

rice. Orissa is now facing scarcity of rice due to short supply by the Union Government. The open market price of rice has increased tremendously. For the last three months, there is absolutely no supply of rice to the State. Although the Orissa Government has been requesting for release of more quantity of rice, yet their request has not received the due attention.

The minimum requirement of rice of the State is 45 MT per month but it is not being supplied by the Union Government. Hence, I request that the Government should take immediate steps for release of more rice as per requirement of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government has imposed ban on issuing licences for fire-arms in Uttar Pradesh for the last ten years as a result of which number of illegal arms and ammunition is on the increase and every one is feeling insecure. For the last ten years no one, whether he is a politician or a social worker, has been issued licence. Consequently, incidences of dacoities, murders, terrorism etc. are on the increase. Everyone is feeling insecure. Licences are being issued in all the states adjoining Uttar Pradesh such as Bihar, Punjab, Haryana etc., but there is a ban in Uttar Pradesh on licences for fire-arms. Uttar Pradesh Government has withdrawn our body-guards. Even the body-guards provided to the politicians have been withdrawn. We are feeling ourselves insecure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, through you I request the Government to lift this ban and withdraw the notification, under which licences for fire-arms were banned. In this regard Uttar Pradesh Government has already written a letter to the Central Government. I request the Government to lift the ban on issuing licences for fire-arms, which was imposed 10 years ago in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, we have been raising for a long time, both inside and outside the Parliament, about the matter of widespread attacks upon the women in Tripura. The tribal women, the Scheduled Castes women and the poor peasant women are being murdered and raped everyday and they are being deprived of their means of subsistence because they are being forced to leave their villages everywhere in Tripura. Now Sir, we have been coming up with this point time and again and we have reason to believe that the inactivity of the police in this respect is the result of the collusion of the ruling party in Tripura. The ruling party is using such attacks upon women as an instrument of political terror. That is why, the police is remaining inactive. And today, a delegation of women have gone to the office of the MP from Tripura, hon. Sontosh Mohan Dev to demand justice for the women of Tripura. Sir, I would like to point out in this connection that in reply to my question today on whether or not the National Women's Commission is going to be implemented, the Minister has said that no decision has been taken as yet on this matter. Now, if there would have been speedy implementation of the National Women's Commission Act, 1990, which was passed in both the Houses, then we would not have to go to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. We would have certainly gone to the National Women's Commission to demand justice on what is happening to women in Tripura.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Since the Leader of the House is present here, both these questions should be responded to. Sir, I appeal to you to kindly direct him to respond to both these questions.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, we had given a notice to discuss this subject under Rule 193 but no time was given to this subject. So, this subject should

be discussed and we should get a reply as these incidents are going on for the last so many years. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: These are happening in West Bengal also. Why don't you discuss about West Bengal then? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise an important matter regarding the ED employees connected with the Postal Department all over the country. The ED employees, even after completing 20 or more years of meritorious service, are not getting job security and other facilities. So, I urge upon the Government to regularise their service.

Simultaneously, the promised second promotion, after completing 26 years of service in the Postal Department, is also not implemented except in the Engineering Section of the Department. This matter also may be looked into. If the Dearness Allowance exceeds 50 per cent of the basic pay, then that excess may be added to the basic pay of that employee so that he or she may get the opportunity to have a slight increase in the pension after he or she retires.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I want to bring to your notice a very tragic incident which has taken place in Chilakaluripeta in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. Two farmers were killed when they were in the queue to get the fertilizers. In fact, I went to the village of one the persons who died. A small farmer having a small hut, Mr. Ankamma Choudhury was killed in Kavuru village of Guntur District was killed. Several farmers are critically ill in the hospital and many more have received bullet injuries. The police are shooting the farmers like birds. The hon. Finance Minister, while replying to the Budget discussions, should give a categorical

assurance that the Government would continue the subsidies on fertilizers. This is a peak period when farmers require fertilizers. Otherwise, this is going to bring about a lot of turmoil throughout the country and many more farmers have to lay their lives. I appeal to the Government to make a concrete and categorical assurance that they will continue to give the subsidy and come to the rescue of the farmers.

12.36 hrs.

RE. REINSTATEMENT OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Apart from supporting Shri Rao, I wish to raise the question of the Railway Minister's assurance of sympathetic consideration of the cases of the dismissed railway employees whose reinstatement was earlier announced by the previous Government. We wanted the Railway Minister to implement that decision. In the course of his reply to the Railway Budget, he has stated that he would consider it sympathetically. We wanted an answer then and there, but he said that he had to go to the Cabinet first and all those formalities had to be gone through. So far as this Government is concerned, I hope there is a functioning Cabinet. Anyway, we said that we would wait till the first of August. Today is the Fifth of August. I would like to know what the hon. Minister has to say on this. Will that decision be implemented? When will it be implemented? We want a categorical reply today and he must announce it. We agreed to wait because of your kind intervention on that day when you said that some time might be given to them to go through the modalities. Now, about 10 to 12 days have elapsed and I would request the hon. Minister to announce it today. He must tell us the date on which they would be reinstated.