

[Shri Som Nath Chatterjee]

essential raw material. Most of the Coke Briquette units are on the verge of closure as they are not getting their quota of breeze coke from the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Limited which is the approved agency for distribution of the raw material among the registered small scale industries units.

For non-availability of the required number of wagons from the Railway Authority, it is not being possible for the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation to bring breeze coke in sufficient quantity from Durgapur and Burnpur and as a result the entire distribution system has failed and briquette manufacturing units are starving for want of breeze coke, the essential raw material besides Breeze coke, the same difficulty is also being felt in respect of distribution of B.P. Hard Coke causing acute hardship to hundreds of units consuming the raw materials. Against the requirement of at least seven rakes per month for movement of breeze coke, the Railway Authority have sanctioned only two rakes in favour of the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation. I request from the Corporation to increase the quota of rakes has been turned down by the Director of Movement/Railways by his letter No. CM/PROG/EN/EHS/1980 dated 18/1/1980.

In the circumstances, I would request the hon. Railway Minister kindly to issue necessary instructions to the Railway Authority so that the West Bengal Small Scale Industries Corporation Limited may be allotted the required number of wagons for smooth flow of breeze coke and B.P. Hard Coke and thereby save in particular the briquette manufacturing units and the foundries of the State from the grave situation faced by them for want of raw materials.

(iii) REPORTED CRISIS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KERALA DUE TO RISE IN PRICE OF HANK YARN

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, the handloom industry is

facing a continuous crisis which has further deepened. Consequently, the handloom workers in Kerala have decided that in the event of the Government of India failing to accede to their requests, they would strike work on 30th June, 1980 and picket all Central Government offices.

There is a pressing need to realise the gravity of the crisis faced by the industry. The prices of all counts of hank yarn are shooting up. As the traditional industry is unable to bear the increase, there is largescale unemployment in the industry with consequent untold hardships to the workers.

It is a persistent demand of the industry that the Government of India should make available cotton hank yarn to the handloom industry at fair prices, that it, at the rates that prevailed in October, 1978. Further in order to avoid inter-State disparities in wages, uniform minimum wages should be introduced for the handloom workers throughout the country.

I have to urge upon the Government for immediate action to help the industry in its deepening crisis as also to avert the proposed strike. An early statement in the House by the Government is also requested.

(iv) REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION ABOUT WINDING UP OF DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum): Under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance:

Sir, the statement of the Minister for Rehabilitation that the Dandakaranya project would be wound up within 1981 has caused consternation amongst the refugees and all sections of the public who happen to know anything about the problem.

It is fairly and widely known that the Union Government has never

shown any real desire for the effective rehabilitation of the refugees from East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, though a national commitment was made before partition of the country that every single refugee would be rehabilitated. It was a promisory note not to be honoured! Recently the Chairman of the project has resigned due to differences with the Union Government saying that the Centre does not care for measures which may at least make a semblance of rehabilitation, but are only concerned with how to wind up the project. Instead, the Secretary of the Department has been appointed as Chairman and he will sit in Delhi,—while the Chief Executive Administrator will be in Dandakaranya, leading to endless dichotomy in all details, hampering the execution of diverse measures on the spot. It is a sad tale that no good man ever lasted in this post. There can be no rehabilitation without such a long-term strategy. The Estimates Committee recommended a blueprint in 1960, 1962 and 1968. Last September, the DDA demanded an Area Development Authority. Nothing has been done. No industry is there; Bailadilla is out of DDA and there is no irrigation. Stony soil cannot absorb water and so rains do not make cultivation worthwhile undertaking. No integration with the adivasis is there. How can the DDA's 50,000 families subsist and on what? Six industrial units and 17 out of 20 production centres were closed. Orissa has not released 42,652 acres. Even a few so-called irrigated holdings of three acres are to be given water on date. Only eight out of 381 villages have electricity. Every scheme has been whittled down, curtailed and scuttled. And, these lakhs of refugees have no citizenship certificates. I demand a full statement from the hon. Minister. I further demand that unless an All-Parties Parliamentary Committee gives its opinion on the matter, the DDA cannot be wound up. In any matter like this, the State Government

of West Bengal should have a say and its consent secured. With these words I conclude.

(v) NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A BOAT JETTY AT VEMBAR IN TIRUNELVELI FOR BENEFIT OF FISHERMEN

*SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir under Rule 377 I raise the following matter of urgent public importance. The peninsular southern part of India is surrounded on the three sides by high seas rich in marine wealth. The Central Planning Commission has declared the southern parts of Tamil Nadu as backward and permanently drought-afflicted areas. So fishing here is a major avocation and steps should be taken to exploit the potential marine wealth in this area. Besides job opportunities in this field, marine food is a major foreign exchange earner. Recently, our Government's attention was drawn to the fact that mechanised boats from Japan frequently visit Bay of Bengal for fishing purposes. The Prawns fish available in abundance here is the popular delicacy in many European nations. In my district, Tirunelveli, in an off-shore village known as Vembar more than 10,000 people are engaged in fishing. In the absence of a boat-jetty here, they are unable to bring their catch of Prawns on the shore and pack them for export purposes. If a boat-jetty is constructed here in Vembar, it is estimated that we will be able to earn annually Rs. 3 crores in foreign exchange from the export of Prawns alone. The investment required for this purpose is just a crore of rupees. I demand that the Government of India should provide funds for the construction of a boat-jetty in Vembar in Tirunelveli District.

(vi) INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL REPORTED MISSING IN PAKISTAN SINCE 1971

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी (हाथरस) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, विश्वस्त सूत्रों से पता चला है कि

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.