

- (ii) Twenty-Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Seventy-Fifth Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Transport (Department of Civil Aviation)—DGCA.

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#### RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

[English]

##### Third Report

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV (Khargone) : I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Rate of Dividend for the year 1986-87 and other Ancillary matters'.

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#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI  
H. K. L. BHAGAT) : Sir, with your permis-  
sion, I rise to announce that Government  
Business in this House during the week com-  
mencing Monday, the 24th February, 1986  
will consist of :

1. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
2. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal Ordinance, 1986 and consideration and passing of the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal Bill, 1986.
3. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

As members are already aware, the Railway Budget for 1986-87 would be presented on Wednesday, the 26th February, 1986, after disposal of Questions and the

General Budget for 1986-87, on Friday the 28th February, 1986, at 5.00 P.M.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, extensive damage was caused to the rabi crop due to severe hailstorm which lashed Madhya Pradesh recently. Crops worth crores of rupees of the farmers of the State have been damaged and as a result thereof, lakhs of people are facing an uncertain future. According to the preliminary reports, about 75 tehsils have been affected by the hailstorm and natural calamities whereas 12 districts are already in the grip of drought where immediate relief is needed. Therefore, I would request that keeping in view the natural calamities being faced by the farmers of Madhya Pradesh, the Central Government should provide grant to the State and this item may be included in the next week's agenda.

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

In Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra, PADMAVYYHA Programme similar to the programme of the JANAVANI of Delhi Doordarshan Kendra was started some months ago and they had interviewed some of the Karnataka Government Ministers under that programme. This programme was very popular in Karnataka especially in Bangalore City. Now suddenly the Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra authorities stopped interviewing of Karnataka Government Officers and other prominent personalities in different fields. The main idea of interviewing the Ministers is to bring a rapport between the viewers and the Ministers. This is one of the powerful media through which public can ventilate their grievances to the concerned Minister and get remedial measures.

Since this is a very useful programme which is in local language, i.e., Kannada, it is necessary to continue interviewing of Karnataka Government Ministers immediately by Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra through PADMAVYYHA Programme.

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh)** : The following matter of urgent public importance may please be included in the next week's list of business of the House.

With only less than half of its requirement of power being generated in the State, Orissa is presently passing through an acute power crisis. Power cut for about ten to twelve hours a day in the domestic sector and to the extent of 76 per cent in the commercial and industrial sector has been resorted to. Such power cut affects all sections of the population, negatives the industrial advancement and jeopardises the economy of the poor and backward State. Thus there is an atmosphere of despair and discontentment prevailing all over the State.

In this context the Union Government should now come forward to help the State of Orissa without any loss of time by arranging necessary power supply from some other States to overcome the present crisis and by undertaking the construction of the Talcher Super Thermal Power Station and the Ib Valley Thermal Power Station during the 7th Plan period in a bid to permanently solve this problem of power shortage in Orissa.

[Translation]

**SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :—

I would like to suggest that Television Centres should be set up on priority basis in tribal and hill areas for the benefit of Adivasis, Harijans and backward classes. It is necessary to acquaint them with the new plan of the Government, their policy, implementation, social, educational and economic reforms etc. so that they may know what the Government are doing for them.

Government should not, therefore, impose the condition that the State government should invest Rs. 37.5 lakhs for opening a T. V. Centre. It is feared that this policy of the Government will deprive the hill areas of the television facility. The Government should accord priority to this demand.

**SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj)** : The following matter may please be included in the next week's agenda :—

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and of the House through you, to the crisis being faced by the rice mills of Kosi Division in Bihar. Out of 39 modern rice mills situated in this area, only 18 mills are working this year and the rest 21 mills are lying closed.

To meet the requirement of rice, the people have to depend by and large on the Central Government and other States. Government have to impose a levy on rice to meet this shortage and as a result thereof, mills are facing great hardship. Moreover, unnecessary expenditure is incurred on the procurement of levy rice. Due to closure of rice mills, the labourers and other persons connected with this industry are being rendered unemployed.

The State Government have imposed a levy of 25 quintals of rice on the mills of Kosi Division. This has aggravated the crisis further and if the government do not reconsider their decision, the situation may deteriorate further.

If the levy on the rice mills of Kosi Division is not withdrawn or if the quantum of levy is not reduced, there is an apprehension that the modern rice mills of the Kosi Division might be closed down. The wrong policies of the Government are responsible for it.

I, therefore, request the Government to take effective steps without further loss of time in this respect so that the modern rice mills of Kosi division are saved from being closed down and the employees working in the industry are not rendered unemployed.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following matter may be included in the next week's agenda :—

Due to heavy rains caused by the cyclone in the month of January in Andhra Pradesh, the standing paddy crop was soaked completely. However, the farmer saved it from being completely damaged and brought it in the

market after drying it in the sun. But there was no customer to buy it in the market. The soaked paddy has no use except to prepare it as boiled rice. Boiled rice is not eaten anywhere except in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The Andhra Pradesh Government have imposed a restriction on its movement. So, the farmers are compelled to sell the paddy at the rate of Rs. 70 to Rs. 90 per quintal. The Food Corporation of India should have purchased the soaked rice from the farmers but they did not purchase it. It has caused great distress to the farmer. Just as the Food Corporation of India purchased soaked paddy in Haryana and Punjab, it should purchase paddy in Andhra Pradesh also. This is very necessary.

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA** (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following matter may please be included in the next week's agenda :—

The owners of the Sajjan Textile Mill situated in Ratlam city of Madhya Pradesh have closed the mill for the last 15 days on account of their inability to run the mill further. The proprietor of the mill has left the city after closing the mill. The workers of the mill are sitting on *dharna* to protest against being thrown out of employment. Due to the closer of the mill, the future of 3,500 workers has become uncertain. I would request the Government to intervene in the matter and get the mill reopened without delay so that the workers are again put to their jobs.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Shri K. N. Pradhan.

[*English*]

—Pradhanji, are you not able to find it ? We will take it as read.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI K. N. PRADHAN** (Bhopal) : Since my matter pertains to Madhya Pradesh and as Shri Pratap Bhanu ji has already been allowed to raise the matter on the same issue, I was not allowed to raise it.

**MR. SPEAKER** : All right, we shall take up on Monday.

[*English*]

**SHRI S. G. GHOLAP** (Thane) : The following matter may be included in the next week's business.

It is a fact that passengers near Kalyan-Central Line Railway who have to go to Vasai and Palghar stations of Western Railway have to go *via* Dadar which is very expensive.

It is also a fact that Diva-Vasai Railway line linking Central Railway with Western Railway has been completed in 1981 with electrification and goods traffic already started.

Now it is the urgent need of the time that passenger trains should be started immediately from the said line providing some stations out of which Upper Dombivali should be the most important one.

**SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH** (Bombay North) : The following items may be included in next week's business :

Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 is now ten years old and the circumstances all over India have totally changed during this period of ten years. A number of problems like high cost of land, rise in prices of houses, creation of slums and deteriorating condition of public housing has come up because of the adverse effects of Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976.

Suitable amendments should be made to the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 to solve the housing problems of common man.

**DR. V. VENKATESH** (Kolar) : The following items may be included in the next week's business :

In spite of several memoranda submitted by the Government of Karnataka for the drought assistance, the Central Government is not serious enough to assist them. The entire State of Karnataka is affected with drought for four years in succession. Drinking water supply to urban cities including Bangalore city is the worst affected.

[Dr. V. Venkatesh]

Rural Karnataka is reeling under very miserable conditions. Rural unemployment, in addition to scarcity of drinking water in villages, has become very serious. Cattle wealth is decreasing day by day causing great loss to the farming community. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider this problem purely on humanitarian grounds and release immediately Rs. 100 crores on an emergent basis for relief. Fodder should be supplied free of cost to save the life of the cattle in Karnataka.

Kolar District is a chronically drought affected area. 80 per cent of the farmers are very much affected due to unemployment. This district is not bestowed even with a single river. People are very much affected economically. There is only one factory, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. which has a very meagre labour force in the entire district. Therefore, there is an urgent necessity to expand units of this factory at Maller and Mulbagal which have broad gauge railway and national highway facilities and other necessary infrastructure required for production viewpoint.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I have listened to the Hon. Members with rapt attention about inclusion of their points in the next week's business. As this is the job of the Business Advisory Committee to decide the next week's agenda, I shall bring to their notice these points.

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12.28 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE : STATUTORY MINIMUM  
PRICE FOR RAW JUTE FOR 1986-87**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Is he going to make a statement on the statutory minimum price or minimum support price ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can judge it afterwards.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I would like to make the following statement :

Government have fixed the statutory minimum price of raw jute for the 1986-87 season after taking into account all relevant factors including the latest changes in the administered prices of fertilisers and some petroleum products.

The statutory minimum price for W-5 grade of raw jute in Assam has been fixed at Rs. 225 per quintal. The corresponding prices for various grades at different centres will be fixed by the Jute Commissioner in the light of normal market differentials.

The Jute Corporation of India will undertake market support operations, as and when necessary.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are a farmer. I appeal to you that if there is a statutory minimum price, it means that anybody who pays less than that minimum is liable to penalty under the statute. First of all, there is no statute at present. So, what does he mean by saying that they will carry out purchase operations. That they are doing always. That is the support price and not the statutory price...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think for wheat and rice also it is the support price.

S. BUTA SINGH : For wheat and rice it is the procurement price. But here it is the statutory minimum price. With your permission I am repeating it third time that it is the statutory minimum price.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall find out from the dictionary the exact word.

*(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : It will be administered under the statute which is applicable to the essential commodities.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : If that is so, then there has to be a proper notification under the Act.

How is it left to the officers to decide ?