

(ii) **WAGON BREAKERS OPERATING IN RAILWAY YARDS OF ASANSOL, ANDAL AND DURGAPUR.**

SHRI ROBIN SÈN (Asansol): Sir, several notorious gangs of Wagon breakers are continuously operating for years in the Railway Yard in Asansol, Andal and slack-bank yard of D.S.P., Durgapur. The fact that these gangs of wagon breakers are operating in the area uninterrupted and without any resistance from the RPF gives rise to serious suspicion that these gangs are operating in league with the RPF. Not only this, the local business men are also having links with this wagon breaker-RPF gang. Articles are looted from the wagons and sold at black market. The Businessmen themselves arrange such lootings and are making twin profits—by claiming and getting compensation for the so-called losses suffered by them and then reaping rich profits out of the black market sale of the looted goods which are dumped in their secret godowns. Thus a vicious circle of anti-social elements officials of RPF and the local businessmen has been formed and fleecing not only the Railways but also the poor people. If the local people try to intervene to break this vicious circle, they are threatened and sometimes done to death by the armed goondas with the support of the RPF officials. Government should immediately find ways and means to break this vicious circle in consultation with the local people's representatives, trade unions, prominent public men, etc.

(iii) **SUPPLY OF WHEAT TO WEST BENGAL UNDER "FOOD FOR WORK" AND RURAL WORKS PROGRAMMES.**

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): "The Food for Work" and rural works programmes have virtually been suspended throughout West Bengal in recent weeks for want of wheat, which is provided by the Centre and constitutes part of the remuneration paid to those participating in such work.

Normally a person working under either programme, which has been extensively by the present Government in the last several months, especially for post-flood reconstruction, gets Rs. 2 in cash, which is provided by the State Government and two Kg. of wheat which is provided by the Centre.

Drought situation is developing in several districts for want of seasonal rain. This has synchronised unfortunately with the usual lean season when the landless in the rural areas normally have very little to do and earn otherwise the poorer sections of the people have therefore been badly hit by the suspension of these programmes.

This has caused embarrassment to the Left Front Government. The State Government's estimate of the requirement of wheat on this count during the current year is about 265,000 tonnes. So far only 25,000 tonnes have been allotted. But even this small quantity has not been moved to the districts. One district Magistrate after another has been asking for wheat or rice.

The Union Minister for Agriculture should assure the House that full quantity of wheat would be made available to West Bengal Government immediately.

(iv) **DIFFICULTIES FACED BY PEOPLE DUE TO NEW RULES FOR ISSUE OF PASSPORTS.**

SHRI BHAGAT RAM (Phyllaur): The people of India welcomed the simplified procedure of getting passport by authorising the M.Ps and M.L.As to issue verification certificates, the people got some relief from the exploitation of the passport agents. At the same time, the passport was easily available in comparatively less time and on less expenditure. But soon after the new rules, police verification was reintroduced. Now guarantee bond and affidavit has been made necessary with the appli-