

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.