

to keep his promises and meet the legitimate, just and reasonable demand of the people of Purulia and Bankura for introducing a new fast train between Purulia and Howrah.

(iii) NEED TO ABOLISH CONTRACT SYSTEM OF EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN RARE EARTHS FACTORY AT CHAVARA

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Quilon): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:—

It is a matter of deep concern that contract system of employment, with its most obnoxious features, has been allowed to be in force in the Indian Rare Earths Factory in Chavara even after it was brought under the public sector several years ago. The factory employs nearly 1200 persons in mining, transport and shipping jobs. Even though a good many of them have completed more than 25 or even 30 years doing the same work, no one of them has been made permanent. They are all treated like casual labourers and are liable to be kept out or even denied employment permanently by the Contractor Society. Even though this organisation calls itself a "Workers' Cooperative Society", hardly any workman has a place in it as a member. The daily earnings today amount to just over Rs. 17 and what is most reprehensible about it is that this amount is supposed to include all their income and benefits like basic wages, Dearness Allowance, wages for annual leave, and annual bonus—a system indeed unheard of anywhere else in the country. No other benefits like compensation for accident or medical aid, etc., are granted to them. At the commencement of the current year, the contractor's rate was raised from Rs. 18 to Rs. 23 per tonne of raw-sand whereas the all-inclusive rate paid to the workers was raised only by one rupee from 16 and odd rupees. The Contractor Society is controlled by a handful of activists of a political

party which wields considerable influence in the State, and even though the factory belongs to the Government of India, the entire administration appears to be under the control of the party leaders. With several lakhs of rupees made through these contracts, they have let loose a reign of terror in the entire area including the Chavara, Neendakara and Shaktikulangara panchayats. Heinous crimes have become the order of the day. Violence, murder and incendiarism have been going on unchecked without any interference from the police, the contractors being all powerful with their immense financial resources and political influence.

The root of the whole trouble is the contract system referred to above. I have, therefore, to appeal to the Government of India to immediately abolish the contract system of employment in the Indian Rare Earths Factory at Chavara and to absorb the workers on the regular rolls of the establishment.

(iv) ALLEGED RELEASE OF PRISONERS FROM TIHAR JAIL, DELHI WITH THE HELP OF FORGED DOCUMENTS

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi Sadar): Recently, certain instances have come to light where prisoners have managed to get themselves released from the Tihar Jail, Delhi with the help of forged court orders, warrants and other documents.

Detection of these forgeries in time has, however, foiled the attempts of other prisoners who would also have similarly succeeded.

According to the Police, it appears that the racket in forged court documents is being run inside the precincts of the Jail itself, by an organised gang; and does not rule out the possibility of connivance by some of the Jail staff.