

Title : Need to provide better facilities to FCI workers, particularly in Kerala.

(vi) Need to provide better facilities to FCI workers, particularly in Kerala

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM): I rise to bring to the notice of the House the matter concerning the problems the FCI workers are facing.

These workers are agitating for their urgent demands. They include:-

1. Rejection of the Mckinsey Report.
2. To retain all the FCI godowns.
3. To discontinue the practice of renting out FCI godowns to private parties.
4. To make all the workers permanent.
5. To reduce the 16 hours work schedule to eight hours.
6. To provide medical benefits to the workers.
7. To declare Sundays as holidays.
8. To reimburse the contributory pension amount held back during the last eight years;
9. To strengthen the Public Distribution System; and
10. To maintain all existing Ration Shops.

It is surprising that medical facilities and pension are not being given to the workers who retire after 30 to 40 years of dedicated service. In Kerala itself, about 3000 workers in 300 godowns are working without proper facilities. I request the Government to come forward to save the FCI which was started for strengthening the food sector in India.

(vii) Need to change the timing of recently introduced Madurai- Villupuram passenger train making it a daytime train for the convenience of the passengers

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): The people of Madurai wanted a daytime passenger train from Madurai to Chennai and I took up this issue. But what was actually sanctioned was a mid-night passenger train from Madurai to Villupuram and that too not up to Chennai as per the demand.

Now, the passengers have to change the train at Villupuram after a long wait for two hours. The ticket fare for the journey from Madurai to Chennai is just Rs.67 and the total travel time exceeds 20 hours. That apart, Chennai bound passengers have to compulsorily spend more amount for food during their journey than the actual ticket fare.

Moreover as the journey time of this train is mostly by night, people alighting at the in-between station have no other way to go to their destination except to stay at the platform itself or pay more for the conveyance to reach their home.

Thus, in all aspects this train is the most inconvenient one. Nonetheless it is requested that the timings of the said train may be rescheduled so as to make it a daytime train from Madurai to Chennai after or before Vaigai Express in the morning.