

backward groups who had sold whatever little they had to pay the commission for visas. Many of them reportedly borrowed money at exorbitant rates of interest and in one case, it is reported that the victim even had to pawn his wife to a rich man in the village to borrow the amount.

I request the Government to take urgent steps in the matter to arrest the activities of the racketeers.

(v) SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO WEST BENGAL

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Sir, in the State of West Bengal a very grave situation has arisen, as regards the supply position of foodgrains. Having a population strength of 5.45 crores, West Bengal requires 90 lakh MT of foodgrains in a year. The production of foodgrains, including wheat and paddy, during the kharif year i.e. 1-10-1982 to 30-9-1982 works out to 63.08 lakh MT only, as there were successive droughts and pest attacks for the last seven years. However, keeping 10 per cent of the production as seeds, the net availability for consumption will be to the tune of 57 lakh MT. So, the deficit will be around 33 lakh MT, which is alarmingly high, and it is the highest in the last five years. As against this demand position, the FCI supplied only 19 lakh MT during the period from 1-10-1981 to 30-6-1982. Now the total requirement of the State works out to 14 lakh MT, as per Central Government's announced criteria. The State Government has consequently placed a demand with the Central Government for a monthly allocation of 3.30 lakh MT per month. But the actual allocation during the past five months beginning from March 1982 to July 1982 is to the tune of 11.65 lakh MT, which falls far short of the actual requirement i.e. one lakh MT short per month.

This being the position as regards allocation by the Union Government, the actual supply is far unsatisfactory because of the transport and handling constraints faced by the FCI. Under

such circumstances, the State Government has been put in a predicament. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to be sympathetic towards the people of West Bengal, where the severe drought has already done a severe jolt in the present cultivation season, and allot at least 3.30 lakh MT foodgrains per month during July, August and September 1982, and thus save them from hunger.

(vi) ALLEGED INCREASE IN SEAFARERS OF PILGRIMS GOING TO HAJ

श्री आशफाक हुसैन (महाराजगंज) : मरकजी हज कमेटी ने बम्बई से ऐलान किया है कि इस साल आजमीन हज के लिए पानी के जहाज के किराये में इजाफा कर दिया गया है। पानी के जहाज से हज को जाने वाले आजमीन हज को पहले ही काफी दिक्कत तादाद की कमी की वजह से उठानी पड़ रही है। इस वक्त जब कि कुरा वगरह के मराहिल सब तय हो चुके हैं और पहले जहाज से जाने वाले आजमीन जल्द ही बम्बई पहुंचने वाले हैं हज के किराये में इजाफा बे-मौका और गैर-जरूरी है। पता नहीं हज कमेटी ने यह फैसला अपने तौर पर लिया है या मरकजी वजारत जहाज रानी ने अपने फैसले को हज कमेटी से मनवाया है। जो भी हो मरकजी हज कमेटी और वजारत जहाज रानी दोनों से दरखास्त है कि फौरी तौर पर इस फैसले पर अमल को इस साल के लिए रोक दें।

मरकजी हज कमेटी, वजारत जहाज-रानी और वजारत खारजा से दरखास्त है कि आइंदा हज के मुताल्लिक जो भी पालिसी उनकी होगी, उसके अहम मुकाद से कम अज कम पार्लियामेंट के सभी मुस्लिम मेंबरन को आगाह करें और उसको आखिरी शकल देने से पहले उनकी एक रस्मी या गैर-रस्मी मीटिंग