

[Prof Rup Chand Pal]

- (viii) Introduction of passenger trains in Naihati-Kakurgaehi-Budge Budge line now used for goods traffic only.
- (ix) Early undertaking of the circular railway project at Calcutta.
- (x) Another fast train between New Jalpauguri (North Bengal) and Delhi; and rail link between Malda-Balurghat-Hilli.

Besides these demands in respect of Railways, there are other pressing demands also. They are:

- (i) Setting up of a (coal based) thermal power plant at Mejhia (Bankura).
- (ii) Expeditious steps in respect of Haldia Petro-chemical Project and the ship-building and Ship Repairing Project of Haldia.
- (iii) Setting up of a unit of Bharat Electronics Complex Ltd., at Salt Lake City, Calcutta.
- (iv) Setting up of coal based chemical industries in Asansol-Ranigunj area.
- (v) Special financial assistance from the Centre to speed up industrialisation in industrially backward North Bengal.
- (vi) Strict enforcement of the principle of employment through employment-exchanges in Central Government undertakings and establishments with reservation for landlosers, cases of 'dying in harness' Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people.
- (vii) Increased central assistance and allocation for implementation of developmental plans in West Bengal

The above are some of the urgent demands of the people of West Bengal which they have been repeatedly placing before

the Central Government for a long time. But unfortunately, nothing has as yet been done. I would urge upon the Central Government to concede the demands with which the afflicted people of West Bengal are marching on foot to draw the attention of the Central Government.

(v) Shifting of regional office of Central Silk Board from Bombay to Bangalore

\*SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE (Panaji): Sir, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

A serious situation has developed because of the Government of India's decision to shift the office of Central Silk Board from Bombay to Bangalore. The work at Bombay office is totally suffering for the last three months due to disputes arising out of the decision of the Government. Most of the staff members of this Board find it inconvenient to go over Bangalore and have made many appeals and demands to persuade the Government from taking such a decision. The Board Employees' Association is also agitated about the matter. Many employees whose wives are employed or children undergoing school education have appealed to the Government to postpone transfer till May this year.

As three-fourth of silk manufactured in the country is exported from Bombay, it is desirable that the regional office of the Board should be situated at Bombay only. The work of the Board has virtually come to a stand-still because of the agitation of employees which is likely to be intensified if the Government does not change its decision. In view of this, I urge upon the Government not to shift the regional office of Central Silk Board from Bombay to Bangalore.

(vi) Need for increased railway services in Aonla Lok Sabha Constituency of Uttar Pradesh