

- (iv) Need to ensure compensation to the workers who have become jobless as a result of closure of certain sugar mills in Maharashtra.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, in my Kopergaon constituency, five sugar mills are closed for the last 2-3 years. The employers are neither paying compensation to the labour, nor providing employment in their sister concerns. At the same time, there is huge amount of arrears to be paid to the farmers. There are also arrears of Rs. 12 crores towards the State Farming Corporation by these factories. The total amount comes to about Rs. 25 crores. As a result, workers, farmers and the labour of the State Farming Corporation are agitating for their demands.

The Government of Maharashtra have decided that these joint sector private sugar factories would be converted into farmers cooperative sugar factories. Their factories, viz. Maharashtra Sugar Mill, Belapur Sugar Company, Changdev Sugar Mill, Godawari Sugar Mill, Kanodegaon Sugar Mill, would be shifted to other places. My humble submission to Government of India is that the right of the workers may be protected and the arrears due to the workers should also be paid immediately. The owners of these factories are running other industries which are making profits. The Government should immediately intervene to sort out issues otherwise there will be unrest and the law and order situation may become serious.

[Translation]

- (v) Need to run Chambal Express daily.

SHRI BHISHMA DEO DUBE (Banda): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter under Rule 377 that Hamirpur and Banda districts in Bundelkhand region are backward areas. Availability of different means of transport is essential for the development of every area. History stands testimony to it that this principle is universally applicable to all the developed areas. When boats used to be the means of transport, many big cities developed on the banks of the rivers and their surrounding areas also developed. Today, the places which have the provision of railway links from North to South and East to West connecting them with all the big cities have registered speedy development. In those places, some of the

railway tracks have become so busy that they have reached the saturation point. On the contrary, there are certain such places which have still not been directly linked with the big cities situated in East, West, North and South. One such area is Banda Hamirpur. In spite of the availability of railway line, no fast trains are running there. The Chambal Express links this area with Howrah, but its frequency is only once a week. If this train is run daily and the restriction of distance of 480 km. is lifted in travelling in this train, it can prove a boon for development of this area. Similarly, a train for Bombay via Banda, Mahoba and Jhansi also needs to be introduced. My submission is that in public interest, the restriction of distance of 480 kms. in travelling in Chambal Express should be lifted and it should be run daily. Besides, one more direct train should be introduced for Bombay.

[English]

- (vi) Need for allocation of adequate funds for setting up of slag cement plant at Rourkela.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): The Government of India had a proposal to set up a slag cement plant at Rourkela during the Sixth Five Year Plan period. The Steel Authority of India Limited has to set up that plant based on the slags accumulated at Rourkela Steel Plant. The foundation stone was also laid by the concerned Union Minister in 1982. But SAIL was not allowed to set up the plant on the ground that the cement plant comes under the Ministry of Industry and SAIL had also constraint of resources. Thus the proposal was transferred to the Ministry of Industry and the Cement Corporation of India was entrusted the work in 1984. The CCI immediately started the work on it and submitted a feasibility report in 1984. But it is unfortunate that the plant has not been set up so far. The CCI has been provided with a token amount every year for advance action. With that rate of allocation made every year the plant even cannot be set up during the Eighth Plan period. As the plant is proposed to be set up in a backward area of the State, it will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem in the State. Therefore, I demand that a slag cement plant be