

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This has been started only a few months back. The practice is that as soon as the mentions are made under rule 377, the Ministers concerned are immediately informed of the entire proceedings of the House so that they can take action within ten days. They are informed immediately and they are expected to take some action within ten days. I suppose, that would satisfy the Members.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am glad that you have clarified the position that the Ministers concerned are informed immediately of these matters, and within ten days action is expected to be taken. But my point is this. In certain cases, such as the one mentioned by Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan, we are entitled to know further in the House itself from the Minister as to what has happened, so that we can pursue the matter more seriously.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: At least give the right to the Member who raises it and to read the reply in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is also the option to the Minister; if he feels the need, he can come and make the statement in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Member who raises it should be informed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The particular Members are informed in any case.

Mr. Mhalgi.

(iv) REPORTED INDEFINITE STRIKE BY THE EMPLOYEES OF HINDUSTAN ANTIBIOTICS LTD., PIMPRI, PUNJAB.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I draw the attention of the hon. Ministers of Petroleum & Chemicals and of Labour to the following matter:—

Over 2,000 employees of Hindustan Antibiotics, a prestigious public sector

unit at Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra, very recently converted their earlier tool-down strike into an indefinite strike demanding the withdrawal of dismissal orders against their colleagues. The contention of the Union of employees is that the high-handedness and pressure-tactics of the new management of the last eighteen months had culminated in the strike and a sense of insecurity had been created among the workers.

The production of streptomycin and penicillin as a result of strike has been badly affected. Indeed, it is a national loss.

It is, therefore, the prime duty of the Petroleum and Labour Ministers of the Government of India to find out an early solution to settle the points of dispute between the management and the Union of employees of Hindustan Antibiotics.

I hereby demand a statement soon from the concerned Ministers in this hon. House.

(v) DECISION TO IMPORT AN ADDITIONAL QUANTITY OF NATURAL RUBBER IGNORING THE INTERESTS OF SMALL RUBBER GROWERS.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Commerce, under rule 377, the following matter of urgent public importance. This is regarding the import of an additional quantity of 15,000 metric tonnes of natural rubber.

The announcement of the Central Government to import an additional 15,000 M.T. of natural rubber, in excess of the 15,000 M.T. already imported in answer to Question No. 3694 on the 15th December 1978, is really deplorable. We had already pointed out to the Minister that, even before the distribution of the 15,000 M.T. of natural rubber imported during September, the prices in the market fell to Rs. 775 in October. This clearly showed that the hue and cry of the manufacturers that there was a shortage of natural rubber was a hoax. The price increase during