

Lastly, I want to remind the hon. Minister of the assurance he gave to the House that whenever a sick unit is taken over by the Government, the other sick units of the Company would be simultaneously taken over so that the company can be run properly. With this submission, I oppose the introduction of the Bill. I hope, the hon. Minister will assure the House that the interest of the Kanpur jute unit workers would also be equally protected and safeguarded.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The hon. Member has made a point about the Kanpur jute unit of this particular company. We are also concerned with this question; we have been in touch with the State Government about the problem that the jute unit in Kanpur is facing and between my Ministry and the Uttar Pradesh State Government, we are hoping to find a solution to this problem. We are aware of the size of the problem and we are doing all that is necessary to sort that out. The State Government of Rajasthan has made a point; they would like the unit to be handed over to them, but the Bill, as it has been cleared by the Government, provides for the Cement Corporation of India taking this over. The State Government have a certain point of view. There is another problem which the State Government have raised and that is currently under the consideration of the Central Government and it relates to payment of some of their dues from this company. Large amount of money are due to various people and the Bill provides for payment within a certain schedule.

The hon. Member made a point about the taking over of all the units of a company. There has not been any such policy on the part of the Government to take over all the units of a company. In the case of Swadeshi Mills, we took a certain decision.

In so far as this company is concerned, we are, at the moment, concerned with the unit at Sawai Madhopur.

I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chitta Basu, I suppose you are not pressing.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have explained my position, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for, in the public interest, the acquisition and transfer of the right, title and interest of the Jaipur

Udyog Limited in relation to its cement undertakings, for the purpose of ensuring continuity of production of cement which is essential to the needs of the community, the industries and other developmental projects in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now matters under rule 377.

11:42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) REPORTED EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN HANDMADE MATCH INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU.

SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM (Shahjahanpur): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter. It is about the exploitation of child labour in the hand-made match industry in the districts of Tiruvelveli and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.

In the very first month of the International Year of the Child, viz. January 1979, a gruesome bus tragedy took place near Sivakasi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu which brought to light the cruel exploitation of children employed in the hand-made match industry in the districts of Tiruvelveli and Ramanathapuram in the State of Tamil Nadu. A bus carrying 60 children between the age group of 10-14 was washed away by floods when the bus was crossing a bridge. The bus accident resulted in the death of 37 children being taken to work in one of the match factories.

It is common knowledge that there is a large scale exploitation of child labour of the type not found in any other industry, or in any other part of the country. About 50% of the labour employed in the hand-made match industry are children between the age group of 5 and 15. These children are paid wages, earning from 50 paise to Rs. 2/- and are required to work 12 hours or more a day. The work carried out by them is of a hazardous nature. Besides, they are brought to the factories from as far away as 10 to 20 kms. in buses, vans and

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

