

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.

I appeal to the hon Minister of the concerned Ministry i.e., Petroleum and Chemicals, to review this decision of the previous Government

So far as Bhavnagar is concerned

(a) Bhavnagar has the largest concentration of re-rolling mills (22 units) in the State of Gujarat

(b) Bhavnagar has been declared industrially backward district by the State Government

(c) All the re-rolling units fall under the small scale category

(d) Most of these re-rolling units are on sick list of the Government due to unprecedented and continuous crisis in the industry for the last three years or so

(e) In the year 1975, when this Ministry had imposed restriction for the use of Indane Gas for cutting purposes the re-rolling industry was not in such a bad shape

The cost of Acetylene Gas is 15 times more than that of Indane Gas. In other words one cylinder of Indane gas costing about Rs 30 would cut double the quantity of the material than one Acetylene gas cylinder costing about Rs 250. This cost factor is impossible to be absorbed by the re-rolling industry in their present uneconomical working when the industry is already facing so many crisis

In stead of giving protection to gas manufacturers by forcing them to sell products on small scale sick units the Government should think in terms of reducing the price of Oxygen Gas, which the gas manufacturers have been hiking every now and then in spite of the fact that the cost of their raw material that is, air, is zero

The protection sought to be given to gas manufacturers at the cost of small-scale re-rollers is not justified as by protecting these few financially well-off gas manufacturers, Government's policy is killing large number of small-scale re-rolling industry

The total present consumption of Indane Gas per month in Bhavnagar (for all purposes) is in the vicinity of about 8000 cylinders out of which the re-rolling industry requires only about 100 cylinders per month for its existence

I would not read more because the Minister assured that 100 cylinders per month to Bhavnagar will be given

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N Bahuguna). If it is only 100 cylinders per month I would have this arrangement restored. If you want 101, I would not be able to make any commitment. Upto 100, Okay

SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Thank you Sir

कुमारी मणिबेन बल्लभभाई पटेल (महलाना) सभापति महोदय, मैं भी इसका बारे में कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमारे आनन्द और प्रभुमदानाद में शिकायत आई है कि महीने-महीने तक कुकिंग गैस नहीं मिलता है, तो इसमें लोग क्या करें ?

श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा यह प्रश्न वात है टमकी सूचना टकटडी करुण ।

कुमारी मणिबेन बल्लभभाई पटेल : प्रश्न नहीं, सही बात है ।

श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा आपकी बात को तो मैं अभी गलत कहता हूँ नहीं हूँ ।

सभापति महोदय सत्री जो टम पर ध्यान देंगे ।

श्री सुरेश्वर बिक्रम (शाहजहांपुर) : सभापति महोदय, मरा भो नियम 377 के अंतर्गत एक विषय था, उसका क्या हुआ ?

सभापति महोदय वह राज के एजेन्डे में नहीं है उस कल दखिय ।

Now Shri Sathe—absent Shri-Somundaram—absent We pass on to the next item