

Indian Ocean. Fishing nets and other utensils of our poor fishermen are snatched away destroyed by them. Their fishing occupation is severally affected and their poverty is aggravated and thereby they are put to hardships and difficulties. The foreign fishing vessel are doing fishing operation very close to our sea coast in violation of International law and principles regarding the usage of sea water. If this illegal practice is not stopped immediately irreparable loss and damage would be continuously caused to our poor fishermen. So Government may be pleased to take immediate steps to stop the above mentioned illegal activities of the foreign fishing ships intruding in our sea water.

(vi) SHORTAGE OF CEMENT IN WEST BENGAL

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, under Rule 377 I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

West Bengal is passing through an acute shortage of cement which is holding up many important industrial and other construction projects, public works and construction projects not to speak of private housing by middle-class groups.

The Department of Industrial Development of the Central Government assured the West Bengal State government in September this year that the quarterly allocation of cement to West Bengal for October to December, 1980 would be increased. But no additional allotments of cement has been received by the West Bengal Government during the current quarter though in the same quarter Maharashtra has been given an additional allotment of 80,000 MT. In the background of general shortage of cement in the country the allocations should be equitable. The Minister of Industries is urged to move to fulfil the assurance given by his department to the Government of West Bengal and increase

the allocation of cement to West Bengal for the current quarter.

(vii) INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RICE, WHEAT, SUGAR AND OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES TO KERALA

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA (Calicut): Sir, there is a serious situation in Kerala arising out of inadequate supply of rice, wheat, sugar and other essential commodities. For the last several months, the supply of these commodities has been far short of the demand. Against the monthly requirement of 1,45,000 tonnes of rice, for proper distribution of ration the average monthly supply for the period from January to October 1980 was only 58,258 M. T. From September 1980 onwards, the monthly quota for wheat has also been reduced from 10,000 tonnes to 4,000 tonnes. For sugar also, there has been shortfall in supply and requests for making up the shortfall have not been heeded so far. The case of kerosene and high speed diesel oil is no different. The allotment made to the State is inadequate to meet even immediate requirements. The original quota of 28,600 M.T.'s of high speed diesel oil for October, 1980, was subsequently reduced to 24,560 putting core sectors like fisheries and transport to difficulties.

Maintenance of essential supplies requires the coordinated efforts of Ministries of Agriculture, Civil Supplies, Railways etc. But this is not seen even though we hear a lot about broader issues such as national integration. The question of enhancement of price has also been one of the reasons for non-allotment of foodgrains to the State. It is surprising that the Food Corporation of India which is controlled by the Central Government should adopt measures which will only encourage black marketing apart from imposing an additional expenditure of Rs. 2 crores on the State Government.

It is the inescapable duty of the Central Government to find ways to