

[Shri K. Mallanna]

This Baltistani guerilla, who cannot hear or speak but can read and write Baltistani, Chinese and Urdu languages is reported to have confessed during his preliminary interrogation that he had completed his five-year guerilla warfare and espionage training courses in the Guerilla High Altitude Warfare Training School, which has been set up by the Pakistani army authorities in Skardu in Pakistan occupied Kashmir in 1971 just adjacent to the line of actual control and being manned by Chinese top army officials. He has also admitted that he was planted by top Pakistan and Chinese secret service officials for espionage in Ladakh. He has given an indication that a nuclear base is being planned to be set up by the Chinese in a camping ground near Skardu town which is a vast desert area and where not a blade of grass is growing.

It is because of this that the Pakistan Government has recently declared the entire Gilgit and Skardu of Pakistan occupied areas of Kashmir as a 'protected area' and no outsiders including Pakistani nationals or other foreign experts are allowed to enter these areas according to reliable reports reaching here.

Chinese nuclear experts are, according to these reports, busy these days transporting necessary nuclear equipment from the Takle Mekan Chinese nuclear base in Sinkiang through the newly constructed Karakoram highway which was recently thrown open to link the Skardu area for setting up this miniature nuclear base in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. These reports reveal that if everything goes well, this first Pakistani miniature nuclear plant base with Chinese help would be ready by 1981.

These are all matters concerning the security of the border and coun-

try. All these go to show the threat to the security and sovereignty of our great nation. So, I request the Prime Minister, both as Prime Minister and the Home Minister incharge to look into the matter carefully and take immediate action so that our relationship with the neighbouring States is not threatened and the security and sovereignty of great nation of ours is protected.

(iii) REPORTED DECISION TO IMPORT NATIONAL RUBBER.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW (Muvat-tupuzha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, may I draw the attention of the House and the Government to an urgent matter of public importance regarding the reported decision of the Central Government to import natural rubber.

Rubber plantation is the major agricultural resource of a large section of people of Kerala. About 1.83 lakhs of small growers are the producers of 70 per cent of natural rubber. These small growers are middle class and are holding only one to four hectares of land. Over 1.5 lakhs of workers are engaged in these rubber plantations. So it affects more than 3 lakhs of families in Kerala. This is the only source of income for this sizeable section of the people of Kerala and any downfall in the rubber market will adversely affect the whole economy of the State. The price of natural rubber was ruling at a rate of Rs. 650 per quintal till April this year, the beginning of the rainy off tapping season. The Government have constantly extended the time limit for the declaration of the minimum price of natural rubber.

It is worthwhile to note that there is no shortfall of production of natural rubber for the last many years and the prices were below remunerative level till May, 1978. The rubber production season will start again in August. The Rubber Board has even

declared in July ample backlog stocks at present to last till December. It is true that the price has gone up to Rs. 1,100 per quintal and it is only reasonably remunerative to the farmers. But for the last three years the farmers were suffering due to the low price and reluctance on the part of the Government to fix the price according to the report of Chief Cost Accounts Officer in the Finance Ministry and the costs of inputs and labour have gone up heavily now.

The automobile tyre industry is using all its influence and pressurising the Government in the name of workers to import natural rubber from abroad. They are also using the name of the small industrialists to meet their demand. These big industrialists, especially foreign monopolists, who are producing 80 per cent of the total automobile tyres want to continue the exploitation of the poor rubber growers by reducing the price. There is no scarcity of natural rubber and the ruse of the manufacturers is to reduce the price of natural rubber when the tapping season starts in August.

The small scale industrialists are using only 5 per cent of the total production of the natural rubber. That is also of the lower quality. The automobile tyre industry is engaging only few thousand workers, while agricultural workers alone number 1.5 lakhs and small farmers another 1.5 lakhs.

I may, therefore, humbly submit that the Government should not succumb to the pressure of the big business houses and foreign monopolies and harm the interest of the ordinary poor farmers and agricultural workers. Any decision to resort to import natural rubber will not only harm the small growers and agricultural workers numbering more than three lakh families, but it will also harm the economy of the State of Kerala. Any such action will only

create resentment in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and will be the cause for agitation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I fully agree with this.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dhirendranath Basu.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Only a submission, Sir. We all gave notice for a call attention. Mr. George Mathew in a way has expressed the strong feelings of the entire Kerala in this matter and we request you may kindly convey these feelings to the Minister and ask him to make a statement in the matter.

(iv) REPORTED BLACKMARKETING IN COAL BY TRADERS.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU (Katwa): With your kind permission I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

Black-marketing in coal is going on in a big way throughout the country. Black-marketing by traders is one of the main reasons for shortage of coal as a result of which many industries are now remaining closed in the eastern and western regions.

The State Governments are unwittingly sponsoring parties who indulge in black-marketing in coal and make lakhs of rupees out of such sponsorship according to Coal India sources.

At present Coal India Ltd. has no discretion in the matter of supplying coal to individual users—the State governments sponsor parties and Coal India has to give them coal. But now the coal authorities have started screening the parties and have found that an alarming percentage of them are bogus ones without any factory or assets. These parties are simply cashing in on the coal shortage by presenting themselves to the State governments as genuine consumers and get-