

[Shri R. K. Mhalgi] are not only neglected but their proposals are also voted out just because the number of government nominees on the board is one more than that of trade and industry. 'If our views are not given any consideration, what is the use of our adorning the chairs. Let the government nominees carry on the work as they deem fit,' one trustee complained. The recent BPT decision to raise port charges proved to be the last straw.

A trustee maintained that there was no improvement in port services and hence no justification for any rise in port charge, at this juncture. The Ministry of shipping and transport should therefore look immediately into the matter and try to set things all right taking into account the grievances of the trustee, of Bombay Port Trust.

(iii) ALLOTMENT OF IRON AND STEEL MATERIAL TO TAMIL NADU AND NON-AVAILABILITY OF RAILWAY WAGONS FOR ITS TRANSPORTATION

DR. P. V. PERLASAMY (Krishnagiri): Under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of grave importance to the very survival of small scale industries in Tamil Nadu, particularly those in the small scale engineering sector.

The 'very meagre' allotment of iron and steel materials to Tamil Nadu has created a chaotic situation in the small scale industrial field. For the current year Tamil Nadu has been allotted only 12,300 tonnes of iron and steel material while the minimum requirement is about a lakh of tonnes. It is said that another 9000 tonnes of iron and steel material are on the pipeline. The discrimination is so blatant in the matter of iron and steel supply to Tamil Nadu, when you see that Gujarat has been given 85,000 tonnes and Haryana one lakh tonnes. This inadequate supply of iron and steel material is further accentuated by the non-availability of railway wagons. Some 1500 tonnes of iron and steel material have been moved

by road and this has pushed up the cost enormously.

Similarly the paucity of railway wagons for transporting the goods produced in the small scale sector has led to chronic accumulation of goods. The marketing of small scale industrial products has become a serious problem. For instance, the Tamil Nadu small scale salt manufacturers are facing a huge stock of six lakh tonnes of salt. The Tamil Nadu small scale match manufacturers are facing glut because they are not getting wagons to move their products.

The inadequate supply of coal and coke has upset the power generation programme in Tamil Nadu. The interrupted power supply has become a handicap in working two effective shifts so that these small scale units can reach the break even stage. As the employment of more than three lakh workers in these units is in jeopardy I demand a statement from the hon. Minister of Industry as to what steps he proposes to take to help the small scale units in Tamil Nadu.

(iv) OBSERVANCE OF 8TH APRIL, 1979 AS A SOLEMN OCCASION IN THE MEMORY OF SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH AND B. K. DATT.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHIKHE (Sangli): Sir, I rise to make a statement under rule 377 on the following matter of urgent public importance.

On 8th April, 1929, Shaheed Bhagat Singh and B. K. Datt threw a bomb when the Central Legislative Assembly was in session in order to demonstrate to the alien rulers the utter disgust and disaffection of the Indians against their autocratic rule. Later both Shaheed Bhagat Singh and B. K. Datt offered themselves for arrest shouting 'Inquilab Zindabad'—'Long live Revolution'. That was an epochmaking event in the freedom struggle of our country.