

again on the increase. By the turn of the century our country's population will be nearly 100 crores. Land being limited, how are you going to feed the population? How are you going to provide these people with additional employment? He have seen the fanciful policies of our Health Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Regarding this, you will have an opportunity to speak on this subject.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: They should give up these fanciful notions about the rhythm method and this and that. This will land us in very great difficulties. This is my first submission.

The second thing which I want to submit is this. I would like to know as to what is their policy regarding Works and Housing. Only today we have seen this in the newspapers. With a vengeance they have demolished two temples. Now, Sir, this Government with a vengeance, has started demolishing even the temples, I would like to know what is their policy. Are they going to demolish the temples, mosques, churches and everything constructed under the so-called Public Property Act? This is one thing.

On the subject of science and technology again....

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will not be able to reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: To-day, Sir, the entire scientific world and the scientists of this country are feeling disheartened.

MR. SPEAKER: He won't be able to answer that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the matter is urgent.

MR. SPEAKER: In fact, I have liberalised that a little.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, a man like Shri Ramanna (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI H. L. PATWARI (Mangaldoi)**

MR SPEAKER: Don't record.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am only inviting your attention and the attention of this Government, through you, that a man like Shri Ramanna, an eminent scientist, a man of research, who brought about the explosion at Pokharan, which raised the image of India, throughout the world, as the Sixth Nation on Nuclear Explosion, has to be brought behind the Bureau here—it is a loss to the nation—without his consent; he was given two days—either he has to come here or to get out. What will he do? I do not understand the policy of the Government. Because these matters are of such importance, my point is to draw attention to this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrappan, Please be brief.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Cannanore): Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak on this vitally important point.

My hon. friend, Shri Ravi, raised the question as to what is happening to the coir industry in the country. On the policy of mechanisation, Government says that they have not taken any decision finally. What is more objectionable is this. Government gave a solemn assurance to the Government of Kerala that it would take a final decision and then the Kerala Government would be informed about it. But, the decision, according to official sources has not yet been taken. But, before a decision has been taken about their policy, they have asked the Export Clearance Inspection Agency in Cochin to clear all those mats which have been illegally manufactured by the mechanised factory. That means before a decision has been taken, they

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

are trying to patronise these people who are manufacturing the mechanised mats for exports. (*Interruptions*). Another thing is this. There was a Conference held recently in Rome (FAO) and there was a delegation attending on behalf of the Government.

In that Conference, the very industrialist who is involved in the mechanised mat manufacture and other coir products Shri Ravi Karunakaran had been allowed. He was not selected for that Delegation by Government. I would like the Government to look into this matter. It is very important.

Secondly, there is another problem—the problem of cashew distribution policy. I am not speaking about the new policy. Government have already established a well defined policy in regard to the distribution of raw cashewnuts to those factories which were in the industry for several years. Now, suddenly, the Government is going to revise the policy in such a manner by which already the industry which is not in a position to provide full employment to lakhs of people who are involved in it is being allowed to set up new factories. They are not new factories in the real sense of the term. These are the manufacturers in Kerala who want to scuttle the minimum wage, policy and other rights of the employees and they are going to the other States where such acts are not enforced and they are trying to make more profits. The Government, if they are interested in the well-being of the poor people and the workers, should not allow this process to take place. But I am sorry to say that the Government is allowing this process to take place and the industry to shift from Kerala to other places. I would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to this important problem.

Sir, both the Finance Minister and the Steel Minister are present in the

House. Here is a Demand for Ministry of Finance. I would like the Minister to enlighten us as to what is their policy in regard to collection of revenue arrears which are increasing. According to one figure the arrears are to the tune of Rs. 1,002 crores which are still pending from big industrial houses and other big people who are tax-payers. Out of this Rs. 11 crores are from the House of Birlas. Whether the Government would like to take some action against these people so that this money can be utilised for creating a better situation in the country.

Lastly I would like to know from the Minister of Steel and Mines as to how he would utilise the valuable mineral resources like iron-ore etc. recently found in Kerala. Please enlighten the House whether you are going to utilise this industrially so that the people there will get some employment and the country additional wealth.

SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL: Sir, hon'ble Members Shri Vayalar Ravi and Shri Chandrappan have referred to the coir industry. I have already said that this matter will be brought to the notice of the Industry Minister.

Sir, as regards the point about tax arrears I would like to say that the figure quoted by the hon'ble Members is not correct. It is not more than rupees one thousand crores. It is near about Rs. 700 crores. Sir, majority of these arrears are pending adjudication in the courts and there are stay orders. The amount is increasing year by year. It is not that these arrears are only for the year 1977-78. They are coming over the last ten, fifteen and twenty years. We are realising the arrears but again they increase. Sixty to seventy per cent of these matters are pending in courts. We shall do our best to realise all the tax arrears wherever possible without the fear of anybody howsoever high he may be. This much assurance I can give to the House.