

[Shri Surendra Bikram]

may be denatured so that it is not fit for human consumption. Instead of exporting at lower cost, it should supplement petrol consumption in the country.

(ii) REPORTED NOTICE BY EMPLOYEES OF BANKS TO GO ON STRIKE

श्री उपसेन (देवरिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन, देश के 5 लाख बैंक कर्मचारियों ने, जो निजी और राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में काम करते हैं, अपने मासिकों को नोटिस दिया है कि वे प्रायामी 28 और 29 दिसम्बर को समूचे देश में सम्पूर्ण हड़ताल करेंगे। उनकी मांग है कि बैंक सम्बन्धी सारे समझौते लागू किये जायें और जो मुंहवाई भत्ते की दर है, उसको कायम रखा जाए। बोनस एक्ट 1975 उन पर लागू किया जाए प्राप्ति प्राप्ति। उनकी मांगों के तहत, बोनस एवं अन्य सुविधाओं के सम्बन्ध में उनके और सरकार के बीच कोई समझौता नहीं हो सका है। प्रखिल भारतीय संगठनों ने मिस्र पर प्रयास भी किया है, मगर अभी तक कोई हल नहीं निकला है, यतः बिल मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरह आकृषित करना चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I have given notice under 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: These have been selected and allowed.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I want my protest to go on record.

(iii) PROBLEMS OF TOBACCO GROWERS

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, I make the following statement under rule 377:

The tobacco growers in the country particularly in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka are passing through a period of severe depression this year. On a recent estimate, about 60 million Kgs. of tobacco is remaining unsold with the farmers. The problem has hit hard to the producers of bidi tobacco. This year, the agents have not purchased the commodity in order to compel the growers to sell at

throwaway prices. There is also another factor which shows high production and fall in demand. Due to high prices, in previous two years, a large number of growers diverted more land for production of tobacco from foodgrains. Further, the hybrid seed of tobacco have not given massive production. This has brought about a crisis for the farmers growing tobacco. The aggrieved tobacco growers have represented this case to the Government. In view of this, the Government has to review its policy regarding levy of excise duty to give remunerative prices to tobacco growers.

The prices of bidis have reached high and unless the excise duties are reduced, remunerative prices cannot be given to the tobacco growers. The holding capacity of tobacco growers being lower, a severe financial crisis has set in. The Government, therefore, is required to reconsider the entire situation urgently.

(iv) WORKING OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SHRI VIJYKUMAR N. PATIL (Dhulia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following urgent matter of public importance regarding the function of IARI.

There are reports in a section of news-papers today that two senior bio-chemists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute who have questioned the research claims of their seniors have been punished and provided with no research facilities. A PTI correspondent found these persons without even the basic equipment, like, chemical balance and "fume cupboards". Neither of them has staff, equipment, telephone, even stationery and the basic chemicals for research.

Reports also have appeared in the *Indian Express*, New Delhi dated 28th November, 1978 regarding the "Scientist Demands" for a judicial probe