

beings are also reported. So far available reports indicate that pasture lands are still covered under thick layers of snow, and live-stocks are dying due to starvation. If timely supply by air-dropping of foodstuffs for the inhabitants, and fodder and concentrates for the livestock are not made early, apprehensions are that besides miseries to the inhabitants, most of the livestock may perish within a couple of days.

I urge upon the Government to immediately air-drop rations and medical aid for the entrapped inhabitants and fodder and concentrates for livestock, necessary for their survival.

(viii) NEED TO OPEN AN OFFICE OF SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA AT MADRAS.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The Shipping Corporation of India was established in 1961. The main aim of the Government was to help, develop and channelize the export-import business, shipping opportunities and passenger services from various ports of India. During the course of the last 20 years, the SCI has invested over Rs. 1,000 crores in expanding their activity and services throughout the major ports of India. The SCI has drawn up an ambitious programme has drawn up an ambitious programme for further expansion and development in all the port services. A sum of Rs. 800 crores will be spent during the coming 3-4 years. Presently, SCI is one of the biggest shipping companies in the world.

At any given time, about half the number of ships at the Madras port belong to SCI. The Corporation runs a highly lucrative passenger services from Madras to Singapore, to Port Blair, to Japan, to East and West Africa, and various cargo ships from and to Madras port. It passes one's comprehension why the SCI has never bothered to open its own office in Madras. The entire business has been

given to a private company, which makes enormous profits at the cost of SCI. The SCI has long been toying with an idea of opening its own office in Madras.

All the shipping business, including passenger services is run through Messrs. K.P.V. Shaikh Mohammad Rowther Pvt. Ltd., Actually Messrs. K.P.V.S. has been doing monopoly business with SCI. In addition to their commission arrangements, they are also doing agency, stevedoring, clearing forwarding, contracts, chipping, painting and ship chandler work with SCI through *benami* firms. Due to this monopoly, lot of complaints and harassments have been experienced by traders, exporters, importers and even passengers.

May I, therefore, request the Government to establish an SCI office at Madras, the prestigious port of India in the South? The SCI has even opened their own offices in foreign countries, while only at Madras they have given their business on agency basis. In view of the fast expansion of SCI business in Madras, it is but wise and proper that SCI must operate on their own, without allowing individual monopoly to make profits and get all other benefits. I hope Government would announce their decision on the above important matter, in public interest, and to keep up the prestige of the SCI.

(ix) WORKING OF THE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION,

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री :  
(संदपुर) : माननीय सभापति महोदय,  
मैं माननीय उद्योग मंत्री का ध्यान देश के खादी एवं ग्रामीण कमीशन की गतिविधियों की ओर दिखाना चाहता हूँ। इस कमीशन की स्थापना ग्रामीण शिल्प एवं हरिजन, कमजोर, पिछड़े तथा आर्थिक अभाव में ग्रस्त शिल्पकारों को प्रगति के लिए को गई है। कमीशन का लक्ष्य 10 लाख परंपरागत कारीगरों