

[Shri Saugata Roy]

and D.C.A. Madras; are required to handle 360,000 bills, 100,000 bills and 60,000 bills respectively to justify their staff strength.

Prior to 1973, most of the contracts were allocated to New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras according to the nature of stores and this office would get its due share for the justification of sufficient staff strength. But after 1973, a scheme of decentralisation was introduced by the DGS & D, the central agency responsible for placement of all such contracts, according to which the payment authorities were to be based according to the location of the suppliers. After the said decentralisation, many of the contracts were shifted from Calcutta to other offices, resulting in a substantial downfall in the receipts of bills. A review of the figures of the past years would substantiate the above statement beyond any conjecture:

| Period of review | Number of bills handled by the Calcutta Office |
|------------------|--|
| 1972-73          | 2,02,938                                       |
| 1973-74          | 1,72,315                                       |
| 1974-75          | 1,48,194                                       |
| 1975-76          | 1,51,484                                       |
| 1976-77          | 1,08,262                                       |
| 1977-78          | 73,872   |

That the other offices are getting more than their due share of work will be amply manifested from the following figures:

1977-78

|           | Required quota | Actual bills handled |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|
| New Delhi | 3,60,000       | 3,90,125             |
| Bombay    | 1,00,000       | 1,52,371             |
| Madras    | 60,000         | 75,480               |

The shortfall in the workload has threatened the very existence of this office. The vacant posts are not being filled in and as many as 50 posts are lying vacant in different grades in this office.

The above decentralisation of work with effect from 1-5-78 has not been made on the basis of equity and justice and as a result this office is being allowed to be dried up.

I would request the hon. Minister to make a statement in this regard.

(iv) REPORTED DEMAND FROM THE RAILWAYS FOR DECLARING THE BURDWAN-ASANSOL AREA AS A SUBURBAN AREA

SHRI ROBIN SEN (Asansol): With your permission, Sir, under rule 377, I wish to make the following statement:—

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed a Private Member's Resolution demanding the railways to declare the Burdwan-Asansol area as suburban area and to extend it. This thickly populated industrial area having 165 coal-mines and hundreds of big and small industries, is seriously handicapped for want of frequent rail services. Hardly 30 per cent of the people who are working in this industrial belt have got quarters near their work spots and the rest have to travel either by buses or by trains which normally are overcrowded posing grave risk to their lives.

Hence I demand for the immediate extension of suburban area upto Asansol and, I hope, the Central Government will honour the Resolution unanimously passed by the West Bengal Assembly which reflected the aspirations of the entire population.

(v) REPORTED WARNING BY AN AERONAUTIC EXPERT ABOUT OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT CIVIL AND MILITARY AIRFIELDS.

श्री श्रीमत् प्रकाश त्यागी (महाराष्ट्र) : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि एक यूरोपियन इंजिनियर ने भारत सरकार को चेतावनी दी है कि भारत के विभिन्न विमान व विमानों के एयरफील्ड पर जो कटोलीय यंत्र हैं वह बहुत पुराने हो गये हैं जिनके कारण हवाई दुर्घटनाएँ होने की सम्भावनाएँ हैं, और यहाँ दुर्घटनाओं के काल कारणाँ में यह कारण प्रमुख का। अतः सरकार की सुरक्षा संवर्धन हेतु यहाँ पर