

gal and Orissa. They are mostly the working class people who have come from Andaman and Nicobar Island during the vacation time to see their families in the mainland. Now they are not in a position to go back. Unfortunately, the shipping ticket which necessitates these people to reach Andaman and Nicobar Island, has been withheld by the Shipping Corporation of India, Calcutta. These people are not getting their tickets. This is a very serious matter. People are facing starvation. I request the Leader of the House to kindly pass on this to the Minister of Surface Transport so that these people—on 15th, there will be a ship—are given the passage to go back to their places. I request Shri Arjun Singhji to look into the matter. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA** (Bankura): The Jute Corporation of India was formed to procure jute directly from the growers so that the jute growers of West Bengal may get statutory minimum price fixed by the Government, if not the fair price. This was an assurance given by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, after the partition of India, to the farmers of West Bengal who started growing jute in West Bengal and our country became self-sufficient in jute growing. These jute growers are now starving because of the policy of the Textiles Ministry, the policy of the Government of India not to procure jute this year. The Jute Corporation of India is not coming to the market. They are not procuring jute from any of the jute growing districts of West Bengal. Unless the Jute Corporation of India starts procuring jute immediately in West Bengal, the jute price in West Bengal will come down further and the jute growers will die. I demand a statement from the Minister of Textiles. I demand that the Jute Corporation of India should start procuring jute immediately from the jute growers of West Bengal. Unless this is done, the price which has already fallen in West Bengal, will fall down further in West Bengal, in Bihar, in Orissa and the other jute

growing States of our country. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA** (Cuttack): Jute growers are suffering a lot. The Government must make a statement on this point. This is a very serious problem throughout the country. This problem is there in Orissa also. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA**: It is a question of life and death for the forty lakh jute workers in the country. The Leader of the House is here. He should make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA**: You can direct the Minister or the Leader of the House to make a statement on this issue. This is one of the very serious matters which the jute growers of Bengal, Orissa and Bihar are facing. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER**: You have made that point. Now Shri Agnihotri to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA**: We want a statement from the Minister on this issue. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER**: This is an important point; you have made it. You sit down now. There are other Members also who must get an opportunity. You made your point; let them also make their points.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA**: We want a statement from the Minister. The Leader of the House is here, he should speak.

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA**: The Minister can respond to this matter. Nearly 50-60 lakh jute growers are unable to sell their product. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER**: You have made that point; now allow others to speak.

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:** This is the life and death question of jute growers of our country. The Government is silent on this issue.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):** After all, there is a propriety in such matters. When hon. Members make mention of any fact, it is for mention and it goes to the hon. Minister and then they in the natural course of events would take note of it. If the hon. Member wants that I should specifically draw his attention, I will do so also. *(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Only what Shri Agnihotri says will go on record.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have drawn the attention of this House through you time and again to the fact that in our country a number of projects are being implemented in various states, which are directly under the control of Government of India. Hundreds and thousands of labourers are engaged in these projects as work-charged labour and on daily wage basis. According to the laws of the Labour Department which the Government of India have got passed in this House, the services of these people should be regularised, but labourers working in these projects have not been regularised under Labour Laws even after 7 or 8 years of service. Under the present days of price rise, these labourers, whose number is in lakhs, are not getting the allowances, good salary and other facilities which are due to them.

I urge upon the Government through you that the services of these labourers should be regularised under the Labour Laws. Thousands of labourers have been working in Rajghat Project in Uttar Pradesh, Narmada Project and Cauvery Project for the last 7-8 years. Government of India should

look into this matter immediately and the services of these labourers should be regularised, otherwise there would be great resentment among the labourers which would be a matter of shame for this Government.

*[English]*

**SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor):** I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Keralites are using coconut oil, as no other edible oil is produced in Kerala. The only alternative edible oil liked by Keralites is palmoline; but its supply has come to a standstill. It has become difficult to use coconut oil by the common man as the price of coconut oil has reached so high and people are facing acute shortage of edible oil.

Therefore I request the Government to release a special quota of 10,000 tonnes of palmoline oil during the festival season.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PAT-TANAYAK (Bolangir):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House a horrible incident that took place at the site of Indravati irrigation project in Kalahandi district of Orissa. Due to heavy rains tunnel of the project got flooded, and about 100 workers lost their lives and nearly 500 are reported missing. Orissa Government till date has not given any compensation to the victims. Therefore I request you to constitute a committee of the Members to go into the causes of accident and for an on the spot investigation, so as to facilitate early disbursement of compensation to the families of the deceased.

**SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardaga):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar in 1990, most of the districts came under the spell of heavy hailstorm.....*(Interruptions)*..... resulting in heavy damage to 'kuchcha' houses and rabi crop in the rural areas. On the receipt