

Nagpur areas of Bihar and as per a Government report, 35 per cent of paddy crop has been planted. Till date at least 5 lakh persons have gone to Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam and Bengal in search of job. A petty amount of Rs. 2-3 lakh has been sanctioned for relief works in the district. It is enshrined in the Constitution that the responsibility to look after tribal areas rests with the Government of India. I would like to request the Government of India to rush relief material to 14 districts on its own immediately and make specific allocation to save people from starvation.

**SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Barwadih-Mughal Sarai passenger train. The train passes through tribal areas of Daltonganj, Japla, Diri and Sasaram and terminates at Mughal Sarai. Poor tribals travelling by the train earn their livelihood by selling 'pattal' and wood. Small traders run their trade from Varanasi. The train terminates at Mughal Sarai.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Such questions cannot be raised at this moment. You make use of the opportunity to raise some other important matter.

**SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:** Thousands of persons travelling by the train, hire tempo from Mughal Sarai to Varanasi. For doing so they have to face hardships and spend Lot of money. Had the train been extended upto Varanasi, the travellers would not have faced so much hardships and they could have been saved from spending money. It could have facilitated small traders to run their trade.

[English]

**SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN (Dindigul):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the requirement of rice for distribution through public distribution system in Tamil Nadu is one lakh tonnes

per month. However, the present allocation of rice to the State from Central Pool is only 81, 000 tonnes. Recently, the Centre has communicated to the State that from December onwards, the rice quota would be further reduced to 65,000 tonnes. This drastic cut in the allotment will have an impact on the supply of optional rice in fair price shops, Sir, the recent floods have washed away three lakh hectares of paddy crops which has severely affected the rice production. Therefore, the State, in all earnestness, requires augmentation of the existing rice allocation and not reduction. The Government must immediately assure the House that it would not go ahead with the cut in rice quota in the interest of general public in Tamil Nadu.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the shipping services between Andaman and mainland are the lifeline of the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. For the last two years, the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been suffering enough for lack of passenger shipping services (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are a Chairman, your Government is here, why don't you talk to the Minister instead of raising it on the floor of the House?

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Recently one ship, named M.V. Nicobar, has been acquired by the Andaman and Nicobar administration and is playing between Madras and Port Blair. I understand that Government of India proposes to withdraw that passenger ship from the Andaman passenger service for some other purposes. That is why I request the Government not to withdraw passenger ships which will cause tremendous suffering to the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Sir,

supporting Mr. Bhakta, I wish to raise another very important thing. We have been raising what we call the misuse of the electronic media. After the industrial strike on last Friday, the statement of the Minister of Labour came out on the TV and it was very clear that a deliberate attempt was being made to give a distorted view of the situation that had arisen because of this strike. The Minister was giving the information with a view to denigrate the heroic struggle of the working class in this country against the policies adopted by this Government which shows that this media, is being utilised as an extension of the Government media the Press Information Bureau. We strongly object to this. If any fair reporting was to be made, then the trade unions should have been given an opportunity to express their views and the assessment of the situation. Why should the Minister alone utilise the electronic media for the purpose of giving the Government's version? And that too wrong reporting was being made on the Television for which he has not got the courage to say the same on the floor of the House. We therefore, protest against this misuse of the electronic media for the purpose of the Government of the ruling party in the country. This is nothing but insult to the working class of this country and we protest against this. I hope that the Government will behave in future.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barackpore): Because of the strike even now some trains are not running on time. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, in Penugunda village in west Godavari district, a woman named Durga was stripped.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to discuss the law and order situation in the country. You will have the opportunity at that time.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take it up now. It is not possible for the Minister to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker : I have not allowed the lady Member. You can speak later.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to severe drought conditions that have arisen in West Rajasthan for lack of rains. Since the entire West Rajasthan is a desert, in the event of drought farmers have to face hardships in earning their livelihood, cattle are to be sent out and every where there is total panic. The Government of Rajasthan is doing excellent job and organising relief works, but unless the Centre gives any special assistance it will be difficult to tackle the situation over such a large territory. I would like to submit that firstly, the Rajasthan Canal be got completed through speedy assistance and secondly, the solar power plant at Mathania, which still incomplete despite efforts for the last tow years, be got completed. For shortage of power farmers in the area are already facing lot of hardships. I would like to submit that both the problems may be solved.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Sukahabad Assembly segment of mu constituency. Traffic on the national highway passing through the constituency remains disrupted for long hours be-