

to keep his promises and meet the legitimate, just and reasonable demand of the people of Purulia and Bankura for introducing a new fast train between Purulia and Howrah.

(iii) NEED TO ABOLISH CONTRACT SYSTEM OF EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN RARE EARTHS FACTORY AT CHAVARA

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Quilon): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:—

It is a matter of deep concern that contract system of employment, with its most obnoxious features, has been allowed to be in force in the Indian Rare Earths Factory in Chavara even after it was brought under the public sector several years ago. The factory employs nearly 1200 persons in mining, transport and shipping jobs. Even though a good many of them have completed more than 25 or even 30 years doing the same work, no one of them has been made permanent. They are all treated like casual labourers and are liable to be kept out or even denied employment permanently by the Contractor Society. Even though this organisation calls itself a "Workers' Cooperative Society", hardly any workman has a place in it as a member. The daily earnings today amount to just over Rs. 17 and what is most reprehensible about it is that this amount is supposed to include all their income and benefits like basic wages, Dearness Allowance, wages for annual leave, and annual bonus—a system indeed unheard of anywhere else in the country. No other benefits like compensation for accident or medical aid, etc., are granted to them. At the commencement of the current year, the contractor's rate was raised from Rs. 18 to Rs. 23 per tonne of raw-sand whereas the all-inclusive rate paid to the workers was raised only by one rupee from 16 and odd rupees. The Contractor Society is controlled by a handful of activists of a political

party which wields considerable influence in the State, and even though the factory belongs to the Government of India, the entire administration appears to be under the control of the party leaders. With several lakhs of rupees made through these contracts, they have let loose a reign of terror in the entire area including the Chavara, Neendakara and Shaktikulangara panchayats. Heinous crimes have become the order of the day. Violence, murder and incendism have been going on unchecked without any interference from the police, the contractors being all powerful with their immense financial resources and political influence.

The root of the whole trouble is the contract system referred to above. I have, therefore, to appeal to the Government of India to immediately abolish the contract system of employment in the Indian Rare Earths Factory at Chavara and to absorb the workers on the regular rolls of the establishment.

(iv) ALLEGED RELEASE OF PRISONERS FROM TIHAR JAIL, DELHI WITH THE HELP OF FORGED DOCUMENTS

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi Sadar): Recently, certain instances have come to light where prisoners have managed to get themselves released from the Tihar Jail, Delhi with the help of forged court orders, warrants and other documents.

Detection of these forgeries in time has, however, foiled the attempts of other prisoners who would also have similarly succeeded.

According to the Police, it appears that the racket in forged court documents is being run inside the precincts of the Jail itself, by an organised gang; and does not rule out the possibility of connivance by some of the Jail staff.

[Shri Jagdish Tytler]

The Government must, therefore, take immediate remedial measures to prevent and control this menace of forged documents before the situation further deteriorates and undertrials seek to achieve release through such dubious measures.

Therefore, it is suggested that all such documents emanating from the courts be entrusted to special uniformed messengers in sealed covers; that the use of rubber stamps and signature stamps be discontinued forthwith; that nonforgeable embossed seals be used; and specimen signatures of the concerned authorities be made available at the Jail Office for verification purposes; and any or all such other measures be undertaken to curb and destroy this racket.

It is also suggested that vigilance staff be entrusted with the duty to trace, unearth and bring to book the gang of criminals which is behind this racket.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha then reassembled after lunch at ten minutes past fourteen of the clock.

1410 hrs

[SHRI HARINATHA MISHRA in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

(v) STEPS FOR PROVIDING DRINKING WATER ETC. DURING SUMMER SEASON IN MADHYA PRADESH

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Just as the winter season is to end, the drinking water situation in Madhya Pradesh is becoming

worse. The rivers are drying and the level of water in wells is getting lower. Even today, before full summer has yet to set in, the people of Madhya Pradesh are facing acute shortage of drinking water. Even the animals have to be taken out 5 to 10 Km. to get their water. The last year's monsoon was not sufficient to have deep percolation. Hence cattle fodder is becoming scarce.

It is rather sad that the Madhya Pradesh Government has not yet taken any concrete steps to meet this crisis. The situation is even now alarming in the backward regions and drought prone areas of Madhya Pradesh. An extensive tour of Rajgarh District has brought this serious situation to my notice. All over the place, complaints of water shortages are coming from the people, specially from the poor, of water-problem villages.

May I call upon the Government to send a special team to Madhya Pradesh to survey the drinking water situation and frame immediate schemes to deepen the existing wells, start fast-boring operations to make advance preparations to provide water during the peak summer season in May-June? I also urge the State Government to take up this problem on a war footing and make every effort to remove the hardship of the water famine areas. Advance provision for grass and cattle fodder as well as water tankers and storage from riverbeds should be planned from now to prevent deaths of human beings and cattle in the heat stricken areas of Madhya Pradesh. With this timely warning, any failure or negligence will be the entire responsibility of both the State and the Central Governments.