

**DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(RAILWAYS), 1976-77**

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** Sir, I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1976-77.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1978-79**

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** Sir, I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1978-79.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

**(i) REPORTED SUPPLY OF BAD QUALITY
OF WHEAT BY FOOD CORPORATION
OF INDIA TO HIMACHAL PRADESH**

SHRI BALAK RAM (Simla): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me under Rule 377 to mention this matter of urgent public importance regarding supply of soiled and rotten wheat unfit for human consumption to Himachal Pradesh by the Food Corporation of India.

There is widespread resentment among the people of Himachal Pradesh regarding supply of soiled and rotten wheat to Himachal Pradesh by the Food Corporation of India. The wheat is not at all fit for human consumption and the hilly backward people of that State have been, it appears, mocked at and reduced to inhuman status with the supply of this type of sub-standard wheat which is worse than cattle feed. The District Food Advisory Committee in its recent meeting on 18th November, 1978 and various news papers have voiced their concern and anxiety over this question of vital public importance. I therefore, request you to kindly ask the hon. Agricultural Minister to give a categorical statement in the House about punish-

ing the guilty persons and assuring supply of good quality of wheat to Himachal Pradesh in future.

**(ii) REPORTED STRIKE WARNING BY THE
JUTE WORKERS' UNIONS**

**SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-
pore):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I rise to mention the following matters of urgent public importance, namely, strike warning by the jute unions.

Six Central Unions had in Calcutta decided on 26th November, 1978 to organise an indefinite strike by two lakh jute workers from 8th January next if their negotiations with the jute mill owners for a new wage scale failed. Such a strike would cause enormous loss in production and foreign exchange earnings at a time when international jute market was looking up. In such previous instances of industry-wise strike threat, the Central Commerce and Labour Ministries had intervened to bring about a solution. In the present case also, the Industry Minister should call a meeting of the workers, The Indian Jute Mill Association, along with the officials of the State Government and Central Labour Ministry immediately to settle the very just demands of the workers.

**(iii) REPORTED DELAY IN INTRODUCING
THE CENTRAL MARINE BILL TO PROTECT
THE INTERESTS OF TRADITIONAL
FISHERMEN.**

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA
(Serampore):** Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

"In spite of repeated assurances given by the Minister that a Central Marine Bill to protect the interests of traditional fishermen community of India will be introduced in the winter session, the Government are least concerned about the problems of poor fishermen. The Government have not yet given any indication to bring the Bill in the current session. More than 6.5 million fishermen are facing acute hardship specially in the coastal areas of Goa.