

(Shri Chintamani Jena)

has to finance it but after a lapse of more than 4 years, no progress has yet been made on this issue for which lakhs of farmers are at a stage of frustration and are in a great concern. The drainage schemes which was sent to the Central Water Control Board is yet to be cleared up by them.

I would, therefore, draw the immediate attention of the hon. Minister for Irrigation to this problem for rendering the long pending problem to be solved, specially when the rainy season has started and high flood is expected at any moment.

(ii) RESUMPTION OF OIL EXPLORATION IN PILDHAT DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार (पीली-भीत): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की अनुमति से नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत एक लोक महत्व के प्रश्न को उठा रहा हूँ।

उत्तर प्रदेश के पीलीभीत जिले में तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग ने सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर तेल की खोज के लिए जिले में दो स्थान चुने। परन्तु पिछले वर्ष केवल एक स्थान पर ही आधी खुदाई करके कार्य बन्द कर दिया गया। दूसरे स्थान को छुआ तक नहीं गया। जहाँ खुदाई बन्द की गई उसका कारण कठोर चट्टान का आना बताया गया जबकि विभाग के पाम बहुमूल्य व उत्तम कोटि के ड्रिलिंग के उपकरण मौजूद हैं। यदि किसी कारण एक स्थान पर ड्रिलिंग बन्द किया गया तो दूसरे स्थान पर कार्य आरम्भ करना चाहिए था परन्तु ऐसा न करके व करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करने के पश्चात् व भ्रूणभं वज्ञानिकों की रिपोर्ट

के आधार पर दोनों स्थानों पर खुदाई न करके खुदाई के समस्त उपकरण दूसरे राज्यों में भेजे जा रहे हैं जबकि पीलीभीत के दोनों स्थानों पर तेल मिलने की पूर्ण सम्भावना है। माननीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री इन उपकरणों को कृपया दूसरे प्रदेशों में न भेज कर पीलीभीत के दोनों स्थानों पर तेल की खोज करावें।

(iii) REPORTED NON-SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIAL BY STC, SAIL AND INDIA PETROLEUM TO WEST BENGAL

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): A critical situation has arisen in West Bengal because of the non-performance of their respective obligations by three Central Government agencies, viz., The Indian Petroleum, the State Trading Corporation and the Steel Authority of India. The West Bengal Government deposited in advance with them an amount of Rs. 21.21 crores for the supply of raw materials, but they have neither supplied the materials ordered for nor are they refunding the money in spite of repeated demands. An apprehension has, therefore, gained ground that these units have invested the amount of Rs. 21.21 crores in other fields.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to kindly take remedial measures immediately in view of the fact that the economic development of West Bengal is being hampered to a great extent for want of materials.

(v) PURCHASE OF JUTE BY JUTE CORPORATION OF INDIA IN PURNEA AND SAHARSA DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

श्री तरेक सिंह (विक्रमगंज): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बिहार के पूर्णिया एवं सहरसा जिलों में जूट की खेती बड़े पैमाने पर होती है। फसल तैयार है। भारतीय जूट निगम द्वारा अभी तक सपोर्ट प्राइस पर जूट खरीदने की नीति निर्धारित नहीं हुई है। किसानों को बहुत कम दामों (डिस्ट्रेस प्राइस) पर प्राइवेट ट्रेड के यहां मजबूरी में अपनी

फसल बेचना पड़ रही है। गत वर्ष भारतीय जूट निगम और एन०सी०डी०सी० के परामर्शानुसार बिहार के कोपरेटिव मार्केटिंग यूनियन (विस्कोमान) के विभिन्न केन्द्रों के माध्यम से जूट की खरीद की गई थी जिससे किसानों में बहुत ही संतोष और उत्साह हुआ था और इस वर्ष किसानों ने जूट की फसल काफी लगाई। लेकिन भारतीय जूट निगम द्वारा सपोर्ट प्राइस पर जूट की खरीद नहीं होने से किसानों को भारी क्षति उठानी पड़ रही है।

वाणिज्य मंत्री भारत सरकार, जिनके अधीन जूट कारखाना तथा भारतीय जूट निगम है से निवेदन है कि गत वर्ष की तरह बिहार कोपरेटिव मार्केटिंग यूनियन को जूट खरीदने का आदेश दे।

(v) REPORTED SHORTAGE OF KEROSENE
IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore): There is a very acute shortage of kerosene in Tamil Nadu. In several areas housewives have to wait endlessly from the early hours of the day in vain in an attempt to secure kerosene. The ration shops have no stocks, and enquiries reveal that there is shortage all over the State. The State Government machinery for distribution has broken down due to inefficient administration, and they are unable to tackle the situation. The misery inflicted on women and elders is unbearable. Further, the State blames the Centre for poor supply. As a result, the poor people suffer untold hardships. At a recent meeting at Hosur in Tamil Nadu, the hon. Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, Thiru Veerendra Patil, pointed out that the State Government had not indicated that they needed more supplies of kerosene.

The people of Tamil Nadu should not be penalised for the indifferent

attitude of the AIADMK Government. I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and rush supplies of kerosene to the State as otherwise there will be an outcry by public in protest precipitating law and order situation.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): Recently, I had an occasion to tour Tamil Nadu. I visited Hosur and there some members complained—I was addressing a public meeting, that was a hall meeting—that kerosene is in short supply and that it is being sold in black-market. I said that it is a surprise to me because I am hearing for the first time that kerosene is in short supply and my impression is that whatever quantity of kerosene and diesel oil has been asked for by the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu has been supplied. I do not know whether we have been able to supply cent per cent, but till this day, I have not received any communication from the Chief Minister or any Minister of Tamil Nadu asking me to supply more kerosene. I said that if they wanted me to supply more kerosene or diesel oil, I would have supplied. But the fact remains that the system of distribution is wrong there. It is being handled by private people, by private traders. They are selling it in the blackmarket and the result is that the actual consumer is not getting kerosene in sufficient quantity. That is the position which I learnt after going to Hosur. I said that the distribution is the responsibility of the State Government and that they should make all possible efforts to see that as far as possible, the consumers get enough quantity of kerosene.

On this point, I want to make one thing clear. In the recent price increase that we had effected with regard to the petroleum products, we had not increased the price of kerosene with the result what is happening the price of diesel oil, but not kerosene—a sizable quantity of kerosene is going in adulteration. I had a