

Committee of Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1977. But last month University administration had withdrawn it unilaterally.

The other important demands include more houses for staff, regularisation of daily wage workers, medical facility for staff on the campus and a group settled immediately.

I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter so that the long standing demands of the Jawaharlal Nehru University staff association are settled immediately.

(iv) REPORTED FIRE IN A GODOWN OF FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA AT KAPA IN MADHYA PRADESH.

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरो (सारंगढ़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन लोक महत्व के एक प्रचलित विषय की ओर शासन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

मध्य प्रदेश में छत्तीसगढ़ की राजधानी रायपुर, के निकट कापा स्थित भारतीय खाद्य निगम का विशाल अनाज गोदाम 12 अप्रैल, 1979 को सुबह चारों ओर से आग की लपट में घिर गया था। यद्यपि जिला, पुलिस एवं स्थानीय प्रशासन की सूझ-बूझ एवं त्वरित कार्यवाही के कारण आग पर कुछ देर बाद काबू पा लिया गया, लेकिन इस आगजनी से करीब 30, 35 हजार बोरे अनाज जल कर राख हो गया, जिससे शासन को 5, 6 लाख रुपये का नुकसान उठाना पड़ा है। प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार घटना के समय मौके पर खाद्य निगम के कोई अधिकारी उपस्थित नहीं थे। गोदाम के चारों ओर ऊंची दीवार है, तथा यह प्रमुख सड़क राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग नं० 6 पर स्थित है।

यह आगजनी अनेक संकाओं को जन्म देती है तथा यह आकस्मिक न हो कर दिन-ब-दिन एक सुनिश्चित ढंग से की गई घटना प्रतीत होती है। यह भी बात ध्यान में रखनी चाहिए कि खाद्य

निगम के गोदाम से चोरी-छिपे व्यापारियों को अनाज बेचा जाता है, जिसपर पूर्वाहण के लिए कर्मचारियों ने गोदाम में आग लगाई। इस घटना के दूसरे दिन सुबह आठ बजे गोदाम के कुछ हमलों एवं एक व्यापारी के बीज इस आगजनी को ले कर काफी मारपीट हुई।

खाद्य निगम के लापरवाह अधिकारियों का रवैया एवं उनकी नीयत अब साफ साफ आ गई है। इस घटना से उस अंचल के करोड़ों लोगों एवं जन-प्रतिनिधियों में काफी रोष व्याप्त है। छत्तीसगढ़ के इस अंचल से रोजी-रोटी की तलाश में लाखों लोग प्रति-वर्ष अन्य प्रान्तों को जाने पर मजबूर होते आ रहे हैं, तथा हमारे देश में लाखों लोग अनाज के अभाव में भूखे मर रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में आगजनी का यह कृत्य अक्षम्य है।

माननीय कृषि एवं खाद्य मंत्री वस्तुस्थिति से कृपया संसद को शीघ्र अवगत करावें और वहाँ के जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों को तत्काल मुभत्तिल कर इस प्रकरण की दंडाधिकारी द्वारा जांच कराने की व्यवस्था करें।

(v) PROPOSED AGITATION IN KERALA AGAINST DELAY IN COMPLETION OF MANGALORE - COCHIN - TRIVANDRUM HIGHWAY.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukandapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise under Rule 377 matter relating to proposed mass agitation in the coastal areas of three districts of Kerala for Mangalore-Cochin-Trivandrum highway.

A mass agitation is proposed to be launched in the coastal areas of the three districts of Kerala because of the inordinate delay in the implementation of the sanctioned West Coast Highway (NH 17) from Mangalore through Cochin to Trivandrum. Five years back, the West Coast Highway

[Shri A. C. George]

was declared as realigned from Kuttippuram through Kodungallur-Kollapuram Moothakunnam to join NH 47 near Cochin. For this realignment, the financial sanction of only Rs. 10 crores has already been made and all the preliminary work was done. There are 5 major bridges proposed in this re-aligned NH 17. This re-aligned highway will open up one of the most backward areas in the West Coast of Mallapuram district, Trichur district and Ernakulam district. It is of vital importance to the development of the marine products industry, and will be of immense help to the fishermen, over and above facilitating industrialization in that area. The lack of these 5 bridges is causing untold miseries to the people of those areas. The most prominent among the bridges are: Kottapuram-Moothakunnam bridge, Chettuva bridge and Cheraneellor bridge. The people in those areas are completely isolated from the rest of Kerala due to lack of transportation and bridging facilities. In fact, the Chettuva bridge was sanctioned even way back in 1954 by the then Madras Government. The Kottapuram Moothakunnam bridge is a 2-crore rupee bridge and will be one of the biggest in Kerala. In fact, one-and-a-half years back, the present Minister for Shipping and Transport, Mr. Chand Ram himself laid the foundation for the Kottapuram bridge. But not a single stone has been added.

The people were really consoled when the financial, administrative and departmental sanction was given 5 years back for this new re-alignment of the NH 17 between Mangalore-Cochin-Trivandrum. But, in spite of the long waiting and in spite of the foundation stone being laid for the biggest bridge, no work has been taken up. I do not know why the foundation stone was laid if there was going to be delay even in getting

the work started. After a lot of representation, memoranda and clamouring for a long time, the people of that area are so frustrated that they are forced to decide on a mass agitation. This will involve mass upsurge in the coastal areas of the 3 districts, viz., Mallapuram, Trichur and Ernakulam.

The work on the Kottapuram-Moothakunnam bridge, for which the foundation stone has been already laid, the Chettuva bridge, for which all the sanctions have been given and the Cheraneellor bridge, have to be taken up immediately. A categorical assurance and an early action by the Minister of Shipping and Transport will only assuage the feeling of the people and make them desist from launching any mass struggle.

12.43 hrs.

DEMANDS * FOR GRANTS,
1979-80—contd.

(i) MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CIVIL
SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION—
contd.

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation. The last speaker was Mr. P. Ankineedu Prasada Rao. He has already taken 10 minutes. His party has got only one more minute left. Anyway, he can take 3 or 4 minutes.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA
RAO (Bapatla): Sir, I am speaking about the cultivation of tobacco which is a sensitive crop and a sensitive commodity. It yields 50 per cent Bright variety and 50 per cent variety

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.