

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

medium scale manufacturers can directly purchase steel in full rakes from steel mills at a discount rate which is much below the stockyard rate.

MR. SPEAKER: You have one statement for yourself and one for me. Is it so?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I am giving you useful information.

MR. SPEAKER: I thought you will take me into confidence. This is rather unfair to me.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: You are going through my statement, I know it. It comes within the purview of the statement.

It is said that although the facility of lifting steel directly from producers in full rakes at concessional rates has been extended to small and medium sized consumers, not many such consumers are in a position to utilise this since it involves the blocking of a large sum of money for a long period. Tradesmen have converted the situation to their advantage. They approach small units to buy steel from mills on their behalf and are exporting, under the policy of Mr. Mohan Dharia, even sanitary fittings. They are now allowed to be exported to Gulf countries.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, you are completely breaking my directions.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: With these words I am concluding. The situation in the Southern States has not only aggravated, but all developmental activities have completely come to a stop. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Minister: kindly consider this and review the whole situation and see that the required material for constructional activities—buildings, roads and other economic

activities—are made available in all the States, including Karnataka. Kindly see that there is proper public distribution system for this raw material, without any strings or constraints. There should be no black-marketeters. I would like to make one suggestion....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate, Mr. Lakkappa. I have given a direction, and it must be implemented. You have completely broken my direction. It makes my task very difficult.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I request the concerned Minister to discharge his responsibility to the House and make a statement. Sir, will you kindly direct him to do it?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not directing anybody.

(ii) REPORTED TRANSFER OF SHARES OF MALAYALAM PLANTATIONS LTD., TO AN INDIAN COMPANY IN VIOLATION OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION ACT.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara): The Malayalam Plantations Ltd. is a company registered in UK and having its registered office in London. It is one of the biggest plantation groups in India with large number of estates of rubber and tea in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Malayalam Plantation shares are quoted in the London stock market and classified by "The Financial Times", London as a rubber company.

After the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act was passed by the Parliament in 1973, this company has been busy trying to frustrate the legislative intentions of Parliament and to overcome the regulations made under the FERA for dilution of foreign equity holdings. The Malayalam Plantations became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malayalam Plantations (Holdings) Ltd., UK in 1977, majority of whose shareholders are trusts, banks etc.

Under the FERA, Melayalam Plantations had to Indianize its capital before 31st March, 1978. Now it is learnt that those associated with the company have floated yet another Indian company, Malayalam Plantations (India) Ltd. in Cochin with the object of taking over the assets of the UK company. The authorized capital of the new company is only Rs. 5 crores whereas as per the balance sheet, the Indian assets of the UK company alone are more than Rs. 7 crores and by actual market valuation at current prices, more than Rs. 20 crores. It is also understood that some time ago in a statement filed with the Reserve Bank, the Company had given the value of net assets at Rs. 25 crores or around. The shares of this UK company are quoted in the London share market at 31d. for a 10d. share. It was quoted earlier even at 57-1/2d. Among the directors of the New Indian company, 2 of them are employees, one legal adviser, one stock broker and others interested directors. Thus it is a clear attempt to frustrate the legislative intentions of the Parliament and circumvent the FERA rules of Indianization. If this proposed transaction, based on bogus figures, is allowed, the Government will lose huge amounts by way of stamp duty, registration fee and other taxes.

Here, I would invite the attention of Mr. Mohan Dharia. This company's bulk acreage has been in rubber, and it has been known as a rubber company, indicated even by the classification for long by the share columns of the *Financial Times*, London as a rubber company. In India they have always enjoyed all the facilities of a rubber company and still have 22,126 acres of rubber as against 18,064 acres of tea. Further, to reduce rubber acreage to pass off as a tea company large areas of rubber plantations are being cleared after immature slaughter tapping. This is nothing but wanton destruction of our plantation wealth.

As the House knows, a tea company can have 76 per cent foreign holdings while for other companies it can only be 40 per cent. So, they are clearly trying for an alternate method to circumvent the law of the land. As this is likely to frustrate the efforts of Parliament and Government to reduce the dependence on foreign capital, the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister may make a statement on the issues I have just raised.

(iii) REPORTED TRAFFICKING IN GIRLS
IN RUDRAPUR IN DEORIA DIST. OF
UTTAR PRADESH

डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत एक विशेष महत्व का प्रश्न आप की सेवा में उपस्थित करना चाहता हूँ। अभी हाल में आप ने अखबारों में देखा होगा कि बालिकाओं के क्रय-विक्रय का एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय अपराध गिरोह उत्तर प्रदेश के देवरिया जिले के रघुरपुर स्थान पर पकड़ा गया है। यह बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि पिछले 6 महीनों में 10 दर्जन ऐसी निर्दोष बालिकाओं का क्रय-विक्रय हुआ और सब से दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि ऐसी बालिकायें मुख्यतः ग्रहिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्र केरल, कर्णाटक, पश्चिमी बंगाल और आदिवासी क्षेत्रों से भगाई गई हैं। यह एक राष्ट्रीय चिन्ता का विषय है कि जहाँ विश्व भर में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय नारी मुक्ति की चर्चा होती है, वहाँ भारत जैसे नारी को पूजने वाले देश में यह कुत्सित गणपार चल रहा है।

मैं सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि सरकार इस प्रकार के दुष्कर्म को जड़-मूल से उन्मूलन कर देने के लिए एक विशेष अपराध-सेल की स्थापना करे।

(iv) REPORTED CLOSURE OF R.B.H.M.
JUTE MILLS, KATIHAR, BEHAR

श्री युशराज : (कटिहार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, विगत दो वर्षों के बिहार राज्य स्थित आर० बी० एच० एम० जूट मिल्स,