

[Shri Basudev Acharia]

going down the drain. If these funds are utilised on works of permanent nature it will benefit more people for a longer period of time. Therefore, I would suggest that funds which are proposed to be spent on drought relief measures, should be utilised on works of permanent nature. For example, if these funds are spent on the construction of canals and roads, they will be a permanent asset. The Sidhmukh and Nohar Canal projects in my constituency, are already approved and these two canals will cover an area in four Tehsils. I want to submit that construction work should soon start on these projects. The four districts which will be benefitted are Bhadra and Nohar tehsils in Sriganganagar district and Taranagar and Sadulpur in Churu district. When the work on these two canals start, it will enable the people of the aforesaid districts to get employment and at least 20 lakh people will be saved from poverty and starvation. Therefore, the Government should ensure that such works are taken up under drought relief schemes.

[English]

- (vii) **Need to look into the complaints of licensed porters working at Samalkot railway station (Andhra Pradesh)**

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): 34 licensed porters are working at Samalkot Railway Station of Andhra Pradesh. They pay monthly fee to the administration for working as licensed porters. But, for some days now, 20 outsiders have been working at this railway station depriving these licensed porters of their earnings. The porters have represented to the authorities against this injustice, but so far nothing has been done. Even other agencies like Kakinada Fish Exporters and Importers Welfare Association have written to the Railway authorities and requested that only reliable persons should be employed on loading and unloading jobs. I, therefore, request the Railway Minister to look into the matter and ensure removal of outsiders employed at Samalkot railway station forthwith.

- (viii) **Need to look into the measures adopted to check production and marketing of contaminated or adulterated food articles**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Recent reports in Free Press Journal dated 12.2.1988 regarding detection of a dead lizard in a baby food tin from batch number W-15 DI manufactured in October 1987 purchased from a departmental store of Apna Bazar at Fort, Bombay, on 6.1.1988 is very disturbing.

Even though the Mumbai Grahak Panchayat, one of the members of the Consumer Protection Council, has demanded withdrawal of the entire batch suspected of contamination and an Executive of the Company has admitted presence of a dead lizard in the tin, no steps have been taken to freeze the stock.

I would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to freeze the entire stock of the contaminated batch of the baby food, conduct an inquiry into the matter and take suitable action against the guilty. I would also request the Government to critically examine the working of the various measures, legislative and otherwise, to check the production and marketing of adulterated and contaminated food articles to remove the deficiencies, if any, identified and to take stringent measures against the guilty who endanger the health and lives of the consumers.

- (ix) **Need for taking steps to settle the demands of coal workers**

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, one-week strike of 7 lakh coal workers has entered its third day today (17.3.88). It has commenced from 15.3.88. All the efforts of conciliation have failed. The JBCCI Meeting held in New Delhi had also failed.

The unions (CITU, ATTUC, BMS and HMS) had in the Calcutta Convention of 20th January 1988, adopted the decision to go on strike in the event of Government's failure to accept the demands of the workers.

The demands include (i) settlement of the Joint Charter of Demands on minimum wage etc. and (ii) immediate implementation of NCWA-III.

I demand that the Government should settle the demands with the trade unions and withdraw ESMA and wage cut order immediately for the smooth running of the coal industry.

12.44 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1988-89--GENERAL DISCUSSION--CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up the next item—Further General Discussion on Budget (General) for 1988-89. Shri Indrajit Gupta may speak.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is reported in the press that after the Budget was presented, during the usual meeting which was held between the Finance Ministry officials and the briefing of the press by the Finance Ministry officials, one of them, Mr. Bimal Jalan, is reported in the press as having said: 'Fortunately for the public this Budget is not made by economists.' May be he said it in a joke, I don't know, I read it in the papers. But I could not agree more with him. That this Budget has not been made by economists; it has been made primary by politicians for political purposes. Sir, this Budget, out of all the Budgets which have been presented in the last few years, particularly during the 7th Five Year Plan period, is in my opinion, the most escapist Budget that we have had and it is a budget which gambles with the future of the economy. None of the basic problems, none of the basic element ailments which are afflicting our economy which are not a matter of controversy at all and which are accepted by everybody which are there in every page of the Government's own Economic Survey, none of

those basic afflictions have been sought to be tackled by this Budget. On the eve of the Budget, Sir, economic analysts and economic journals and everybody was expecting... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, Order.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Everybody was expecting that Mr. Tiwari—he definitely had unenviable job, I do not blame him—would address himself to some of these basic problems which are not problems simply recurring from year to year but our basic problems. The question of resources, of course, is the biggest problem of all; the resources crisis, the resources crunch; the deficit in the balance of payments, the problem of inflation, of galloping price rise. It was expected naturally that the Budget, which of course, cannot remedy all these elements in one year—that is obvious—but that it would address itself to tackling these problems because without the solution of these problems gradually, step by step, the national economy is facing a prospect of insoluble crisis. None of these ailments have been attempted to be tackled. That is why, I call it escapist.

In lieu of distributing some reliefs and concessions to various sections of the people, but the bulk of them being in the agrarian sector and the corporate sector—in lieu of all those reliefs and concessions—nothing is said at all, no light is thrown at all on how the resources are going to come for all this. Where is the money going to come from? He has not addressed himself to this question at all. The poorest mobilisation of resources that we have seen in recent Budgets is in this Budget.

In Part B of the Finance Minister's speech, the second sentence reads as follows:

"Every Budget has to raise some resources for financing expenditure."

I think, this is the classical under-statement of the year. If the Budget has to raise some resources to meet the problems of an economy which is facing so many enor-