

I have also to request the Government that under its coverage should be included not only the men engaged in country craft but also those working in mechanised boats and trawlers.

There may not be any dearth of funds since adequate amounts can be raised through a cess levied on exports, contributions from concerned State Governments and Employers, besides provision made by the Government of India.

(iii) Need for settling the grievances of employees of departmental canteens

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Mukundapuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has already decided that the employees of the departmental canteens of Government of India will be treated as holders of Civil posts under the Central Government. It was also enjoined in the same notification that Service rules will be framed shortly under proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution to regulate their employment. However, nothing has been done in this respect so far and the canteen employees are agitating through a strike for the following demands: (1) Pay scales on par with Central Government employees; (2) Leave, L.T.C., Medical facilities, Pension, C.E.A., etc. at par with Central Government employees; (3) conversion of Cooperative canteens to Departmental Canteens; (4) creation of canteens department under Ministry of Home Affairs; (5) Private stalls in the canteens should be abolished and (6) victimisation of Canteen Employees be removed.

In view of the situation created due to inaction on the part of Government, the canteen employees have been forced to go on strike. All efforts by their representatives to avert the strike and have a negotiated settlement of their problems have been so far of no avail.

I, therefore, call upon the Government to settle the genuine grievances of canteen employees particularly their demand for parity with other Central Government employees in all respects.

(iv) U.G.C. grants to University and College libraries for purchase of books.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the University Grants Commission has been the main Central funding body for library book buying in universities and college throughout the country. Out of the overall budget 26-30 per cent is spent for book buying. UGC disbursed in the year 1978-79, Rs. 644 lakhs for the purchase of books. This comprises of Basic grant to universities of Rs. 242 lakhs. Balance amount was given for Book Bank Scheme and other schemes for the development of Humanities, Social Sciences Engineering, etc.

The last Government drastically cut the fund allocation to the UGC for the year 1979-80 and the Sixth Five Year Plan. The policy was that funds were required more for agriculture than higher education. As a result of this measure, since July-August, 1979, university and college-libraries ran out of funds and stopped purchasing books. The situation today is exactly the same. Libraries are not able to pay for books purchased in the first half of 1979 and neither have they been able to purchase any new books. Book buying has completely stopped for almost one year.

This slashing of funds will affect higher education all over the country. Libraries will not be in a position to get latest books on subjects essential for the country's progress. Research and development will suffer a set back due to the paucity of latest research findings from all over the world. After all, our academicians and scientists depend on books for their knowledge and professional growth. Students will suffer because of lack of good and recent reference material. The country cannot afford to cut down on higher education.

The cut in library grants should be immediately restored and book buying

grants should be increased every year. The increase should be commensurate with the rate of inflation prevailing in the country. Due to inflation, the price of books is also going up since raw material inputs, such as paper are sky rocketing. Therefore, book buying grants should be increased every year so that India does not lag behind in imparting knowledge to our students, scientists and engineers

Slash in grants has caused a severe depression in the Book Industry, amongst publishers, importers, wholesalers and retail book sellers. The industry has come to a standstill and most companies are not able to pay salaries to their staff. If the situation continues, a lot of publishing concerns would be forced to close down and many others will have no other alternative but to lay off a lot of their employees.

An early solution of this problem is urged and the UGC should immediately give ad hoc grants to universities and libraries first to clear the debt for previous purchases of books and to continue the programme to purchase books for the current year.

(v) **Steps to check the epidemic of Cholera and Gastro-enteritis in Ghanj Block of Gorakhpur**

14 hrs.

श्री अशफाक हुसन (महाराजगंज) : मैं सदन का ध्यान गोरखपुर जिले के घानी ब्लॉक में फैले हुए कालरा और गेस्ट्रो इन्टाइटिस के प्रकोप की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। घानी बाजार और उसके आसपास के गांवों में इस महामारी का प्रकोप लगभग पंद्रह दिन से है और मुकाभी समाचारपत्रों के अनुसार 27 से भी अधिक लोग के मरने की खबर है। आसपास के गांवों में सफाई की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। सुनौरा गांव जिस की आबादी दो हजार से भी अधिक है उस में आम दिनों में गंदगी के कारण रास्ता चलना

दुभर हो जाता है। बीमारी पर काबू पाने के लिए आवश्यक है कि आसपास के गांवों में सफाई की उचित व्यवस्था हो और डाक्टरों के दल की नियुक्ति—उस समय तक के लिए की जाए जब तक बीमारी पर पूरे तौर से काबू न पा लिया जाए। यह सभी गांव राप्ती नदी के किनारे बसे हुए हैं। दरिया में पानी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है और इस बात की आशंका है कि सेलाब की वजह से बीमारी और भयंकर रूप अख्तियार न कर ले। इस वास्ते इसकी कुछ रोकथाम होनी चाहिए।

(vi) **Need for immediate transportation of bananas by Railways from Bhusawal to Delhi**

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Bananas worth lakhs of rupees come in a rotten condition to Delhi from Bhusawal and other centres in Jalgaon district. This is because the Railways delay shipment of the common user's fruit. As against the understanding that the bananas should reach Delhi in 72 hours, the railway takes 120 hours.

(vii) **Need for averting recurring floods in Tel. Hati and Shagada rivers in Kalahandi district of Orissa**

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi): The people of Kankiri, Chhilpa, Chhendia, Palash, Tamba-Chhada and Taransa, villages of Dharangarh block, Nandol, Makarshola, Kotengaon, Purnashor, Dasigaon and Ambadola villages of Junagarh block and Belkhandi village of Kesinga block are reeling under ravaging floods of swollen Tel, Hati and Shagada rivers of Kalahandi district.

This is the third continuous year of floods in these rivers. This has caused extensive damage to crops, cattle, wealth and land has become unfit for cultivation. Fifteen thousand acres of fertile land have become sandy. Hundreds of houses built on the banks of the rivers have collapsed. Thousands