

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 plying 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,