

(ii) **PROCUREMENT AGENCIES OF FOOD-GRAINS IN KALAHANDI DISTRICT OF ORISSA.**

**\*SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA** (Kalahandi): The poor performance of the Government agencies both of the Central and the State Governments in procuring paddy has put Kalahandi farmers in a very miserable plight. For vast majority of them, the primary means of livelihood is agriculture. Their day-to-day living is dependent upon the sale proceeds of the crops, and unless they get remunerative prices for their produce, they will face starvation deaths.

In the absence of energetic procurement efforts by the Government agencies, the middle men are having a field day, and the farmers have become the victims of their machinations and manipulations. The cultivators, for the sake of their survival, are selling their produce at distress prices. The middle men and the business men have no compunction in fleecing the farmers who have to maintain their families and also start agricultural operations for the next season. They do not have money to buy seed grains for the next season. The agricultural credit institutions seem to be living in their own ivory tower. They demand security in one form or other before they sanction loans. The farmers who are exposed to sun and showers, cannot produce anything tangible as security.

The Government of India should gear up the foodgrains procurement agencies so that the farmers in backward districts like Kalahandi are not made sacrificial goats.

(iii) **SURVEY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE FROM SAJEJANWA TO DOHIRI GHAT IN UTTAR PRADESH.**

श्री महंशीर प्रसाद (बांसगांव) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सहजनवां से दोहरी घाट तक रेलवे लाइन का पुनः सर्वेक्षण करा

\*The original speech was delivered in Oriya.

कर निर्माण कराने के सम्बन्ध में रेलवे मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

उक्त रेलवे लाइन जिसकी दूरी लगभग 67.35 किलोमीटर है और उस पर लगभग 14.25 करोड़ रुपये व्यय होने की बात है, किन्तु जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने यह कह कर उक्त रेलवे लाइन को निरस्त कर दिया था कि आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से उक्त लाइन लाभप्रद नहीं है। उक्त रेलवे लाइन मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में पड़ती है, जिसकी महत्ता काफी है। बड़े दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि आज आजादी के इतने वर्षों के बाद भी मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में एक इंच भी रेलवे लाइन नहीं है। यदि यही नियम बना लिया जाए, तो जो क्षेत्र सदियों से पिछड़े हुए हैं, वे सदैव पिछड़े ही रह जायेंगे।

अभी हाल ही में मैंने उद्योग मंत्री उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से जब उक्त क्षेत्र में उद्योग लगाने के विषय में बात की तो उन्होंने यही कहा कि चूंकि उक्त क्षेत्र में रेलवे लाइन नहीं है, इसलिए उद्योग नहीं लगाया जा सकता।

अतः रेलवे मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि उक्त निर्वाचन क्षेत्र को आर्थिक, सामाजिक एवं शैक्षणिक दृष्टिकोण से अन्य क्षेत्रों के समानान्तर लाने के लिए पुनः उक्त रेलवे लाइन का सर्वेक्षण करा कर उसे बनाने के लिए आवश्यक कार्यवाही करें।

(iv) **LOCATION OF FARAKKA SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT TOWNSHIP.**

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE** (Panskura): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

It has been reported in the West Bengal Press (Basumati) that the

Township for the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project at Farakka is sought to be located in Malda district. Farakka is in Murshidabad district and it is on the one bank of the Ganga and Malda is on the other bank. If the township for Farakka is built in Malda it will present great difficulty to the workers and officers of Farakka Thermal Project. For a power plant where operational problems are to be attended constantly this would also create operational problems. Hon'ble Minister for Energy should inform the House whether such a proposal is being entertained and if so, whether he would reject this so that the township and the Super Thermal Project at Farakka remain at the same place particularly when there is no dearth of place in Farakka.

(v) SUPPLY OF RICE TO KERALA

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The distribution of rice in Kerala has been paralysed. The situation is such that distribution of rice through ration shops will come to a complete standstill till at least January. It is quite regrettable that the move to deny the supply of rice to the people of Kerala is afoot at a time when we are exporting rice to foreign countries.

Kerala requires 1,35,000 tonnes of rice per month. But in the month of November, the Food Corporation of India did not have even one week's stock in its godowns. It is understood that the FCI did not take any step whatsoever to stock rice in time.

As per rule, applications for wagons for bringing rice should be submitted one month in advance. It has been found on enquiry that the FCI did not apply for wagons at the right time. By the time the application is submitted and wagons made available and then rice reaches the retail ends from the wholesalers, it will be at

least January. In January the price of rice will be up by 15 paise per Kg.

Disruption in the distribution of rice in Kerala will force the State Government to make direct purchases from neighbouring states. This will cause high losses to the State. The card holders will have to pay more price for the rice.

Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate steps to send rice to Kerala and then avoid disruption in the distribution of rice through ration shops.

(vi) BONUS TO L.I.C. EMPLOYEES

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA (Calcutta North East): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The LIC (Modification of Settlement) Act, 1976 was successfully challenged first in the Calcutta High Court and subsequently in the Supreme Court by the All India Insurance Employees' Association and the Supreme Court struck it down as violative of the Constitution of India.

Bowing to the seven-judge-bench judgement of the Supreme Court, the Janata Government asked the LIC to release payment of Bonus illegally withheld. But all the same in 1978 the LIC served notice under Section 19(2) of the I.D. Act expressing its intention to terminate the settlement. Again by applying 9A of the I.D. Act the LIC changed the service condition relating to Bonus and deprived the employees of their right to it. Not content with it, the Government of India acting under Section 49 of the LIC Act issued a Gazette Notification amending Regulation 58 of the LIC Staff Regulations pertaining to Bonus and sought to deprive the employees of their right to Bonus. Perhaps as a measure of abundant caution, the Govt. of India again acting under Section 11(2) of the LIC Act issued a Gazette notification which in effect deprived the LIC employees of their right to Bonus.