

of huck to the co-operatives and other fibre producing centres. The export of coir yarn adversely affects the production of coir goods which keeps a heavy demand abroad. Further export of coir yarn is disastrous to the employment of people engaged in coir products and its export.

So, may I demand immediate attention of the Government to the problem of the Coir Industry and the implementation of the Sivaraman Committee Report after discussing with the concerned. I demand immediate ban on the export of coir yarn to protect the coir industry from further ruin.

(iv) NEED FOR A NEW WAGE AGREEMENT FOR STEEL INDUSTRY WORKERS.

SHRI ROBIN SEN (Asansol): With your kind permission, Sir, I wish to make the following statement under Rule 377:

The present attitude of the Steel management has become a matter of serious concern to all. The last four year wage agreement for steel workers has expired on 31-8-78. The agreement had kept provisions for fresh discussion for new agreement one year before the expiry of the agreement. The steel management had deliberately ignored the provisions and called the meeting of the National Joint Consultative Committee for Steel Industry only on 28th July 1978. The workers' representatives have submitted the Charter of Demands by the middle of August 1978 and urged upon the management for a quick settlement. The demands were, *inter-alia*, need-based minimum wage on the basis of the recommendations of the 15th Indian Labour Conference, full neutralisation of the rise in cost of living index, revision of scales, incentive, bonus, PF rules, retirement age, introduction of shift-allowance, enhancement of leave facilities, educational facilities, medical facilities, housing facilities abolition of contract system and absorption of contractor

labourers, etc. The management has given only verbal assurance of a quick settlement but is actually resorting to dilatory tactics to settle issues. The Steel management and the Steel Ministry have lost all credibility as they have gone back from their promises to implement the Study Group reports. The said Study Groups have given unanimous recommendations that include recognition through secret ballot and that was accepted in the plenary session of the Steel union representatives under the Chairmanship of Shri Biju Patnaik himself. It was never implemented. Rupees 35 lakhs have gone waste. The present negotiation also has come to a deadlock because of the Steel management's anti-working class attitude and the Bureau of Public Enterprises pulling of strings from behind. The Government's assurance not to interfere in the negotiation has been flouted and the reasonable demands are being rejected on BPE's instruction. The situation is grave and unrest is being invited in the industry by the anti-worker attitude of the management and the Government. In these circumstances, I urge upon the government to avert a confrontation and help to bring a peaceful and negotiated settlement without any further delay.

(v) ABSORPTION OF DEPUTATIONISTS IN FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY (Calcutta South): Under Rule 377 I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to 5000 employees of the Food Corporation of India. It is a matter of such an urgent public importance and I am happy to note that the Minister of Agriculture himself is here.

The story of the sufferings of 5000 employees serving the Food Corporation of India on deputation for the last 12 years need to be told to the Lok Sabha in the hope that their legitimate grievances may be removed by the Government of India and particularly by the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Prof. Dilip Chakravarty]

By an agreement executed between the Government of West Bengal and the Food Corporation of India dated 26-11-1966, 5000 State Government employees (Food and Supplies Department) joined the Food Corporation of India on 12-12-1966.

In the agreement in clauses 9A, B and C, there was a clear provision for eventual absorption of the deputationists by the FCI but the FCI is yet to take any decision for their absorption.

The direct recruits who came in F.C.I. in 1969 as Grade III employees have by now become Assistant Managers by promotion; on the other hand, the State Government deputationists from West Bengal have remained in the same grade and post since 1966. Now they are a little more than 4000 in number, the rest having retired.

In 1966, the work-load (storage capacity) was around 1.5 lakh tonnes, but in 1978 the storage capacity in West Bengal region alone has been raised to 13 lakh tonnes. Moreover, the F.C.I. has constructed buffer godowns with capacity of 2 lakh tonnes and in A.R.D.C. Programme.

The F.C.I. have undertaken programmes to construct godowns having 5 lakh tonnes capacity within 1980.

According to storage capacity, the job guarantee which is often being claimed by the F.C.I. from the West Bengal Government does not arise. Incidentally, in 1973, 2000 casual labourers were absorbed in F.C.I. without any job guarantee. But nothing was done for these employees who were taken from West Bengal. But the case of absorption of the deputationists was, it is learnt, not effected by the F.C.I. on the plea of job guarantee.

In all other States, except West Bengal, F.C.I. maintains its own staffing pattern and norms. Introduction of the same in West Bengal will involve immediate employment of ano-

ther three to four thousand persons. But strangely the staff strength in West Bengal has decreased from five thousand to four thousand odd due to retirements and deaths and there has been no fresh recruitment.

F.C.I. issued a circular No. 1/7/73-EII dated 19-6-74 (Para 7/(3) of Staff Regulation 1971) wherein they stated that persons taken on deputation for 3 years, in any circumstances, to Class I, II and III employees should not be extended beyond five years. This is the circular of F.C.I. and they are violating the terms of their own circular. But strangely in West Bengal, the deputationists are working as such for nearly 13 years now without any benefit of promotion, scale or deputation allowances.

From the above, it will appear that by not absorbing the deputationists, the F.C.I. is violating not only the terms of agreement entered into with the Government of West Bengal on 26-11-1966 but also has thrown to the winds its own circular of 12-6-74.

The benign attention of Shri S. S. Barnala, our Minister of Agriculture who is here now—I am thankful to him—is drawn to the plight of these employees for an early redress of their grievances.

#### (vi) SITUATION IN JAMSHEDPUR

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव (सहरसा) :  
सभापति महोदय "बी हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" अग्रेल  
12, 1979 एंव अन्य राष्ट्रीय प्रखबारों के मुख्य  
पृष्ठ पर छपे । जिस के मुताबिक बिहार  
राज्य स्थित जमशेदपुर में बर्जनों भावनी  
गोली के घाट उतार दिये गये हैं ।

सभापति महोदय : दो साइन हिन्दुस्तान  
टाइम्स का मैं पढ़ देता हूँ :-

"UNI correspondent from Jamshedpur reported that he saw six bodies. They are lying at one place and they are being carried away by the police. In addition, a doctor's wife told him that six bodies were lying in her compound."