

[Shri D. P. Yadav].

Shri Madhu Limaye. I regret that Shri Limaye's statement, to say the least, is not at all correct. I take this opportunity to deny the veracity of his allegations.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Under rule 377, I wish to invite the attention of this House, and particularly of the hon. Railway Ministry, to the very grave and serious difficulties experienced by the small industrial units producing salt at Kharagoda. The matter is very serious. This situation has been brought about by the very short wagon supply for salt this year to Kharagoda as compared to last year and the year before. Unless the wagon supply improves and clearance takes place, there will be great hardship caused to producers working both in the private sector as well as in the co-operative sector.

The monsoon is fast approaching and it is feared that if wagon supply is not improved, sizeable stocks of salt are likely to be washed away causing considerable loss and inconvenience to the industry and the people.

If I may give some figures, between January and April, 1971 as many as 5,282 wagons were supplied to this area. Last year the number of wagons supplied was 4,113. This year, between January and April, at Kharagoda only 2,144 wagons were supplied. Therefore, there has been a shortfall in the supply of wagons to the extent of 1,969. The point is that if adequate wagons are not supplied within a week, all the salt will be washed away, 4 lakh tonnes of salt will be washed away and damage to the extent of Rs. 30 lakhs or more will be caused.

My last point. This area is the Little Rann of Kutch in the border area. As many as 150,000 people are working there. This is a drought-affected area. Yesterday the Finance Minister was saying that drought-affected areas were given more opportunities, whereas here the people have come out of employment. I want the Railway Minister, therefore, to see to it that wagons are supplied immediately so that the workers do not suffer and the drought-affected areas are not put to further hardship.

The Gujarat Government has also been informed of this matter. Since the Government of Gujarat and the Government of India are of one and the same party, why is it that the State Government's insistence has not been accepted by the Government of India in the Ministry of Railways and action taken to improve situation.

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष, जी, मैंने दो विषयों पर नियम 377 के अधीन सरकार का ध्यान खींचने का नोटिस दिया था लेकिन उसमें से स्टेशन मास्टर्स और असिस्टेंट स्टेशन मास्टर्स के मामले में आपने मुझे इजाजत नहीं दी, और एक मसला उठाने की ही इजाजत आपने दी है। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप दोनों मसले उठाने की इजाजत दें, जैसे कि दूसरों को आपने इजाजत दी है तो अच्छा होता।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं दो मिनट आपको देता हूँ उसमें एक उठा लीजिये या दो उठा लीजिये।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : दूसरे की भी इजाजत दे दें क्योंकि वह भी महत्व का विषय है।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार के अखबारों में और यहां के अखबारों में भी जो खबरें आ रही हैं वे बहुत ही हृदय-विदारक और रोमांचकारी हैं। आज के अखबारों में जो खबर आयी है मैं उस के कुछ उद्धरण आपके सामने पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ जिस से विषय की गम्भीरता का अंदाजा आपको लग जायेगा। पटना शहर और बिहार के दूसरे जिलों में इस बात से आतंक है उसी की तरफ मैं आपके द्वारा सरकार का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ यू० एन० आई० की यह खबर इस प्रकार है :

"PATNA, May 15:- Frenzied mobs clinched at least 11 persons and burnt alive three others, including two "awad-