

(iv) **Need to regularise the services of extra-departmental employees of Department of post**

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government to the problems of extra-departmental employees of the Department of post and Telegraphs. Perhaps, this is the only department where extra-departmental employees are working without getting full salary and other facilities. They have been demanding salary, GPF, Medical facilities, HRA and Bonus for money years. This issue has been raised in this House many a time. They are working in backward and hilly areas of the country and literally they carry on the work of the posts and Telegraphs in hard stations.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to regularise their services and sanction them HRA, Bonus gratuity etc. they must be called Rural Postal Workers instead of extra departmental workers

(v) **Need for Central Assistance to State government of Bihar for checking erosion by Gandak at pishraghat on Uttar Pradesh and Bihar border.**

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Water Resources to the Eastern regions of Uttar Pradesh and Western regions of Bihar. Bari Gandak (Narayani River) which originating from Himalaya merges into Ganga near Sonapur in district Patna and destroys lakhs of areas of lands and crops every year. Many villages located on its banks are submerged. This ravaging river keeps on changing its course sometimes in Bihar and sometimes in Uttar Pradesh. Farmers are facing acute residential problem due to this reason. At present this river is causing heavy erosion near Piprashat on the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Lakhs of farmers will be rendered homeless and lives

and property of the people will be damaged on large scale. This is not possible to control this problem without the assistance of the Central Government.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Minister concerned to conduct a survey and provide Central assistance for checking soil-erosion caused by this river so as to safeguard the lives and property of lakhs of farmers.

(vi) **Need to set up an ordinance factory in Kodarma Bihar**

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government to the Parliamentary constituency of Kodarma. Long back the Government had proposed to set up an ordinance factory there, but no action has yet been taken in this regard. This is a big industrial area but even then the problem of unemployment is growing continuously.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government to set up an ordinance factory there at the earliest.

(vii) **Need to convert narrow gauge railway line from Kotshila to Purulia in West Bengal into broad gauge.**

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): The 31 kilometer narrow gauge railway line from Kotshila to Purulia is an important means of transport to the people of Purulia district. People of Purulia have been agitating for converting this line into Broad gauge line for a long time.

This railway line, if improved, would directly connect Purulia with Ranchi, Tatanagar, Bokaro, Dhanbad etc. which are big industrial centres. This railway line will go a long way to bring about economic and industrial development of this backward district.

Assurance had been given in past re-

[Sh. Bir Singh Mahato]

garding conversion of this line into broad gauge. As a matter of fact, earth work was started in 1984, but was stopped after a few weeks.

The present Railway Minister has also assured that this line would be taken up for conversion as soon as possible, when he visited Purulia.

I urge upon the government to immediately take up the project of conversion of this line in order to ensure the socio-economic development of Purulia.

(VII) **Need to supply adequate quality of boiled fine rice and Palm oil of Kerala**

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Kerala is the only State where statutory rationing is prevailing. Central Government has to supply rice, wheat, palm oil and kerosene to Kerala for distribution through Public distribution system. For giving full ration at the rate of 220 gram/person/day, Kerala needs 2,40,000 M.T. rice. But only 1,45,000 M.T. rice is being provided. The people of Kerala are accustomed to take only boiled rice. But F.C.I. is supplying raw and inferior quality rice which cannot be distributed through Public distribution system. As a result of this, within one month, the price of rice has increased from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 7.20 per kg. in the open market. Similar as against the requirement of 10,000 M.T. of palm oil by Kerala, only 1,000 M.T. palm oil is being supplied. The unprecedented rise in the price of rice and palm oil has created problems for the people of Kerala. So, I request the Government to supply boiled, fine quality rice and palm oil in adequate quantities immediately to Kerala.

14.25 hrs.

SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL
— CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up further consideration of the motion

on Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill - moved on 2nd December, 1991.

Dr. Debi Prosad Pal may speak.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): Sir, I support the Amendment Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Finance Minister.

The Bill propose to amend Section 3 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, by deleting the words "But does not include a Government company as defined in section 617 of that Act" in clause (d) of sub-section (1). In other words, the Sick Industrial Companies Act of 1985 hitherto was applicable only to the companies which were not Government Companies. A Government Company has been defined in Section 617 of the Companies Act to mean a company in which 15 per cent shares are held by the Central Government or the State Government or by the Central and State Government and include also subsidiaries of the Government Company. This amendment has been necessitated as a result of the introduction of the New Industrial Policy which has been introduced in this House by the Government.

Hitherto the public sector undertakings which were incurring losses could not be brought within the purview of the Sick Industrial Undertakings Act for a proper study and also the analysis of the causes of such sickness and the remedies which are available to such sick industries. The public sector undertakings undoubtedly play an important role in our industrial growth and economy. As a result of the policy of the Government of India, the public sector undertakings are complementary to the private sector, they act in cooperation and not in competition and they are complementary with each other. But it has been found when the Bureau of Public Enterprises in 1983-84 took up the matter of examining the causes of sickness of the public sector undertakings—it was found at that time, it was in 1983-84, that out of these 229 public sector companies, 59 companies were having their net-