

employees of Vayudoot. The employees of Vayudoot had gone on fast unto death to press their demands and to express resentment. The Government have assured them of appointing two sub-committees to look into their grievances as well as to streamline the merger of Vayudoot with Indian Airlines.

However, nothing concrete has transpired so far. Hence the fate of 1,500 employees is still uncertain. I urge upon the Government to look into the matter urgently and take proper and effective steps for the merger of two companies of Vayudoot and Indian Airlines.

**(vi) Need to give Backward State Status to Bihar and Prepare an Action Plan for its All-round Development**

[*Translation*]

SHRINITISHKUMAR (Barh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after the declaration of the New Industrial Policy a few years back there came a news that about 12,400 offers have been made to the Government to set up New Industrial Units. Out of these only 113 offers were received to set up new industries in Bihar. I think that the necessary atmosphere and other facilities have not been made available to the State to set up new industries as a result of which this State, even after being rich in raw material, has become economically backward. Lakhs of people are becoming unemployed.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that the whole of the Bihar State should be given the status of a backward State and an action plan for its development should be prepared.

**(vii) Need to Evolve a Comprehensive Package for Revamping the Jute Industry in West Bengal with a view to protect the Interests of the Jute Workers**

[*English*]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, Calcutta in West Bengal was once the base and hub of the Jute Industry. The condition of jute mill workers is not only steadily deteriorating, but their plight has become more pathetic in many other ways. There are atleast 8 jute mills that do not pay wages as per the tripartite agreement. Taking advantage of the loopholes in the laws of the land, the employers have deprived a very large number of workmen of their statutory dues like provident fund, gratuity, bonus including dues even on account of earned wages. It is also a sad commentary on the conduct of jute mill owners who by prolonging the lockout/closure of their mills are compelling their workers to accept wages at lower rates than that ensured by the existing industry-wise settlement.

While the management deducts 2.5 per cent of wages for maintenance of the quarters, there exists not even a semblance of maintenance. The well water is very turbid. Showers inundate the rooms. The workers are prone to accidents as the roofs of their quarters are about to collapse. During the monsoons, the sewage mixed water enters their quarters. Even the Director-General of the ILO expressed his great concern for the pesticide-related eco-hazards affecting the working people.

I request the Central Government to evolve a comprehensive package for re-