

(Silchar): Sir, since 1980-81, the Ramnagar Depot of FCI had been losing heavily -5 to 7 per cent in most years and even 10 per cent in some in the name a transit loss. But now it as come to light that all that grain was stolen. Officials at the depot or elsewhere were forced to connive and those who refused were summarily transferred. The don behind this mafia crime is said to be a former MP of Silchar who is also a close confidant of a Union Minister of the present Cabinet.

During the period from 1980-81 to 1990-91, rice and wheat worth Rs. 15.65 crore were shown as 'transit loss'. The scam came to light after Mr. N.R. Ghosh took over the charge of District Manager. As a result, he was threatened of dire consequences, failing which, the mafia tried to purchase him by bribery. That also failed. Then, an offer of Rs. 10 lakh came from a former Silchar MP for transferring Mr. Ghosh to FCI zonal office, Guwahati.

Sources allege that one Union Minister is also a beneficiary of this racket, though the Minister on being asked by journalists, denied his involvement. At the instance of FCI, CBI is inquiring into the matter. A CBI official investigating the scandal says, "The strong-man and their patrons are all from Silchar".

It is a fact that it will not be easy to succeed on the part of Government and CBI when high political profiles are patrons. But inaction in the matter will tremendously hamper FCI work in the North-East and the muck will stick on the Centre. This matter should be looked into thoroughly.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Sir, the workers are suffering in our country, particularly in the Eastern Railway. You know that especially in these hard days, there are no jobs and people are unemployed. The people start hawking in the railway stations and compartments in a very difficult manner. But the Railway authorities are very harsh. They are not giving any permission even though a demand is made for some licence or permission in the railway stations as well as Railway compartments. So, it is my demand and

request that the Railway authorities should give permission in the form of licence. So that lakhs and lakhs of youth will get alternative jobs. I request for this demand to the Railway authorities and the Government.

SHRI MRUTYVNJAYA NAYAK(Phulbani): Sir, time and again, I have repeatedly mentioned in the House that I belong to a very backward district of Phulbani in the State of Orissa. There is a long persistent demand in my district for TV relay centres at Phulbani and Sonpur. In 1974, because of Mrs. Gandhi's policy, some facilities were provided like adopting the device of antenna system, etc. Soon after the abolition of those facilities, my people are very much aggrieved because my district is backward both economically and educationally. I would wish that your kind self will give direction to the Minister concerned to expedite those facilities.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN(Barpeta): Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the acute problem of starvation faced by the tribals in Tripura. This question had been raised repeatedly in the House in the past but no proper steps have been taken so far to save the lives of the tribals in Tripura. They are dying like flies. More than 500 people have already died. But the Government is not giving any help by way of food medicines or in development work particularly in rural areas of that region. So, these people are suffering from starvation and hunger related diseases also. They are dying like flies. At the same time, we have seen that instead of taking some human steps for giving relief to the tribal people of that area, the Coalition Ministry there are using other repressive measures which are inhuman. When these tribal people are suffering from starvation, various repressive measures are being taken. Many women belonging to tribals are raped, gang raped, and some of them are killed. Recently, TADA, was used throughout the State and innocent tribal youths who are under custody are being harassed and tortured brutally. At the same time it is now in the air that, entire tribal areas are sought to