

from service, and the agitating employees are being forced to resume duty by the Administration, with the help of Armed Police at the point of bayonet. It may be stated as to what steps have been taken by the Government for the release of 7 Indian workers who are still in jail. They should also intervene with the Nepal Government about their resorting to ruthless repression aimed at terrorizing the Indian workers who are serving there for a long time. These workers were assured of alternative employment in 1973. Hence the question of their absorption should be finalized as well as the release of the arrested workers should be ensured.

(vi) AMENDMENT TO PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY TINSUKIA MAIL.

SIRI ISMAIL HOSSAIN KHAN (Barpeeta): Sir, under rule 377, I make the following statement on a matter of urgent public importance.

From 1st November, 1978 Assam and other North Eastern States are linked with New Delhi, the capital of India, by a superfast train, Tinsukia Mail. By introducing this train, the Railway Minister promised some better amenities to the second class passengers on its broad gauge portion from New Delhi to New Bongaigaon and overall saving in running time of about 10 hours than the old time table. It was welcomed by all the passengers as it ran punctually for a few days.

Trouble began with the change of time table with effect from 1st April, 1979. The superfast Tinsukia Mail Train runs every day late by 2 to 7 hours. Better amenities provided for the passengers, e.g. dining car, vestibuled and cushioned berths are regularly irregular. II Class AC Sleeper Coach is provided thrice a week and that too is without bed rolls and proper maintenance. The train superintendent does not attend the train regularly. There is nobody to hear the public complaint in his

absence. On several occasions, the train runs without light and fan. Even there is no provision of drinking water in these hot days. It is seen that on 7-5-79 the train ran without water even in bath room from Mugal-sarai to Allahabad. When it was reported to the Guard, he took no step and asked the passengers to pull the chain.

There was nobody to check the unauthorised passengers on 28-4-79; when it entered Bihar State, one of our MPs was threatened to be thrown out of the train when he objected to the entrance of a man into his compartment.

Even in the AC sleeper in which we were travelling, about 12 boys entered into our compartment at Danapur and threatened us that if they are not allowed to travel, then the train would be detained for indefinite time. There was no security. We were completely helpless.

On that day there was no dining car as a result of which passengers were without breakfast, food, etc. This is not an isolated incident. Travelling by Tinsukia Mail from Mugal-sarai to Sahebganj is a terror. In this portion of journey, there is no administration and no supervision. Passengers at their own will travel without any valid ticket. There is frequent chain pulling in this portion. The dining car was looted at Patna in 1st April, 1979 and passengers were terrorised. No security arrangement is there for the safety of the passengers.

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister find out the reasons why by the old time table the train ran on time peacefully whereas with the new time table with effect from 1st April, 1979 all the irregularities began.

I also appeal to the hon. Railway Minister to keep his promise for better amenities to the passengers and

[Shri Ismail Hossain Khan]
maintain punctuality of the train. Otherwise, the railway authorities will have no moral right to charge superfast charges from the passengers.

I further request the hon. Minister to provide drinking water in this train like all other superfast trains in our country, which is most essential in these hot days.

It is also requested that the hon. Railway Minister may revise the existing time table of Tinsukia Mail to avoid all the anomalies.

I request the hon. Railway Minister to arrange for every precautionary measure to minimise the sufferings of the passengers travelling by Tinsukia Mail.

(vii) INCREASE IN PRICE OF STAPLE YARN ETC. NEEDED BY COTTAGE AND SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN TANDA, DISTRICT, FAIZABAD, U. P.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI (Azamgarh): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and the House the problem faced by cottage and small scale industries in Tanda, District Faizabad, U.P. In Tanda more than 8,000 powerlooms and 5,000 handlooms are being run by cottage and small scale industries, which is equivalent to the production of 16 mills. The daily consumption of staple yarn is 400 bales, with the help of which 4 lakh metres of cloth are being manufactured everyday. The industry employs more than one lakh people. The staple yarn is supplied to the weaver through agents of 11 mill-owners who have got their depots located in Tanda. The price of staple yarn in 1975 was Rs. 75 per bundle of 5 kg. In February 1979, the price prevalent was Rs. 80/82 per. 5 kg. Suddenly in the last one or one and a half months, the price has shot up to Rs. 102 per 5 k.g.

Therefore, it has resulted in increase of Rs. 26 per bundle or Rs. 500 per bale. With total consumption of 400 bales per day, Rs. 2 lakhs per

day is being drained off by mill-owners, due to sheer carelessness of the Government.

Earlier in 1972 when such a situation had arisen, the Central Government had issued an order No. 180/4/72-Tax (F), which stipulated that 50 per cent of the production would be supplied to the weaver at Rs. 52 per bundle, and the mills were allowed to dispose of the balance 50 per cent of the production in the open market.

With the present alarming increase in the price of staple yarn and chemicals, the situation has become very difficult. If appropriate action is not taken by the Government at an early stage, the handloom and powerloom sector will diminish soon, and more than 35 lakh weavers will be rendered unemployed. Consequently, it will become a serious problem for the State and the country in general.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to bring staple yarn and chemicals under the Essential Commodities Act, production and sale of yarn should be regulated, staple yarn price should be fixed by the Tariff Board and the Tariff Board should have a representative of the weavers and depots should be set up for sale of staple yarn and the Government should take steps for setting up a composite dyeing, printing and finishing plant at Tanda to enable the weavers to get their raw material at moderate rates.

श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव
(मधुबनी) : मैंने भी 377 में लिख कर
दिया है। वह आता नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : देखेंगे।

(viii) NEED TO ALTER THE DURATION OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR IN INDIA.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, by your leave, I proceed, under rule 377, to make the following statement on a matter of urgent public national importance.