

industries to give employment to 10,000 labourers and in the interest of the country. Therefore, it is requested that the Hon. Minister for Commerce would be pleased to maintain status-quo or to take necessary immediate steps to buy the material at present Floor prices and allow the producer-exporters to fulfil their pre-canalisation commitments. I hope the hon. Minister will take prompt action in this matter as in the case of other Export Trade where his performance is praiseworthy.

(xv) SILENT VALLY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN PHALGHAT, KERALA.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

Kerala Silent Valley Hydro-Electric Project

The Silent Vally hydro-electric project in Palghat Malapuram district of Kerala is running into rough weather again.

When the preliminary works on the project were commenced there was practically no opposition. However, scientists and naturalists soon began expressing their concern over the possibilities of the "only rain forest" in the country being denuded because of the project coming up there. The task force for the ecological planning of the Western Ghats strongly expressed itself against proceeding with the project as it might create ecological imbalance. It also pointed out an instance of the Tamil Nadu Government dropping a similar project in the Moyar River basin on the ground that it would upset the ecology in the area.

It was only with great reservation that the task force said the Silent Valley project might be sanctioned and that too subject to certain conditions which the Kerala Government would have to fulfil while executing it.

As per the suggestions of the task force, the clear-felling of the forest is to be reduced to the minimum. Trespass into the project area should not be permitted. While goats should not be reared in the area, other types of cattle should be stalled. Adequate measures are also to be taken against forest fire.

All the conditions put forward by the task force were accepted by the Kerala Government and it also agreed to the creation of a 'monitoring Committee' to supervise the implementation of the safeguards suggested. A legislation has already been enacted by the State Government in this regard.

In spite of all these, clearance has not yet been given to the project.

As this project is an important prestigious one, I request the Government to give immediate clearance to the same.

(xvi) FIXATION OF UNIFORM EX-INSTALLATION PRICE OF KEROSENE OIL

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the following matter of urgent public importance.

The ex-installation price of Kerosene oil at Mourigram, Calcutta is about the highest in the entire country. It is Rs. 1229.37 per K.L. at Calcutta as against Rs. 1193.98 for Bombay, Rs. 1196.50 for Cochin, Rs. 1201.78 for Vishakhapatnam, Rs. 1204.40 for Madras etc. This is inspite of the fact that Calcutta has both part and pipeline facilities and nearly refineries. We have been pressing the Government of India that there should be for the time being parity in the installation price of kerosene oil at least at the major ports but ultimately an essential commodity of mass consumption like kerosene oil should be sold throughout the country at more or less a uniform price.

It appears from the press statements of Central Petroleum Minister that the ex-installation price of kerosene oil

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

would be increased shortly by Government of India in view of higher purchase price as under new contract. It is high time that the issue of installation price is fixed properly so that the revised issue prices are uniform at least at the major ports of the country. If Government of India does not contemplate increasing the installation price, the present disparity in ex-installation prices should immediately be done away with.

I request the Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers to accede to this legitimate request of the State Government for the benefit of the poor consumers in this part of the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri S. R. Damani—not here;

Shri Brahm Perkaśh—not here; Shri C. N. Visvanathan—not here.

(xvii) EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS IN THE
BIDI INDUSTRY DUE TO CONTRACT
LABOUR SYSTEM.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL (Bankura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to raise the following matter under rule 377.

The workers in the Bidi industry are being exploited the most. In various States, particularly in the districts of Bankura and Purulia of West Bengal, they are engaged on contract basis. The owner of the factory does not come in the picture at all. He appoints a contractor to get the work done, "the manufacture of bidi through him" and he in return employs labour on contract basis. As such, these labourers remain deprived of several benefits, such as, bonus, gratuity, pension, medical facilities, provident fund, etc. etc. While rolling bidis, they are exposed to the bad effects of tobacco on their health and they fell victims of various diseases, such as, T.B., Asthma, etc.

The Government should take steps to ameliorate the lot of bidi workers by enacting a suitable legislation so as to improve their service conditions, fixing their minimum wages and granting them all benefits enjoyed by workers engaged in other industries.

15.52 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up the Private Members' Business.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Sir, 2-1/2 hours will be reckoned from now. It was decided during your brief absence that "3-30 P.M." is not sacrosanct under rule 26. We are taking up the Private Members' business only now. That means, it will go upto 6.25 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes. So, we will take up the Half-An-Hour Discussion at 6-25 P.M.

SHRI VINOD BHAI SHETH: (Jamnagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions was presented to the House on the 9th May, 1979. It was to be adopted on Thursday, the 10th May, 1979 before taking up the Private Members' regarding Resolutions. However, the motion for adoption of Report was not moved since an adjournment motion was taken up at 4 P.M. on that day and the scheduled Private Members' Business could not be taken up.

I may draw the attention of the House to para 5 and part (iii) of para 7 of the Report which contains recommendations of the Committee regarding allocation of time to Resolutions which were set down in the List of Business of 10th May, 1979. Since that business was not transacted on that day, the recommendation contained in the aforesaid paras has become redundant. The motion for adoption of Report will, therefore, have to be modified to that extent.

Sir, I, therefore, beg your leave to move the motion in the modified form. I move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills: