

[Shri Bedabrata Barua]

not consider this project to be at all important. We protested against the meagre allocation in the 1977 budget, but expected the third crucial year to see a minimum investment of Rs. 15 crores. At least 70 per cent of the estimated expenditure should have been spent by the end of the third year. The Railway Minister in his 1978 budget just provided a pittance of Rs. 2.48 crores which means that at the end of the financial year 1978-79 the total expenditure made from the commencement of the project would be just Rs. 6 crores.

At this rate, the project would take more than fifteen years to be completed. We strongly protest against this virtual scuttling of an already sanctioned project by the devious tactic of killing the project by starving it of the necessary funds. With out saying so on paper, the Government has practically backed out of the previous Government's binding commitment to provide a broad-gauge line upto Gauhati as expeditiously as possible.

We feel badly let down by this extraordinary demonstration of callousness towards the needs of two crores of people living in the N.E. region.

The undeveloped economic, commercial and industrial status as well as the endemic high price situation of the N.E. area are very much the outcome of the bottleneck in transport. The absence of a direct broad gauge connection with the vast producing and consuming centres of India has very much contributed to this bottleneck.

I call upon the Railway Minister to immediately rectify this offence and forthwith find at least Rs. 13 crores more for this project in the current year, so that the work could be completed in two years from now.

(ii) REPORTED SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND NURSING STAFF IN DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD T.B. HOSPITAL, DELHI.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (शोरखपुर) :  
मान्यवर, आप की अनुमति से नियम 377 के अधीन मैं प्रविलम्बनीय लोक-महत्त्व के निम्नलिखित विषय का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ —

डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद टी० वी० अस्पताल, दिल्ली की स्थिति बहुत खराब हो गई है। वहाँ पर 60 से 80 मरीजों के लिये एक डाक्टर हैं, जिस से एक मरीज को अधिक-से अधिक एक मिनट का समय मिल पाता है वहाँ पर नर्सिंग स्टाफ की भी बहुत बड़ी कमी है। इतना ही नहीं शाम को तो 11-12 सौ मरीजों के लिये केवल 2 डाक्टर रह जाते हैं। इस अस्पताल के अधिकशांश मरीज गरीब परिवारों से आते हैं, जिन के परिवार वाले अस्पताल में भर्ती करने के बाद मरीज से रिश्ता तोड़ लेते हैं। ऐसे अनेक रोगी उपेक्षा और निराशा के कारण विक्षिप्त तक हो जाते हैं। पिछले वर्ष 4 रोगियों ने आत्म-हत्या तक कर ली थी। हाल में एक रोगी पागलपन का शिकार हो कर मर गया। अतः इस अस्पताल में डाक्टरों की संख्या बढ़ाना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है साथ ही मनोवैज्ञानिक चिकित्सकों की भी आवश्यकता है। इस अस्पताल के कर्मचारियों में लापरवाही और अष्टाचार भरा हुआ है। अतः वहाँ कठोर प्रशासन की भी आवश्यकता है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि सरकार इस समस्या पर तत्काल ध्यान दे।

(iii) NEED TO LAY THE FIRST INTERIM REPORT OF SHAH COMMISSION ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your leave, may I under Rule 377 mention the following matter of urgent public importance, namely the First Interim Report of the Shah Commission and proceed to make a statement thereon:

Sir, it is reported that the Shah Commission has submitted its Second

Interim Report. With a view to bringing to book the culprits named in the First Interim Report of the Commission, there is now imperative need for Government to lay on the Table of the House, without any further delay, the First Report of the Commission together with a memorandum regarding the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon, so that the Lok Sabha can have a discussion on the subject before the House adjourns a few days hence.

May I know what is the reaction on the part of the Prime Minister and the State Ministers twain who are present?

None? Mum is the word!

(iv) REPORTED CLOSURE OF THAKUR PAPER MILLS, SAMASTIPUR

श्री राम सेवक हजारी (रोसड़ा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ —

ठाकुर पेपर मिल, समस्तीपुर, दिनांक 23-3-1978 से बन्द है, क्योंकि मिल के प्रबन्धक द्वारा बिजली बिल का भुगतान नहीं किया गया। अतः बिजली विभाग द्वारा मिल की बिजली की लाइन काट दी गई है। दिनांक 27-3-1978 से प्रबन्धक द्वारा औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम, 25-1-1976 का उल्लंघन कर मिल के अन्दर लभ्राफ़ का नोटिस दिया गया, जिस कारण मिल में कार्यरत 519 मजदूर बेकार हो गये एवं उन के परिवारों के लगभग 2500 सदस्यों के सामने रोज़ी-रोटी की समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई है। अतः सरकार ठाकुर पेपर मिल को अपने हाथ में ले, ले आफ़ का नोटिस वापस ले, बोनस का भुगतान अविलम्ब करे तथा प्रबन्धक पर अविलम्ब

कार्यवाही करे, अन्यथा मिल के असंतुष्ट मजदूरों एवं प्रबन्धकों के बीच किसी भी समय विस्फोटक स्थिति उत्पन्न हो सकती है।

(v) REPORTED STRIKE BY WORKERS OF SINGARENI COLLIERIES

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to raise a matter regarding the situation arising from the continued strike of the workers of Singareni Collieries. Since the Minister of Energy is here, I hope he will also be energetic enough to see that something is done about this matter.

The serious situation arising from the continued strike of the workers of Singareni Collieries: the workers have been on strike since 14 April, 1978 and the strike has now spread to Ramagundam Collieries. The demands of the striking workers are the refund of the CDS amounts standing in their names. Khammam District has been declared a cyclone affected area in the month of January. The workers then applied for relief through return of the CDS amounts. This was duly attested by the MLAs of the area and also approved by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner who is the person authorised by the Central Government to clear these matters.

However, the Ministry of Finance has now decided to come into the picture and has been delaying decision. This is leading to great hardships and the workers were compelled to take loans, etc. to meet their urgent commitments arising out of the calamity of the cyclone.

When this matter was raised during the discussion on the Appropriation Bill held on Thursday, April 27, the Finance Minister stated that he had only just heard about it. He also assured on the Floor of the House that he would immediately see that the matter is cleared. But no step has yet been taken and instructions