

earnestly implore the Central Government to extend financial and technical aid to this project.

- (v) Measures needed to lift the heavy stocks of foodgrains accumulated in Punjab

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : The Food Corporation of India is the most important organisation engaged in procurement and distribution of foodgrains in the country. Food Corporation of India procures foodgrains in all the States of the country including Punjab. But it is a matter of great regret that foodgrains purchased by FCI and agencies of Punjab Government are lying in godown and in many cases have not been lifted by FCI for the last four years. This piling up of stocks has resulted in the problem of storage and the new crop of Punjab farmers is not purchased for months after its arrival in market. According to the FCI report the stock of foodgrains purchased in other States is lifted by it within 48 hours. Punjab contributes 65% to the foodgrain pool of the country, but it is painful to say that foodgrain stocks have become a headache for Punjab.

The total storage capacity of Punjab State including Markfed, CWC, FCI and Punjab Warehousing Corporation is 121.74 lakh tonnes but the quantity of procured foodgrains is much more compared to the storage capacity. In the last year alone the procurement was 166.64 lakh tonnes and 1/3 of this is lying in open. Due to un-availability of sources of lifting, only 60 to 70 lakh tonnes could be sent to other States. 30 to 40 lakh tonnes of stocks get accumulated in addition to the previous year's stocks every year. More railway tracks may be laid in Punjab as long term arrangement. As short term measure FCI should utilise and mobilise all its lifting resources at war footing, to help the Punjab farmers in the sale of their produce and relieve Punjab farmers in the sale of their produce and relieve Punjab of the burden of storage. Although FCI is not lifting the stocks of foodgrains, Punjab is made to pay Rs. 20 crores every year as damages for foodgrains which get damaged while lying in godowns both open and covered.

- (vi) Telephone system in Calcutta

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, the telephone system in Calcutta, if not in the whole of the State of West Bengal has virtually completely broken down and has brought the normal and particularly the commercial life almost to a standstill. Hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, Government offices, public institutions and other essential services cannot function properly due to the near non-functioning of the telephone system, STD connection from Calcutta has become a hoax. Bolpur town, the seat of Vishwabhārati University and tourist centre of international importance remains almost inaccessible from Calcutta on telephone—either STD or Trunk line. On various occasions in the past assurances for proper running of Calcutta telephones were given by the Ministers/Department but no action has been taken. People of Calcutta have frequently in the past expressed quite demonstratively their annoyance and resentment for collapse of the system.

I call upon the Government to take all necessary action on war footing to bring some semblance of normalcy in the working of Calcutta telephones.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to expedite the setting up of Fertilizer factories in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur Aonla and Badaun

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to submit following matter in this august House through your good offices. The demand of fertilizer is increasing day by day in different parts of the country. In view of this increasing demand, Government is proposing to set up more fertilizer plants. And in this context, Government has decided to set up four fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh i.e. in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur, Aonla and Badaun, but I have come to know that the Arabian company which had to invest funds in Jagdishpur plant, has been declared financially incapable. For Shahjahanpur plant, at first the work was assigned to D.C.M., but later on the work was assigned to Shri Swaraj Paul, a British