

[Shri S. Soundararajan]

Every month foundries are in need of 3,000 tons of pig iron. For the past few months, pig iron is not available in full quantity. The officials of Steel Authority of India in Madras and Coimbatore have been saying that the shortages of pig iron in these foundries are due to non-availability of wagons for transport.

So, I urge upon the Hon. Railway Minister to allocate adequate wagons daily to the steel plant for movement of steel materials to Coimbatore on a war footing.

[Translation]

- (viii) Need to direct the Archaeology Department to take over Shantigrama troubles in Hassan district of Karnataka

*DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : The village Shantigrama in Hassan district, Karnataka State is named after the most famous dance exponent of the 11th century, Shantaladevi, the queen consort of Vishnu Vardhana of Hoysala Dynasty. In this village there are Soumyakeshava temple, Yoganarasimha temple and a Jain temple, the monuments of architectural aesthetics of Hoysala kings. They are about ten miles away from Hassan and on the way to Shravanabelagola, the abode of Gomateswara, the God of Jains. All these three temples are in a dilapidated condition and have become the victims of vandalism of 20th century. There is none to look after these temples. In fact the Jain temple has been under lock for the last several years. The great temples, namely, Chennakeshava temple, Hosaleswara and Shantaleswara temple and Gomateshwara temple in Halebeedu, Belur and Shravanabelagola respectively have attracted the attention of internationally renowned insatiable art lovers. The temples of Shantigrama need the protection of the General Government's Department of

Archaeology. I urge the Education Minister to direct the Department of Archaeology to take over these temples under its protective wings immediately and preserve them for posterity.

- (ix) Need to arrange adequate supply of diesel to Gorakhpur district for the use of agriculturalists

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD (Bansgaon) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the scarcity of diesel in District Gorakhpur. Threshing of wheat is in full swing and there is acute shortage of diesel in the entire district of Gorakhpur and the eastern region. The farmers are suffering a lot on this account. Nature is also not favourable to the farmers this time, because the weather has also been inclement and there has been acute shortage of power in the entire State. Under these circumstances, the condition of the farmers can well be described through this couplet of "Ramayana" :

*"Grih grahit puni baat bas,
tappar bichhi Mari,
Tahi bijavai vahani,
kahu kanu upchaar"*

This means that the condition of the farmers has become very pitiable.

Sir, through you, I would request the Central Government to make arrangements without delay for the supply of diesel to the farmers in sufficient quantity.

* The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.