

13.20 hrs.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT GIVING
REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE
LEGISLATION BY THE ESSENTIAL
COMMODITIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)
AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN
AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table an
explanatory statement (Hindi and English
versions) giving reasons for immediate
legislation by the Essential Commodities
(Special Provisions) Amendment Ordinance,
1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2701/
92].

13.20 1/2 hrs.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT
BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN
AHMED): I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill further to amend the Essential
Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981
and to make special provisions by way of
amendment to the Essential Commodities
Act, 1955.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question
is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill
further to amend the Essential
Commodities (Special Provisions) Act,
1981 and to make special provisions by
way of amendment to the Essential
Commodities Act, 1955".

The Motion was adopted

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I
introduce the Bill.

13.21 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide Central
assistance to farmers in drought-
prone districts of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): A
large part of Orissa is reeling under the grip
of severe drought. In addition to the drought-
prone districts of Phulbani, Kalahandi and
Bolangir, several other districts, namely,
Koraput, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh
and Keonjhar are facing drought of the
unprecedented nature. Korapur and
Kalahandi districts are the worst affected
districts. The farmers in majority of these
districts have suffered 50 percent to 80
percent loss of crops in varying degrees
except the irrigated land. Though good rainfall
at the beginning of the sowing season had
improved the prospects of better harvest the
surplus rain at some places caused flood
resulting in damage to crops. Similarly, some
districts witnessed scanty rainfall and even
the standing crops became dry and could not
grow fully. The combined effect of all these
factors have caused severe drought in these
districts.

Unless immediate steps are taken to
help the farmers liberally they cannot bear
the heavy loss they have suffered during this
year. Apart from providing relief on war
footing and taking immediate steps for the
rehabilitation of the farmers, the short-term
loan taken by them should be converted into
long-term loan.

I urge the Government of India to depute
the Central study team to Orissa to make the
assessment of crop loss during the kharif

season and then recommend to the Government to give necessary Central assistance to the farmers without any further delay.

- (ii) **Need to give Central assistance to Kerala Government for providing relief to Cyclone affected people**

[Translation]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): The recent cyclone and flood in Kerala have caused extensive damage to life and property. The total damage estimated is more than Rs. 500 crores. Roads and bridges have been extensively damaged. Transport services which were disrupted in many parts of the State have not been restored so far.

Palakkad is considered to be the rice bowl of Kerala. Chittur is one of the three main taluks where paddy is grown. In the flash flood that occurred in this district, the Muttera Dam which used to supply water for agriculture has been totally damaged. It is estimated that an amount of at least Rs. 50 lakh will be needed to repair this dam. If it is not repaired on a war-footing, the farmers of this district will not be able to raise the next crop. The consequence will be unbearable for a State like Kerala which is deficit in food. This will cause starvation deaths.

apart from the damage to property, loss of life has also been very great. According to official estimates, 42 persons lost their lives. A large number of people were either injured or are missing.

This calamity has put out of gear the life of the ordinary people. Life can be restored to normalcy only with a liberal help of the Central Government.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to release special assistance from the Calamity Relief Fund immediately and help Kerala.

- (iii) **Need to provide minimum wages and basic amenities like housing, medical assistance etc. to tribal workers engaged in mining activities in Birmitrapur, Sundargarh district, Orissa**

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems of workers in Birmitrapur in Sundargarh district, Orissa. Thousands of workers are engaged in the mining activities at B.S.L. and other mines in the Birmitrapur area. In fact, their only source of livelihood is from B.S.L. But it is regrettable that the workers are facing great difficulty as they are not being paid minimum wages. Each worker gets only Rs. 10 a day. The mine owners and contractors are exploiting the workers. Most of the workers belong to tribal community. The company or the mine owners are not providing them houses, education facility to their children etc. They are not even getting potable drinking water. As a result of which they are prone to various ailments. Most of the workers are suffering from T.B., Cancer and several other dreaded diseases. No arrangement is being made by the company to provide any kind of medical assistance to the sick.

I urge upon the Government to provide minimum wages and basic amenities to the workers engaged in mining activities at B.S.L. and other mines of Birmitrapur.

- (iv) **Need to set up an electronic telephone exchange at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bareilly is an important industrial metropolis of North-India. A demand for setting up of an electronic telephone exchange with a capacity of ten thousand lines at Bareilly is being made for