

[Sh. Manku Ram Sodji]

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN (Calicut): The people of Kerala are mainly dependent upon the ration rice which is supplied through Food Corporation of India. The decision of the Government to increase the price of ration rice and wheat has adversely affected the entire public in Kerala. Even though the Government of Kerala had taken a decision to compensate the price rise and distribute the ration rice without affecting the general public, yet it is an extra burden of Rs. 180 crores on the State. The decision of Centre for increasing the price of ration rice and wheat should be reviewed urgently. Kerala is fully depending on a statutory rationing and the supply of rice and wheat is from outside the State. Under such circumstances this decision will adversely affect our State. I request the Central Government to look into this matter and to withdraw the decision and thereby save the State Government from the extrak burden.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI(Jalesar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, communication system in my constituency Jalesar which comprises four districts is very poor. There are three reserved assembly seats in this Parliamentary constituency, which are very backward and there are no means of communications in these places. According to the policies of the Government arrangements for telephone facility are being made and these will be made available to the village heads (Gram Pradhans) but no STD facility is available to the M.P. of this constituency. It is totally impossible to work for the development of this backward area to contact the people and to remove their hardships and problems without any proper com-

munication system.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that provisions should be made to set up an electronic exchange at Jalesar and justice should be done with the people of this area by providing STD facility immediately.

- (v) **Need to protect the interests of labourers of Maguracherra and Shinglacherra tea gardens in Karimganj district, Assam**

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): There are two tea-gardens in Karimganj District, Assam, namely Maguracherra and Shinglacherra. They were flourishing ones, but due to ownership disputes they are on the verge of extinction. The labourers cannot have their rations, daily or weekly wages. Plucking of tea leaves remains suspended for several months which amounts to national loss. There is labour unrest and at any moment there can be breach of peace.

I urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter immediately for greater interest of the tea-labourers and for upkeep of the gardens themselves.

- (vi) **Need to set up industries in Kodarma, Bihar**

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Kodarma is an industrially backward area and the people there are very poor and jobless. After the collapse of mica industry, lakhs of employees have been rendered unemployed. There is no other source of livelihood for them. Not even a single industry has been established in this area. A vast track of land is lying unirrigated and rest of the area is covered by mountains and forest. The standard of living of the people of this area has gone down beyond imagination. As such I urge upon the Central Government to establish industries in this area to provide employment opportunities to the landless,

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unemployed and backward *adivasis* and *harijans* of this area.

(vii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for early completion of development schemes under Decoit Eradication Programme in revine areas of Kanpur Dehat.**

[*Translation*]

SHRIKESRILAL (Ghatampur): Kanpur Dehat and especially adjacent areas of Yamuna ravine are very backward and there are no proper roads to go there. As a result, this area is economically backward and it serves as an ideal haven for anti-social elements. After doing anti-social work these elements find this place easy to take refuge and to abscond. Keeping in view all this the Government has approved some schemes for the development of this area and Decoit-Eradication Programme. But some of those schemes have not been started yet. For example roads from Amridha to Kadhari 2. Kadhari-Khatka Khartalal 3. Nagina to Bambrauli Ahrauli and Devrahit and 4. Kalpi road to Dasoolpur were approved but no construction work has started yet.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that construction work should be started as soon as possible for aforesaid roads so that the development work in this area could take place leading to economic progress of the people, and law and order problem of this area may also be solved.

(viii) **Need to set up a circuit bench of Calcutta High Court at Siliguri, West Bengal**

[*English*]

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring the following under matters under rule 377.

The people of North Bengal which comprises the five districts of Darjeeling, West Dinapur, Malda, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar continue to face enormous hardship for want of a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court in their region.

The litigants and the Bar Associations of the areas, have been demanding the establishment of the Circuit Bench at a centrally located place in North Bengal. The demand has also been focussed in the Annual Conference of the West Bengal Lawyers Association since 1974. They have specifically pinpointed Siliguri as the most suitable place for the Circuit Bench.

Merit and justice demand that the proposed Circuit Bench be established in Siliguri, where about 50 per cent of the total cases of North Bengal pending before the Calcutta High Court have originated.

Siliguri, with a population of more than three lakhs is now acknowledged as the financial capital of the north-east of our country. It is well connected to rest of the country by road, rail and air. It has all the other infrastructure in terms of accommodation, medical educational and other facilities.

Last week, the Secretary of the Siliguri Bar Association along with a member of the Executive of the Association submitted to the Union Minister of Law and Justice, a memorandum staking claim for the establishment of the Circuit Bench at Siliguri. This claim is supported by the Bar Associations of Malda, Rajganj, Islampur and West Dinajpur and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of North Bengal, besides the West Bengal Bar Council and the Lawyers Association.

As the representative of those people in Parliament, I earnestly plead that a Circuit Bench be established at Siliguri, without