

14.26 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES

Twenty-third Report

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA
(Bankura): I beg to present the Twenty-
third Report (Hindi and English versions)
of the Committee on Government Assur-
ances.

14.26 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide work to the
Tribals in Scheduled Areas and
protect them from epidemic and
malnutrition**

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur):
Sir, I come from a Scheduled area of
Orissa that is from Koraput district of
Orissa which is predominantly inhabited
by tribal people. Every year we hear that
several deaths occur during rainy season
due to malnutrition, epidemic and men-
ingitis. The main reason for these deaths
is improper food and impure drinking
water. In plain and advanced areas the
labourers get daily wages in paddy fields
during July and August but in interior hilly
areas most of the tribals live below the
poverty line. They do not get work even
in July and August as the land owners

do their work in their small holdings and
hardly engage other labourers in their
fields and as such most of them do not
have work and ultimately they have no
purchasing power even during this period
when plantation and weeding operations
are done. During September and
October, there is no work either in plains
or in the hills. Due to want of proper food
they start taking mango gruel, tamarind
powder, manua fry and many other forest
produce which cause stomach disorder
resulting in several deaths. This is com-
mon in all Scheduled areas in the coun-
try. Scheduled areas are under the direct
control of the Central Government under
para 3 of Vth Schedule of the Consti-
tution and therefore I request the Welfare
Minister to issue instructions to the State
Governments having Scheduled areas to
provide work to the workers in tribal
areas during this period and also to
supply proper medicines etc. to check
epidemic and meningitis etc. to avoid
further deaths due to malnutrition and
meningitis.

- (ii) **Need to distribute surplus land
among the landless SC/ST people
in Assam**

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS
(Karimganj) : Sir, till today, 3.25 per cent
of Scheduled Caste and 4.32 per cent
of Scheduled Tribe people remain landless
and 10 per cent each of them possess
only small landholdings in the State of
Assam. With increase of population during
the post Independence period the situ-
ation has been aggravated due to sub-
division of landholdings. On the other
hand tribal people previously used to do
jum-cultivation for earning their livelihood,
but now the same has been prohibited
as it resulted in deforestation. Although
there is sufficient ceiling surplus land in
Assam. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled

[Shri Dwaraka Nath Das]

Tribe people are being deprived of such lands because of their extreme poverty and ignorance.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter and see that ceiling surplus land and cultivable land be distributed among the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe landless and poor people so that the down-trodden have at least the minimum of subsistence.

(iii) Need to increase frequency of trains between Kharagpur Junction and Gidni in West Bengal and provide other facilities at Gidni Station

SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU (Jhargram) : Sir, the daily commuters at the Gidni Railway Station in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal have been facing tremendous hardship for a long time. Their problems relate to less frequency of the trains running through Gidni Station. Daily commuters demand increase in frequency of trains between Kharagpur Junction and Gidni. Their representatives have discussed this with the higher Railway officers but to no avail. Further, the train 'Steel Express' should also stop at Gidni during its Up and Down journeys. The platform level of the Station should be raised to facilitate easy boarding and alighting of trains by the children, old and infirm passengers. The people of the locality are mostly tribals. To uplift the tribals, the demands of the daily commuters need to be fulfilled immediately.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to initiate an action in this regard without delay.

(iv) Need for early commissioning of T.V. Studio and setting up of T.V. Camera Unit at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, Doordarshan had decided to construct a T.V. studio at Vijayawada by the end of the Seventh Plan. The then Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting had laid the foundation stone of this studio during the year 1989-90. The Government has been saying that it has ordered for the import of equipment and that the construction of the T.V. Studio at Vijayawada will commence in 1994-95. It is learnt that the equipment has been received and diverted to some other place. Similarly, in respect of sanction of the T.V. Camera Units at Vijayawada, it has been learnt that the T.V. Camera Unit will be provided at Vijayawada, by transferring the same from Hyderabad. A lot of delay is taking place in implementing these decisions of the Government.

I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to give effect to the above two decisions without any further delay.

(v) Need to take immediate measures to repair National Highway 31-A in Sikkim

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Sir, the National Highway 31-A, which connects Sikkim with the rest of the country, serves as the lifeline for the State. Despite its public and strategic importance, the maintenance of the Highway does not receive adequate attention of the authorities concerned.