

The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had directed the States to implement the 14-point programme so far as public distribution system is concerned. It is surprising that many families, especially in industrial belts and industrial towns are being denied by the district authorities, even the ration cards, resulting in great discontentment among the consumers.

Keeping in view the consecutive two year's drought in some parts in U.P. and elsewhere in the country, it has become imperative that a directive should be given by the Union Government to see that public distribution system works according to guidelines given by the Union Government; and, if there is need, a monitoring cell should be set up at every State level, to see that essential commodities are made available to the consumers.

I request the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to implement these suggestions.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to connect Kandla Port and Delhi by rail

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377:

Sir, through you, I am raising an important matter in the House. I represent the Kutch Parliamentary Constituency in which Kandla is a major port. It is the only major port of Northern India and a free trade zone of IFFCO plant is located here. Since it is situated at Pakistan border, there is frequent military movement in that area.

All the major ports in India have been connected with Delhi by rail but I regret to say that Kandla port has not yet been connected with Delhi by rail.

Therefore, I request the Government that Kandla port and Delhi should be immediately connected by rail and a super fast

train should be immediately introduced on this line.

[*English*]

(vi) Need to set up a subsidiary Coal Company under the Coal India Ltd in Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh): One-third of the total coal reserves of our country is found in Orissa alone. But it is a matter of regret that there is no coal company established, as yet, in Orissa. In fact, it is the only major coal-producing State today in the country, without such a company in it.

In the larger national interest, for proper exploitation of the huge coal reserves which economically compare very favourably with other coal-producing States, and also for satisfactory handling of various local and regional problems involving workers' and peoples' interest, a subsidiary coal company under the Coal India Ltd. should be set up at a suitable place in the coal belt of Orissa, as early as possible. Further, the reported decision to open a Director's office in the State as a first positive step in that direction, needs to be implemented forthwith.

(vii) Need to drop the move for setting Military Firing Range adjoining villages of Tehsil Rajgarh district Alwar, Rajasthan

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): A Military Firing Range is proposed within the revenue boundary area of villages Neemala, Motiwada, Rajpur, Sakat, Ratanpura, Barla and other adjoining villages of Tehsil Rajgarh, district Alwar, Rajasthan.

The notices for acquisition of agricultural lands of more than a dozen villages had been issued by the district revenue authorities. The majority of cultivators whose agricultural lands and residential properties are being acquired, belong to tribal community. Cultivators other than tribals, whose agricultural lands and residential properties are

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

being acquired, are marginal and small farmers. They have no other means of income, nor any place for shelter. These people would be displaced, if their agricultural land and residential houses are acquired.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Defence, Government of India, that the Military Firing Range may not be set up within the revenue boundaries of these villages, and the notices issued by the district revenue authorities for acquisition of agricultural lands and residential houses, may be withdrawn.

11.25 hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) BILL—CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajapi, on the 14th August, 1989, namely:-

"That the Bill to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, to provide for Special Courts for the trial of such offences and for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of such offences and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

Shri Janak Raj Gupta to continue his speech. You take only three minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill in the House. I would also like to congratulate our beloved leader and Hon.

Prime Minister who introduced this Bill in the House at an appropriate time for the betterment, welfare and protection of those poor and helpless people who are being subjected to various atrocities since long. In the connection I had raised a point the other day. I quite appreciate the proposal that hence forward nobody will harass the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even then, I am apprehensive of the fact that there is no provision to take remedial measures if somebody harassed them. My suggestion pertains to sections 3 and 4 which *inter alia* read as follows.

[English]

"Whoever, being a public servant but not being a member of Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe, willfully neglects his duties required to be performed by him under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to one year."

[Translation]

I am afraid that the Bill is silent about the punitive measures to be taken in case if an officer harassed somebody belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I feel that the Bill should have a provision to give punishment to every offender who harasses the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes irrespective of whether he is an individual or an officer. You are aware that before and after the achievement of independence our beloved Congress leader, Mahatma Gandhi made this effort and he was successful to a great extent. He endeavored to see that untouchability is done away with and nobody harassed the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He preferred to stay in the houses belonging to Scheduled Castes only whenever he visited the villages. Thereafter, organisations like the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi were set up with a view to maintaining this environment and shedding the feeling that some one is touchable and the other is untouchable. Thereafter, Pandit Jawaharlal