ash which they were earlier obtaining through small traders who used to stock this material in their shops.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government may examine the position in the light of the above and advise the Delhi Administration to withdraw this Notification so that the sale of

Soda ash in Delhi is also on par with other States. They may also review the position of imports of Soda ash into the country, as it has been found that the availability of Soda ash today, compared to 2 years back, is very much easy. The removal of the above mentioned restrictions will go a long way for a small/petty consumer to obtain Soda ash without any difficulty in Delhi.

(iv) Need to Control drug prices.

श्री एन 0 के 0 शेखवलकर (ग्वालियर उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित सूचना सदन में देना चाहता हूँ :

शासन द्वारा जीवन उपयोगी दवाइयों का मूल्य न बढ़ाये जाने के सम्बन्ध में आश्वासन दिया गया है परन्तु अनेक दवाइयों के मूल्य आंधी की तरह बढ़ रहे हैं। उदाहरण के लिए बरबरा, जो कि अलैम्बिक कैमिकल वर्क्स कम्पनी की बनाई हुई औषधि है, 10 गोलीयों की पट्टी केवल 87 नये पैसे में मिलती थी, जिस का मूल्य अब 1 रुपया 32 नये पैसे कर दिया है, जब कि इसे बनाने में जिन औषधियों का उपयोग किया जाता है, उनमें कोई भी वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। मैं शासन से मांग करता हूँ कि इस प्रकार अनियमित तरीके से बढ़ाये गये सगस्त औषधियों के मूल्यों में तुरन्त जांच की जा कर उनके मूल्यों को नियंत्रित किया जाये।

(v) MEASURE TO STREAMLINE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION WORK IN DISTRICT JAISALMER OF RAJASTHAN.

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) :
नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित वक्तव्य सदन के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ :