

West Bengal Government. We did not receive any proposal for nationalisation after declaration of the lock-out. Earlier, on 25-6-83, a Resolution was passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. No proposal was received from the West Bengal Government in the context of the present situation.

I have made it clear that it is not the approach of the Government of India to this question to see how far the West Bengal Government have discharged their duty. I feel it is the responsibility of all of us to find a solution to this problem.

The hon. Member has suggested nationalisation. As I have said earlier also, there are different aspects of the problem and I do not consider myself competent to express my views off-hand. Whether, the present calling Attention Motion relates to the immediate aspect of the situation. Its long-term aspect also deserves attention. Government have that aspect also under consideration and would finalise their viewpoint before formulating their jute policy so that this industry may become viable in the years to come and make progress. But the immediate problem before us has to be tackled first. That is why I had agreed that if with the initiative of the Government of India, the problem could be solved, I am ready to take the initiative.

I want to assure this House, the workers engaged in this industry and the people of West Bengal that I do not view this problem as relating to Bihar workers, Ghazipur workers or Bengal workers. I consider it my responsibility to help all the workers and we shall not spare any efforts to fulfil this responsibility.

13.52 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (1) **Non-payment of wages prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act to Industrial Workers in the Country**

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Complaints are being received that all the workers working in the industries of the country are not getting their

wages as per the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act and they are being exploited by their employers. In certain industries, 90 per cent of the total workers engaged are still being forced to work as daily wage workers. The facilities provided under the Industrial Act are also not available to them. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Labour Minister particularly to the Printing Mill and Sanjay Paper Mill of Khalilabad in district Basti, U.P. where large scale exploitation of workers is going on. I want to submit to the Government that a strict watch should be kept on such anti-worker industries in the country and defaulter industries should be punished.

[English]

- (ii) **Drought conditions in Warangal and other districts of Andhra Pradesh and need to provide lift irrigation scheme on Kakatiya Canal**

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : In Warangal district, Jangaon, Cheryal, Gharipur a part of Suryapettah in Nalgonda district and a part of Karimnagar district, Husnabad and Huzanabad (Bheemuvelrapatty) have been affected by a chronic drought condition. People who are living in those areas are not getting even drinking water. Day by day, the above places are becoming a desert.

The only way to solve this problem is by providing lift irrigation scheme on Kakatiya Canal.

Our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi also visited the above places in the month of October 1984 to see the drought conditions, and she declared then and there to provide water from Kakatiya Canal, by lift irrigation. She promised to include the scheme in Seventh Five Year Plan.

Hence I request hon. Prime Minister to get the report from State Government and to include it in Seventh Five Year Plan, and to provide sufficient funds to complete the Lift Irrigation Scheme on Kakatiya Canal.

The above scheme is a long-cherished desire of the people, and it will fulfil the last promise of Shrimati Indira Gandhi also.

If the scheme is not taken up, the people who are living in these areas may be engulfed by desert.