

(ii) **DHARNA BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA BEFORE KRISHI BHAWAN DEMANDING ABOLITION OF SYSTEM OF CONTRACT LABOUR BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA.**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA (Bombay South): Under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter. Five hon. Members of the Lok Sabha are staging a *dharna* in front of Krishi Bhawan as a last resort, after exhausting all the avenues for demanding justice from the Ministry of Agriculture. Their demand is to abolish the contract system prevalent in the Food Corporation of India. The Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, had assured the House that the contract system would be done away with. Contrary thereto, contractors or thekedars are being given free hand to exploit the labourers. These MPs had approached several authorities, including the Minister concerned and even the Prime Minister. When all their efforts have gone in vain, they have no alternative but to resort to *dharna* in front of Krishi Bhawan. The labourers of FCI had already demonstrated against the contract system; and they too had gone on fast in front of the residence of the Minister concerned. The replies given by the Ministers are contradictory and a complete confusion with regard to the policy obtaining in the matter prevails. Under the circumstances, it is incumbent upon the Minister of Agriculture to clarify the position and make a statement in the House on the subject. Therefore I demand that the obsolete contract system must be abolished and labourers be freed from the clutches of the vested interests.

(iii) **REPORTED LACK OF SUPPLY OF GAS TO CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY RESULTING IN STOPPAGE OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN DEPT. OF APPLIED PHYSICS.**

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTHY (Calcutta South): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter: I would like to raise very serious matter of very urgent public importance. 1099 LS—10.

tance, relating to the functioning of the Department of Applied Physics of the Calcutta University. I am informed repeatedly that the Department in question is experiencing great difficulty in procuring gas for glass blowing. The supply of gas is a very urgent ingredient for carrying on normal academic work of the Department of Applied Physics of the University of Calcutta. This is also necessary for carrying on research work of applied science in the laboratory.

The supply of gas from Durgapur has become very irregular, and on many occasions in the past, it was found that the gas supplied from Durgapur was not of right pressure for gas blowing.

I am informed that Sir Rash Behary Ghosh, Professor of Applied Physics University of Calcutta sent repeated representations to hon. Shri H. N. Bahuguna as early as on 13th September, 1978 intimating the predicament of the Department as well as of the University for lack of supply of gas for carrying on normal academic work, including research activities. Strangely, the Ministry did not think it wise either to respond to the correspondence or to solve the problem.

I draw pointed attention, through you Sir, to the stoppage of academic and research activities of the University of Calcutta for lack of supply of gas of right pressure for glass blowing and hope that the Government, and particularly the Ministry of Petro-Chemicals will take special care in seeing that the prayer of the University of Calcutta is responded to, without any further loss of time.

(iv) **RESENTMENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH OVER REPORTED MOVE TO SHIFT REGIONAL OFFICE OF NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION FROM VIJAYAWADA.**

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter: