

12.40 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377****(i) Need to enhance the quota of essential commodities to Kerala State***[English]*

**PROF. SAVITRI LAKSHMANAN** (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are approximately 53,36,816 ration cards in the Kerala State and the requirements of these ration card holders are catered to by 13,164 PDS outlets. Kerala is rather a consumer State in respect of food articles. The annual domestic production of rice comes to 7,00,000 MT. The annual Central allocation of rice to the State is of the order of 18,00,000 MT, wheat 3,00,000 MT and Kerosene 28,378 KL. Consumption of rice is 1,69,203 MT per month as against Central allocation of 1,50,000 MT. There is also short supply of wheat. The monthly consumption of wheat in the State is 21,96,000 MT as against Central allocation of 3,00,000 MT. In this item at least 50,000 MT per month is needed to supplement the other food items.

Likewise, kerosene is also an essential commodity in respect of which the requirement of the State is 33,606 KL as against Central allocation of 28,378 KL. At least 5,000 KL more of Kerosene may be allocated immediately from the Central quota.

I, therefore, request the Union Government not to impose any restriction on ration items to certain specified categories of people of Kerala by providing adequate essential commodities through PDS outlets and by supplying enhanced quantity of essential commodities to Kerala State.

**(ii) Need to extend Tunsar-Tirodi railway line up to Katangi in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh***[Translation]*

**SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh has an extensive mineral wealth, forest reserves and a developed agricultural area. At present there is a railway line from Tunsar to Tirodi. The distance of the railway line if extended

upto Katangi will be only 15 Kms. while it would be much more beneficial from commercial point of view. The people's representatives, trade organisations and common masses have been making a demand to this effect for the last several years. But this demand has not been fulfilled so far. Katangi happens to be an important trade centre and is a prominent food grain market. Rice is supplied to the various parts of the country from this place. At the same time there are a number of mines of manganese dolomite etc. in Katangi area, from where minerals are being extracted and sent to other parts of the country. Therefore, the Government should extend the Tunsar-Tirodi railway line upto Katangi.

*[English]***(iii) Need to retain railway Crossing No 33 while taking up gauge conversions work between Bellary and Roydurga Karnataka.***[English]*

**SHRI K. G. SHIVAPPA** (Shimoga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the gauge conversion work between Bellary and Roydurga has been sanctioned by the Government. But the level crossing No. 33 in between Somalapur station in Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga district and Badanshalu station has not been retained. It is a matter of common practice that the level crossing and approach roads are retained while effecting gauge conversion. Nonetheless, it is not understood as to how the "level crossing 33" has been removed. This does not sound logical and reasonable. The omission has caused great concern in the minds of the people of Pennammanahalli and other neighbouring villages. Pennammanahalli will be isolated from other important neighbouring places. They will have to cross the railway line to reach the main road of Bellary and Roydurga. In the absence of this level crossing No. 33, the people of Pennammanahalli and other villages will have to travel more than 10 kilometres to reach Bellary-Rampur road. The villagers have to cross the railway line to go to their irrigated lands which are on the other side of the railway line taking their domestic animals, bullock carts and transport of produce to their houses and market.

To avoid these problems of villagers the retention of level crossing No. 33 is necessary.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to look into this matter and see that railway crossing No. 33 is retained, while taking up the abovesaid gauge conversion work.

**(iv) Need to ensure early clearance from Environment and Forest Department for certain irrigation projects in Ramtek Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra**

[Translation]

**SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek)**: Due to lack of co-ordination between Forests and Environment Departments, the people are being deprived of any benefit of Government funds incurred on certain irrigation projects such as Pendori Nala in Savner Tehsil in Nagpur district and Sagar Nala, Ramjan Goti, Sarekha, Khumari Nala, Phuljhari etc. in Ramtek Tehsil in my Constituency Ramtek. All these projects have been launched for the development of Adivasis. The local Adivasi residents of the area get the benefits of water only for 2-3 months of rainy season in a year. There is no cultivation in the remaining eight months because there is no rain, due to which the local residents face starvation. The result is that they have started migrating to other places to earn their livelihood. Several people have already migrated to other cities to earn their livelihood.

I would like the Central Government to direct the department of Environment and Forests to implement the said projects so that the Adivasis in my Constituency could be able to get benefits of these projects and earn their livelihood. The implementation of these projects would not only prevent the migration of people but also provide job opportunities to them.

**(v) Need to review the decision of rescinding Molasses Control Order, 1961**

**SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Central Government has rescinded the Molasses Control Order, 1961 with regard to prices and transportation of molasses. As a result of this order many industrial

units like those of chemicals, alcohol medicines, fodder etc. are caught in a grip of crisis. Keeping in view the evil effects, the Government of Uttar Pradesh refused to obey the Molasses Control Order issued by the Central Government and decided to continue the implementation of the Molasses Control Order, 1964. They say that implementation of the order of the Central Government would cause a revenue loss of about Rs. 800 crores to the State Government. It would also lead to adulteration in molasses and thus putting several industrial units based on molasses in crisis.

The Government of Maharashtra also implemented the orders of the Central Government initially and issued orders on 21st June, 1993 in its support. But when they found that many of their chemical industries were closing down, they issued another order on 17th July, 1993 and imposed restrictions on the transportation of molasses to other States which is against the spirit of the Central Order.

Therefore, the Central Government should clarify the situation in this regard and also review the decision of rescinding Molasses Control Order, 1961.

**(vi) Need to review National Textile Policy**

**DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to continuous decline in the textile industry all over the country and due to closure of textile mills one after the other in Madhya Pradesh the country is incurring heavy financial loss on the one hand and on the other hand lakhs of labourers and their families are facing financial hardship.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to review the entire textile policy with a view to saving the industry, which is earning huge foreign exchange by export of garments, from going sick. In the absence of a proper textile policy the industry will continue to suffer which in turn will create many socio-economic problems.

**(vii) Need for early clearance to pending power projects of Kerala**

[English]

**SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey)**: Sir, the Kerala State is facing