

14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED FAILURE OF COAL INDIA LTD. TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF COAL TO INDUSTRIES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up matters under Rule 377. Shri Bhagat Ram.

SHRI BHAGAT RAM (Phillaur): With your kind permission I am raising this following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

The Coal India Ltd. has badly failed to ensure an adequate supply of coal to the industries in the small scale and the public sector, for power generation, for brick kiln industry and for domestic consumption. The result is that the many factories are on the verge of closure and the production is hampering, the black market is flourishing and the people's suffering are increasing. Particularly the Brick Kiln industry in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi is facing a grave crisis due to scarcity of coal. In Punjab, 90 per cent of the brick kiln industries are reported to be closed. Only 23 to 30 rakes of inferior quality coal is being supplied per month against their requirement of 98 rakes per month. This has resulted in black marketing in the supply of bricks and coal and thousands of workers are facing unemployment and the industry is ruined.

It is said that this crisis is due to lack of coordination between the Coal India and the Railways. I would request both the concerned Ministers to assure the House to end this crisis immediately.

(ii) REPORTED INCREASE IN PRICES OF TYRES AND TUBES

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The tyre manufacturers have raised the price of all types of tyres and tubes and consumers will have to pay in all 16 to 18 per cent more compared to the prevalent price.

The multinational companies like Firestone, Good Year, Dunlop and CEAT have increased the price more than compared to the local smaller manufacturers.

This marking up of price have been done by the multinationals and also by their smaller counterparts purely within a period of two months since the last increase which was effected by the industry as a whole, when the Government's half-hearted action encouraged the mto stick on to their attitude. The average increase per piece of tyre would be even upto as high as Rs. 200\$, which will ultimately spiral on the consumer seriously and there will be price rise in every commodity that needs to be transported. This will also affect small traders of tyres whose investment in industry will go up. The whole conspiracy was hatched on 13-3-1978 making a pretext of excise rise which is only around 2 per cent, after which they had a meeting with the Industry Ministers Shri Fernandes. The Government must come forward with a heavy hand and freeze the price of the tyres as on 1-3-1978.

(iii) SUPPLY OF INDANE GAS CYLINDERS TO RE-ROLLING INDUSTRY IN BHAVNAGAR

SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA (Bhavnagar): I raise the following matter of public importance under Rule 377.

Re-rolling Industry—small scale units located at Bhavnagar headquarters of my constituency had been informed by the Indian Oil Corporation, Bombay Office, some time back that the use of LPG for cutting purposes has been stopped. According to the information available this action has been initiated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals at the instance of All India Gas Manufacturers' Association by the previous government on considerations other than merits.