

intend to sound out the State Chief Ministers for their cooperation I am also confident that the event will evoke unstinted cooperation from academic and cultural circles in India.

I am glad to inform the House that this first visit of mine to a foreign country after taking over as Prime Minister, went off very well and succeeded in achieving the objective I had in mind. I am confident that it would provide a fresh impetus to Indo-German cooperation. I am particularly happy to have had this opportunity of renewing my contact with Chancellor Kohl. Of particular significance is the desire expressed by him to me to draw India closer to the New Europe that is emerging.

MR. SPEAKER: Today we have decided to work after the Private Members Business over. I am going to adjourn the House after taking up the Matters under Rule 377 so that we have lunch time.

Now I call upon Shri Pala K.M. Mathew to raise the matter under Rule 377.

13.06 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to waive off the loans given to small cardamom growers and provide other tax exemptions to them**

[English]

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): The small cardamom growers are put to immense hardship. The spices Board is taking stringent steps to collect the loans taken by the farmers under Cardamom replanting loan schemes.

Because of previous year's cyclone and poor rains, the small farmers are not in a position to repay the loans. The loan waiver facility of the Government should be extended to these cardamom loans also.

The exemption under Agricultural In-

come Tax should be extended up to 4 hectares. The panchayat professional tax from Cardamom growers should be abolished. Pattas should be issued to Kuthagapattam land occupants. The auction sale of tax defaulters land under the Sales Tax Act, etc. should never be allowed to ruin cardamom farmers.

- (ii) **Need to set up special Development Board at Bolangir**

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK (Bolangir): The three districts of Orissa, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Phulbani, are most backward regions of Orissa. There is no major industry in the area. Despite being rich in natural resources the rate of development in the field of education, industry, transport, irrigation and agriculture is very low in proportion to the State's average growth in these areas. The rate of economic growth is very low. The literacy rate is also marginal. As the tribal (SC & ST) population is higher in percentage, special efforts are needed to improve their living conditions. Though large chunk of revenue is collected from there the share of this region for departmental work is low. In order to fight the poverty, illiteracy, drought and to improve the living conditions, Special Development Board in the pattern of Saurashtra and Vidarbha should be established immediately at Bolangir.

- (iii) **Need to extend the benefits of abolition of 'Lease System' to the Cooperative Housing Societies**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision of the Government to convert 'Lease System' into 'Free Hold' is quite praise worthy. Under the new land system a fixed amount will be charged in lumpsum. The new land system on the one hand, will definitely in the present circumstances make huge funds available to

the Government and on the other hand will give mental reprieve to the flat/plot owners from the payment of annual land rent (ground rent), in addition to reducing pressure on administration to a large extent. Though this decision will be equally extended to flat/plot owners, but it has not been made clear whether the decision will be applicable to those flats/plots owners also who have been given flats/plots by the Cooperative Housing Societies. If it is not so, it is essential that the new land system should be extended to properties allotted by Cooperative Housing Societies, so that maximum number of persons can be allowed to avail of the benefits of 'free-hold' system.

Therefore, I urge the Government to allay all the apprehensions before implementing the new land system, in the larger interest of people. In whole of India, the 'lease system' should be replaced by 'free-hold' system.

- (iv) **Need to provide due share of natural gas to Ahmedabad city**

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, the pollution level in Ahmedabad city is one of the highest in the country. Replacement of kerosene, wood coal etc. used for domestic and industrial purposes would bring down the level of pollution and also improve the health and hygiene of the people, particularly the women in the middle and lower sections of the society. Saving of the kerosene would reduce the foreign exchange outflow. Replacement of wood would help in conservation of forest wealth which is so scanty. Piped gas supply would contribute effectively in giving much needed boost to the economy of Ahmedabad city.

Gas reserves have been found at many places in Gujarat. A detailed feasibility project report has also been prepared and the same was submitted to Government of India. In this connection, the State Government has requested to allocate at least 1

MC-MD Gas for immediate requirement. The State Government have been informed by the Central Government that after finalisation of gas use policy, necessary allocation to Ahmedabad city will be considered.

I request the Central Government that the Gas use policy should be decided immediately and the due share of the Gas should be allocated to Ahmedabad city.

- (v) **Need to supply thread to weavers are powerloom and handloom workers at subsidised rates particularly those in West Bengal**

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Sir, lakhs and lakhs of weavers, especially handloom and powerloom workers are suffering in West Bengal due to recent price hike of cotton. It has increased at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg. and weavers and workers have been rendered jobless. The small and marginal weavers have no capacity to buy this cotton thread which is very much used by the poor weavers and the cloth produced is mostly worn by the poor people in our country. Under these circumstances, if the Government does not take necessary steps, the weavers are bound to leave their profession. It is my earnest demand to the Central Government to make necessary arrangements to supply threads at a subsidised rate to the weavers at the earliest.

- (vi) **Need for comprehensive review of copyright Act, 1957 to extend copyright to Rabindra Nath Tagore's work**

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, on the completion of 50 years of his death anniversary, the copyrights of the works of Tagore shall expire on December 31, 1991.

A delegation from the Viswa Bharati University led by the Vice-Chancellor met the Minister of Human Resources and also the Prime Minister, requesting for the extension of Rabindra Nath Tagore's works' copy-