

The Kharagpur incident of 16th April, 1979 in Monghyr Distt. is still fresh in our minds where Father Francis Mattathilary and his companions were badly beaten up, church property looted and house set on fire. Has any action been taken?

I urge upon the Home Minister to take adequate measures to stop the rising incidents of attacks on Christian institutions, church personnel and other minority communities in Bihar in particular and other parts of the country in general

(iv) **SCARCITY OF RAW CASHEW NUTS**

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Quilon): Sir, about one hundred and fifty thousand workers employed in the cashew processing industry in Kerala are in acute distress. They have remained largely unemployed during the past several months now owing to lack of the essential raw material, raw cashew nuts. Over the years, the industry has been depending, to a large extent, on imports of this commodity, our normal requirement being over a lakh of tonnes to make up the short fall in indigenous production. The Cashew Corporation of India has been functioning as the authorised agency for importing cashew as well as to ensure its equitable distribution to qualified units. But during the recent past, imports have been falling steadily and this year, for reasons unknown, the Cashew Corporation of India has not so far entered the market although the season is well advanced. This has caused grave misgivings amongst all concerned, especially the workers about the bleak prospects ahead since the factories are likely to remain closed for a long time to come.

I have, therefore, to appeal to the Government to issue necessary directions to the Cashew Corporation of India to get on to the job of arranging for the import of cashew nuts to the maximum extent possible in an expeditious manner.

(v) **SHIFTING OF ORDNANCE DEPOT
FROM CALCUTTA**

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Sir, nearly 600 employees of Ordnance Depot, Calcutta, a defence installation (Registered under the Factories Act) under the Command of Director of Ordnance Services, have been shocked to learn that the oldest organisation of Army Ordnance Corps established in Calcutta in 1765 has been ordered for disbandment by 30-6-1980. The disbandment of this depot and shifting it outside Calcutta would invite a lot of hardship and misery to 600 employees and their families, besides monetary loss to them in the shape of HRA and CCA and also in maintaining double establishments. The Chief Minister and the Labour Minister of West Bengal have already taken up the matter with the Defence Ministry. The employees are on peaceful agitation by DHARNA in batches and mass hunger strike on duty, from time to time, to save themselves as well as the depot from ruination. This depot is in pivotal position, having the advantage of railways, ships, aerodromes and highways available at a stone throw. A considerable bulk of troops is deployed at and around Calcutta and their requirement of stores is only possible from Calcutta. It would be uneconomical to shift this depot outside Calcutta. In the past also this depot has effectively met the challenge of logistic supplies to the troops.

12.29 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1980-81—GENERAL DISCUSSION, DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS), 1980-81 AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1979-80.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item Nos. 10, 11 and 12 relating to the Railway Budget and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways). Hon. Members whose cut

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.