

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the temporary taking over, in the public interest, of the management of certain sugar undertakings in certain circumstances."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, I introduce the Bill. And with your permission, I want to bring it to the notice of the House that sub-clause (2) of clause 8 of the Sugar Undertakings (Taking-over of Management) Bill, 1978, which involves expenditure has not been printed in thick type or in italics as required by the said sub-rule (2) although the Financial Memorandum contains a reference to the said sub-clause (2) of clause 3. The other relevant provisions in the Bill which involve expenditure, have been printed in thick type or in italics.

STATEMENT RE. SUGAR UNDERTAKINGS (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) ORDINANCE, 1978

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Ordinance, 1978.

12. 44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED LOW PRICE FIXED BY GOVERNMENT FOR PADDY

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The farmers are put to a great loss due to the low price fixed for paddy by the Government. The Government has not accepted the recommendations

of State Governments to increase the paddy price at over and above Rs. 100 per quintal and fixed only Rs. 85 per quintal. The FCI stopped purchasing paddy in the States of Punjab and Haryana and opening of new centres of purchase in Andhra Pradesh. This is causing much hardship and a great financial loss to the paddy producers. I, therefore, request the Government to purchase all surplus paddy in these States.

(i) REPORTED ENCROACHMENT BY BANGLADESH NATIONALS ON RESERVED LAND IN BARPETA SUB-DIVISION OF ASSAM

SHRI ISMAIL HOSSAIN KHAN (Barpeta): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

I draw the attention of the hon'ble Home Minister to the news item in the local 'Dainik Assam', the highest circulated Assamese daily, dated 12-11-78 from Barpeta correspondent dated 11-11-78 that "Bangladesh nationals are induced to encroach" reserve land in Gobindapur under Barpeta sub-division of Assam State by a Congress leader. It is also stated that thousands of infiltrators have encroached into Konora, Chasara and Silosi reserves of Barpeta sub-division claiming themselves as river-eroded people. To the best of my information and knowledge, as I have recently visited the said area, thousands of native people are rendered homeless every year due to erosion of the mighty river Brahmaputra. 90 per cent of them belong to minority community. It is a fact that since several years Government totally failed to settle the problem of river-eroded people in Assam, particularly in this area. As a result of which thousands of people took shelter on the PWD roads, embankments and Government reserves. All of them are *bona fide* Indian citizens. Assam is a State where there is peaceful co-existence and communal harmony among all classes of people. This news item has created a grave concern in the mind of river-eroded minority community people because

[Shri Ismail Hossain Khan]

there is a section of people who always try to create communal tension and harass the innocent people. There is nobody to object to driving Bangladesh Nationals out of Indian soil. But it is seen several times that some innocent Indian citizens are unnecessarily harassed in the name of Bangladesh infiltration in this area. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister to appoint a high powered committee to enquire into the voracity of the news items so that the innocent people are saved from unnecessary harassment and tension. Necessary directions may also be issued to the state government for a permanent solution of the river-erosion problems of the people of Assam, particularly of Barpeta sub-division.

(iii) SHARP SPURT IN MONEY SUPPLY IN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Under rule 377 I seek your permission to bring a matter of urgent public importance to the notice of this House. There is a sharp spurt in money supply in the first and second quarters of the current financial year showing an increase of 7.7 per cent. The increase of net R.B.I. credit to the government, the consequent deficit financing and the increase in the foreign exchange arrangements of the banking sector are the major components of this situation. Further huge amount of liquidity in private hands can set in motion a new amount of inflation through speculative buying. The steep rise in demand deposits with banks is a disturbing trend. Shortages in cement, steel, coal and soda ash have led to speculative buying and has further driven up the prices in an unwanted manner. It is, therefore, very essential for the government to review the entire situation and curb traders from disturbing the market trends.

(iv) REPORTED HARDSHIP OF SALT LABOURERS IN SURENDRANAGAR DISTRICT OF GUJARAT DUE TO UNTIMELY RAINS

PROF. R. K. AMIN (Surendranagar): Under rule 377, I want to men-

tion the following matter. A great calamity has befallen on the Salt labourers known as agrias in the Surendranagar District of Gujarat State during the last 10 days due to unexpected, untimely rains amounting to 4 to 6 inches during 12th and 13th November, 1978, in the desert areas of salt production, known as Patri-Khura-raghoda Zinzuwada area of Dasada Taluka and Kundra-Halvad area of Dharangadhra Taluka. This calamity was more severe due to floods which brought water from Banas and Rupen rivers which end in the desert of Kutch. This brought good deal of miseries both in terms of hunger, cold and diseases and also financial losses to labourers since the loss in terms of washing away of salt, damage to well and water channels and entire loss of household effects are to be borne by labourers.

Out of 12000 labourers, about 6 to 7 thousand labourers were stranded in the desert, they could not come out, they had to be fed by throwing food packets by helicopter. About 5000 families lost their total households—each having on an average, households worth Rs. 250 to Rs. 300/- and thereby the total damage amounting to about 12 to 15 lakhs of rupees. Moreover, in their salt fields, they lost salt, water channels, salt water well, etc. which loss also may be to the tune of Rs. 80 to 100 lakhs, thereby the total financial loss may be an order of Rs. 110 lakhs. Besides, about 5000 people had to undergo hunger, cold, deprivation etc. for about 10 days because from railway station at Kharadhods, the manufacturers of salt had to be away by about 30 KM due to the parapheri of the radium of 10 miles given to Hindustan Salt Limited, which does not produce salt, nor does it allow others to produce—acting as a dog in the manger policy. This mistake of Government's policy has been pointed out a number of times in the last 30 years and more so, the present Prime Minister, the Minister of Industry both at the Centre and also in the State have realised and accepted this fact of non-