

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

कि दिल्ली में विधानसभा बनेगी और इसको पूरे राज्य का दर्जा दिया जाएगा ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, पिछले चुनाव में कांग्रेस पार्टी ने भी यह वायदा किया था कि वह दिल्ली में विधानसभा कायम करेंगे । अब इस वायदे पर अमल करने का वक़्त आ गया है ।

कुमारी सईदा खानून (मध्य प्रदेश) : पूरा हाज़र इससे रहमत है ।

Problems faced by the Agarbathi Industry in India

SHRI J. P. JAVALI (Karnataka): Sir, I rise to make a special mention to draw the attention of the Government about the problems faced in the manufacture of agarbathis, its fading fragrance due to the lack of basic, essential raw material, jigat, maida lakadi, procured from the bark of a tree (botanical name of the tree being machilus macarantia).

Sir, agarbathi manufacturing is almost a cottage industry on small scale providing jobs for lakhs of workers all over India. Nearly 90 per cent of the units are in the tiny and cottage sector. Of these 50 per cent are based in Karnataka, popularly known as Mysore agarbathis. Agarbathis are produced by hand and only by hand. They are purely a handicraft product and in effect function without any infrastructural support. Value-wise, all the units in the country produce about Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 crores worth of agarbathis. At present, Rs eight crores worth are exported to every nook and corner of the world.

Sir, Agarbathi is considered to be the symbol of our cultural heritage as well as the pride of Karnataka by its use in homes, temples, gurudwaras, churches and mosques. Outside India it has earned the sobriquet—the fragrant ambassador of India. Now, agarbathi making is plagued by the shortage and non-availability of

forest based raw materials. In the exports at its peak, it had touched Rs. 11 crores. Now the down trend in its export performance is due to shortage of raw materials. If assisted in the availability of raw materials its performance can be much better and can earn for the country the much-needed foreign exchange. The basic raw materials required in making agarbathis are bamboo splinters. They are the core and agarbathis are rolled on it. Wood charcoal, this is what keeps the agarbathi burning. Jigat is a product derived from the bark of a tree whose botanical name is machilus macarantia. This bark when powdered and mixed with water becomes ideal binding agent, it does not impart its own aroma, does not influence the aroma of other products used and does not hinder burning. The major problem of the industry is the tremendous shortage of forest based raw material specially jigat. Jigat is a trade name and is also known as maida lakadi, gulmavu, chinanamon bark etc.

The Government of Karnataka has specifically stated that it cannot make jigat available for reasons of maintaining ecological balance. Other State Governments may also follow the suit. Now, the only possibility is of importing jigat from countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Burma etc. I suggest for the import at a concessional duty and for a scheme for equitable distribution of the product to all the units especially the thousands of marginal ones. The stake in this industry is the jobs of five lakh or more workers.

Another problem faced by this industry is labour laws and ESI contributions. Agarbathis are mostly made by families at their place of residence. Then the agarbathis are supplied to agarbathi units for perfuming, packing and marketing.

As stated earlier, this industry is run by thousands of tiny and cottage units which cannot effectively follow

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the rules and regulations and are, therefore, subject to harassment. I appeal to the Government to constitute a committee to look into the problem of raw material shortage and also find ways and means to assist them in looking after the welfare of the workers by overcoming unimplementable labour laws, particularly ESI contributions, etc.

Sir, I demand immediate action to save this world famous traditional industry from its present problems. I also demand for the protection of lakhs of jobs of workers in the agarbathi industry.

Underground accident at New Ghusick Colliery, Sripur Area

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I wish to draw, through you, the attention of the Government to the serious situation arising out of accident resulting in injuries to seven workers at New Ghusick Colliery under Sripur Area, on 14-4-89.

I have received a telegram from Lakhan Bagdi the Organising Secretary, and an M.L.A. which states that "the speed of winding engine could not be checked due to failure of brake resulting in serious accident underground injuring workers at New Ghusick colliery under Sripur Area ECL on 14-4-1989 at 10.30 a.m. Workers agitated and so elicit immediate intervention and inquiry."

Sir, this is not the only accident that has taken place recently. Earlier also, on 8-4-89, an accident took place at Naba Kajora Colliery under Kajora Area. Here, the accident was of a different nature. There was in-rush of water underground up to 7th level, that is, four and five levels underground were filled with water. Though there was no casualty, it could have been a major disaster. Earlier also, on 7th April, one Jhala-

khadeo Singh was killed in a serious accident at Sounda, D-Colliery in Hazaribagh.

These accidents are taking place in spite of the claims by the authorities that the number of accidents is coming down. According to latest reports from the DGMS, it seems that during the period January to October 1988, number of fatalities went up compared to their number for the same period in 1987. In 1987, 146 persons had been killed in 132 fatal accidents, and in 1988, the number went up to 152 deaths. While in 1987, there were 132 fatal accidents, in 1988, there were 139 fatal accidents. And the Eastern Coalfields Ltd., under whose mismanagement the New Ghusick colliery functions, has topped the list with 37 deaths in 30 fatal accidents during the period January to October, 1988.

I demand from the Government that a full-fledged discussion should be held on this serious question because coal-raising is going up and our coal prices are going up; but safety aspect in the collieries is going down. That presents a very serious situation in the colliery areas and I request the Government to take up the matter seriously.

Reported Nexus between smugglers and politicians

डॉ० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इस सदन में कुछ दिन पहले मैंने भारत के विख्यात तस्कर हाजी मस्तान से विरोधी दल के नेता बने वी० पी० सिंह के संबंधों के विषय में चर्चा की थी और आज एक और चिन्तनीय विषय की ओर सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ।

स्मगलर्स टी पार्टी रोकस जनता दल। आज टाइम्स आफ इण्डिया में यह खबर छपी है और उसके साथ एक फोटो भी प्रकाशित हुआ है जिसमें हमारे सदन के