

(Shrimati Mchhina Kidwai)

ted by these promoters and builders of multi-storeyed palatial buildings. Huge amounts have been shown as 'conversion charges' paid to an office under works, and Housing Ministry, whereas many plans for conversion were got cleared without paying a single paisa as required by law, but the underhand deals and connivance between the corrupt officials and the concerned people made the exchequer poorer by crores of rupees. I would like the Minister to take the House into confidence and tell us as to the number and names of the suspects and also the amount of money they have not paid to the Government, and the name and number of firms whose cases have been asked to be reopened by the Finance Ministry. I would like to know from the Minister as to what action has been taken against the guilty whether during investigation many a 'benami' sales have come to light and it has also been revealed that a coterie of financiers, promoters and brokers have corrupted the officials and have an iron-handed control over them. I would urge upon the Government to suspend those officials in Works and Housing Ministry, D.D.A. and New Delhi Municipal Committee, along with some bank managers against whom *prima facie* cases have been established. It is a very serious matter involving crores of rupees and a large number of Government officials. So, the Minister should make a statement in the House.

(iii) KUDREMUKH IRON ORE PROJECT IN KARNATAKA.

SHRI B. RACHAIAH (Chamarajanagar): Under Rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

With the revolutionary upheaval in Iran, the Indo-Iran joint ventures have almost come to stand still. In particular, I would refer to the stoppage of oil from Iran, which has led to unprecedented problems in our country. We are in the process of introducing rationing of petroleum product,

for personal consumption in the interest of nation's industrial development. Some of the States have already introduced rationing of petroleum products.

In view of massive increase in the cost of imports of crude oil from other Arab nations to the tune of Rs. 500/- crores annually, there is also a proposal to increase the price of petrol.

In this background, Sir, I would refer to the Kudremukh Iron Ore project, which is entirely dependent on financial commitment of Iran. This is a prestigious project of not only Karnataka but of the whole country. We are on the horns of dilemma. We have to supply iron ore only to Iran, as per the terms of the bilateral agreement. For the completion of the project, we have to depend on Iran. Now, besides the unsettled conditions in Iran, there is a slump in the international iron ore market, which is bound to have serious repercussion on Indo-Iran deal. Secondly, it is apprehended that, on account of non-availability of shipping, the only mode of transporting iron ore, we may default in our supplies. Thirdly, in view of the reported monetary bankruptcy of Iran, Iran may not be able to fulfil its commitment of aid to Kudremukh project, in which case, the fate of the project would hang in suspended animation. There is an air of uncertainty enveloping the entire project.

The Janata Government's handling of Indo-Iran relationship does not redound to its credit. It is also inexplicable as to what is Government of India's approach to bilateral trade agreement with the former Government of Iran.

(iv) SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO 'FOOD FOR WORK SCHEMES'

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): The F.G.I. is supplying foodgrains to food for work schemes in the various States of the country. *But it is not supplying them in time

and regularly. Therefore, the states are not able to implement the works in favourable seasons.

The FCI is not supplying the foodgrains in the nearest places. At times, they want the B.D.Os to go out of the District to take foodgrains by which they have to incur much expenditure above that which is allowed for transport.

The FCI is not supplying good foodgrains at times. These foodgrains are being refused by the workers and the sponsors or contractors are put to a great loss.

The FCI is supplying foodgrains not to weight. There is much pilferages and the FCI authorities, though they take money from Department of Agriculture correctly, they are not delivering foodgrains to the correct weight. These defects in supply of foodgrains by FCI are causing many difficulties in implementing food for work schemes.

I, therefore, request the Government to rectify these defects and help the States in the implementation of the above schemes.

(v) REPORTED DECISION OF BOMBAY DOORDARSHAN TO DISCONTINUE CERTAIN POPULAR PROGRAMMES.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The sudden decision of Bombay Doordarshan to drop the popular series "Looking back, looking forward" run by the World famous sportsman and celebrity has caused great resentment to the T.V. audience. Recently, it has been observed that Bombay Doordarshan has been recruiting and discarding popular artists without any valid reason. Even if the Doordarshan authorities wish to close a popular series, there should be some decency and decorum about it, particularly, when reputed persons run that series. A sudden unceremonious closure of any T.V. item is bound to cause remorse and bitterness in the minds of many T.V. fans. This was amply

proved when the Bombay Doordarshan closed a popular series like "Phool Khile Gulshan". The Government should set some norms and pattern for such decisions pertaining to closure of a popular series.

Any clash of personalities should not be allowed to be reflected on the T.V. viewers. The Government owes some valid explanation to the public why they have discontinued a serious run by celebrities and there should be some decent method to honour the artist before discontinuance of his series. The random behaviour of Bombay Doordarshan needs some curbs from the Government to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future.

(vi) REPORTED PROBLEMS OF INDIAN DOCTORS IN ALGERIA AND IRAN.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and the House the problems faced by our Indian Doctors in Algeria and Iran.

I have received a number of letters from these Doctors who have complained about their inability to repatriate even the agreed amount of 75 per cent of their salary to their dependents in India. In the same context, their parents have also written to me about the inconvenience caused by the unhelpful attitude of the Governments of these countries. I received complaints that even the officials of the Indian Embassies in these countries do not, however, extend their cooperation when approached by these helpless doctors. The Embassy authorities are said to be giving excuses of inadequate staff for not attending to the Indian Nationals.

Apart from these, the doctors had to cross many other obstacles. They had to go through some middlemen for their employment in the above