

(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. 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:

[Shri K. Suryanarayana]

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government, and of the House the wide resentment created among the farmers of the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh by the reported move of the National Seeds Corporation to shift its regional office with godowns from Vijayawada to Hyderabad. A representation has already been sent in this matter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Government of India by the MLAs of the area belonging to different political parties.

By shifting the NSC's regional office from Vijayawada, the production of seeds in the State will be seriously affected, and severe losses will be caused to the farmers who have been helping in the productions of quality seeds (paddy) during the last 15 years.

The regional office with godowns was set up in 1963 by the Government of India, keeping in view all the basic needs for the production of seeds and the enterprising farmers of the coastal districts, using latest agricultural techniques, have been supplying quality seeds to many regions of the country all these years

Located at Adigoppula and Venktramannagudem in the rice-growing areas are the seed production centres developed with financial aid from the World Bank. They are producing foundation seeds and their work can be supervised more conveniently by the NSC's regional office at Vijayawada than the Agricultural University area situated at Hyderabad.

The argument of the management of NSC that because the headquarters of the South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad, wagons will be easily available for the export of seeds if the regional office is located at Hyderabad, is untenable. Such exports were being carried on from Vijayawada for the last 15 years without any serious problems. Seeds were being exported from Vijayawada when the entire area was earlier under the Southern Railway, whose

Head Office is situated at Madras.

As per production schedules for 1979-80, seeds are to be produced in 1900 acres in the coastal districts, while only 13 acres set apart for the purpose in the Telengana area. Therefore, there is all the more necessity for the regional office of NSC to function at Vijayawada.

It is learnt that some interested officers have proposed the idea of shifting the regional office of NSC to Hyderabad to facilitate their stay near to the city of Hyderabad, which is against our national policy, viz. that industries, particularly agro-based industries, should be in the rural areas, and not near metropolitan cities.

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation is requested to look into this matter and see that the move to shift the NSC's regional office from Vijayawada is dropped, so that the programmes of production of quality seeds and their exports to other regions go on unhampered

(v) REPORTED UNSATISFACTORY SERVICE CONDITION IN INDIAN COOPERATION MISSION HIGHWAY PROJECT (NEPAL).

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

The unsatisfactory service conditions in the Indian Cooperation Mission Highway Project (Nepal) and the heavy victimization and repression being resorted to by the Nepal Government to crush the present agitation of the employees for their legitimate basic demands, were raised in this House on April 30, 1979 through a Starred Question No. 932. Now it has further come to notice that 7 Indian workers have been arrested by the Nepal Police without any reason, solely to create a reign of terror amongst the Indian employees fighting for their just cause in a democratic manner. The arrested 7 employees have been terminated