

acre during the year i.e. 1980-81. Union Government did not allow export of onion, so the price of onion remained abnormally low last year. Onion growers are much in number specially in the area of Nasik and Pune of Maharashtra, Mahava of Gujarat and Alwar and Khairthal of Rajasthan. This year also the onions have been grown over a large areas of Alwar and Khairthal of Rajasthan, Nasik and Pune of Maharashtra and Mahva of Gujarat State. But even today there is apprehension in the minds of the farmers that prices of onions might be abnormally low in the market if the Government of India did not allow its export. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to allow the export of onions this year at the time of its harvest out-side India so that onion growers in India might not suffer a loss.

(xix) NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL STEPS FOR BETTER MAINTENANCE OF KHARGPUR RAILWAY COLONY.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnaport) Under 377, I make the statement. Khargpur town, the biggest and once the best Railway Colony in India is gradually fading up due to ultra neglect of the Railway Administration. All its roads are broken and some have been completely destroyed and turned into big drains. Pucca drains are broken here and these have been turned into pools. Seventy per cent of 14,000 quarters are more than 70 years old and require replacement by new quarters. New quarters are not being constructed. Almost all quarters are damaged and do not receive any care. The Railway vegetable market is full of dirt and filth and is the breeding place for pigs. The total township with a population of one lakh is quickly and steadily disintegrating. Repeated appeals to the authority have been of no avail. The authorities show utter neglect and irresponsibility and the great township which is a national property is being lost. I request the Government to rise to the occasion and take special steps

to save once the best Railway town, for without the special steps and by remaining in the frame work of common norms and form of the Railway Board, the town can no longer be saved from destruction.

(xx) REFUSAL OF ONAM FESTIVAL LEAVE AND FORCIBLE WORK IMPOSED ON WORKERS OF BORDER ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT LEH COMMAND

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE (Idukki): Under 377, I make the statement.

A serious situation has arisen out of the refusal of Onam Festival leave and forcible work imposed on the workers of Border Road Construction by the Military Officer Commanding at Leh. Onam is the national festival of Kerala. The demand of Kerala workers for the festival leave is just but fate for asking the festival leave ended in such a way that nobody could imagine. The military officer commanding 55 Road Construction Company and Commanding Officer 16 Border Road Task Force drove his jeep on the crowded workers and injured many. Two seriously injured workers are fighting for life in Srinagar hospital. Not only that, the military officials have forcibly taken the workers into their custody. This is the result of the Malayali workers demanding their national festival leave which the Sector Commander granted but the Senior Commander refused. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to cause an enquiry into the matter and punish the guilty official and sanction leave for them.

13.15 hrs.

MARRIAGE LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, be