

Government are requested to restart those N.T.C. Mills and the unemployed mill workers be provided employment. They want to do work and become self-dependent. They want to run the mill on co-operative basis. Please direct the Government to restart N.T.C. Mill of Bayawar and Aditya Mill of Kishangarh.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Modern Food Industry is the biggest Industry in the country and Asia. There are many branches of this Mill in India. Lacs of workers are employed therein. The Ministry of Finance and the Disinvestment Commission have decided to disinvest its shares. I request you that its shares may not be disinvested because it is the question of the livelihood of lacs of workers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mullappally Ramachandran and Shri Ajay Kumar, both of you have given notice on the same issue. It relates to raising the allocation of foodgrains. Already, this matter was raised on the 4th August 1997. So, this cannot be allowed now as per the rules. Now, I call Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : Who raised it? Nobody has raised it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this hon. House to the silence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the alarming situation.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter was already raised on the 4th August, 1997.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Who raised it? Nobody from Kerala has raised this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not written here in the list but it has already been raised.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But it is a major issue concerning allocation of foodgrains to the State of Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, let Shri Suresh raise his matter now; after that, I may allow you. Please take your seat.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to the silence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the alarming situation of the Gulf passengers who have been stranded in Kerala due to non-availability of sufficient flights for their Journey to the Gulf countries.

As of today, there are more than 5,000 passengers waiting to get flight tickets to the Gulf countries from

Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Airports. The Ministry is reluctant to provide additional flights and not even permitting the private airlines which are ready to operate during this peak season. It is pertinent to note that Air India and Indian Airlines are providing additional flights from other sectors but have excluded the Trivandrum and Calicut sector.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and provide additional flights from the Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode sector to the Gulf countries during peak seasons.

Thank you.

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR (Ottapulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to request, through you, the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to enhance the allocation of foodgrains from 17.76 lakh tonnes to 24 lakh tonnes, which used to be the allocation for the State of Kerala for the last several years.

The present allocation of 17.76 lakh tonnes of foodgrains is in the form of 14.76 lakh tonnes rice and three lakh tonnes wheat. Since the State of Kerala requires more rice, I demand that seven lakh tonnes of additional rice should be made available to the State at Central Issue Price.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, I want to support what Shri Ajay Kumar has said just now. This is a major issue because there is shortage of foodgrains in the State of Kerala. There is considerable reduction of supply of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System this year. We all know that the State of Kerala is reeling under flood and this devastating flood has affected the State to a great extent. Onam is fast approaching. During the last two years, twenty thousand tonnes of additional foodgrains were allotted to the State. My request is that this should be enhanced to fifty thousand tonnes this year as the Onam season is fast approaching.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance regarding a issue which is affecting lakhs of workers in the State of Kerala. The State of Kerala is the pioneer in enacting labour welfare legislations. There are twelve labour welfare legislation in the State. They are not being run for deriving any profits, but they are functioning for the welfare of the workers. It is functioning on the contribution of the workers.

Recently, a huge amount of income-tax has been assessed on the Worker' Welfare Fund Board and the recovery and attachment proceeding are going on. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to exempt this Board from paying taxes. Sir, the former hon. Minister of Finance, in one of his Budget speeches, said that this Board will be exempt from paying taxes. I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Finance to exempt this Board from